**NANCY HETTIE CLARK TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARDS**

In 1983, The University of Manitoba received $5,000 from the estate of Nancy Hettie Clark to be used at the discretion of the University to promote medical research. Insofar as the University considers it advisable, Ms. Clark’s wish was for the legacy to promote research on a specific disorder of the spinal cord. In the absence of a dedicated program in this narrow research area, the legacy proceeds are used to promote excellence in research in the general neurosciences.

In 2015, leadership from the College of Medicine (Dr. E. Kroeger), Department of Physiology & Pathophysiology Drs. P.A. Cattini and L.M. Jordan), and Manitoba Neurosciences Network (Dr. C. Anderson) met to discuss the legacy proceeds. The recommendation was made to re-focus these awards on “neuroscience” trainees and specifically to create NANCY HETTIE CLARK TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARDS to present a lecture or poster at an international or national neuroscience conference/workshop; support from this Award must be acknowledged in the presentation or poster. The Travel Awards of $700 and normally two, are intended to be awarded annually to a Ph.D. student and postdoctoral fellow at the University of Manitoba, although awards in any one of these categories can be made based on the quality and availability of applicants. The goal is to enrich the neuroscience training experience and support opportunities to network within the wider neuroscience community.

Nomination, adjudication and recommendation of an awardee(s) will be made by a Neurosciences Awards Committee (NAC). NAC will normally be chaired by the Manitoba Neuroscience Network Director (President of the Winnipeg Chapter, Society for Neuroscience) or designate, and consist of three full-time University of Manitoba faculty members working in a research area related to the neurosciences, and a neuroscience trainee representative. At least one faculty member of the committee must be from the Department of Physiology & Pathophysiology. Committee memberships may be renewed annually for up to five years. The Chair will be responsible for inviting committee members in accordance with these guidelines. **The NAC Chair will invite trainee applications annually (deadline May 1st) for consideration of “presentations” to be made during the period May 1st of the year of adjudication to April 30th of the following year.** The NAC will rank order the applications considered worthy of an Award, with the Chair having the deciding vote if a consensus cannot be reached. Candidate choice of conference and associated impact/reach of the presentation would be part of the assessment process by the NAC. The Chair will then submit their recommendation to the Head of the Department of Physiology & Pathophysiology for approval. Awards will normally be offered to the top-ranked candidates, but if not accepted or the candidate is ineligible, the next highest ranked and worthy applicant will offered the Award. If no acceptable applicant is identified no award will be made.

Eligible trainees are considered to be either graduate students or postdoctoral fellows. **Student candidates** must be enrolled as full-time Ph.D. students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Manitoba, and have a cumulative graduate grade point average of 3.5 or greater (University of Manitoba scale). **Postdoctoral fellow candidates** must be within the first five years of the award of their doctoral degree and have full-time appointments at the University of Manitoba or an affiliated hospital or institute. Research Associates are not eligible. Candidates must demonstrate excellent research performance and potential in a neurosciences-related discipline. Candidates must also demonstrate they will disseminate research results that reflect a high-quality contribution by The University of Manitoba. A complete application package consists of a graduate level academic transcript (students only), curriculum vitae (CV) and two-page (maximum) description of the research presented, the proposed conference and the type of presentation. There must also be a support letter from the primary research advisor with: (a) a merit assessment of the candidate and project; and (b) confirmation that there is a commitment to cover all eligible travel expenses less the award value. Confirmation that the abstract is accepted and will be presented in the specified format will also be required if or when it becomes available. Awards may be combined with other travel awards up to but not exceeding the total cost of travel to the chosen conference/workshop. Recipients must claim all eligible travel costs in accordance with the appropriate policies and procedures of the University of Manitoba.

Recognizing the historic linkage, the fund is to be administered by the Department of Physiology & Pathophysiology at the University of Manitoba. The unspent value of the legacy ($37,118.68 at the time of writing) and the spending allocation for 2015/16 ($1940.61 at the time of writing) will be combined to create a Capital Fund ($44,126.12 at the time of writing). Travel Awards will be made from the annual interest of the Capital Fund, when the interest is greater than $700 and up to $1,400 (2x $700). Unused funds will be re-invested in the Capital Fund. The value of the NANCY HETTIE CLARK TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARD will be periodically reviewed by the NAC in terms of changing costs and/or inflation and a recommendation for adjustment made to the Department for approval.

*December 2015*