The Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease award provides $500,000 over a period of five years. The goal of the program is to provide opportunities for accomplished investigators still early in their careers to study what happens at the points where human and microbial systems connect. The program supports research that sheds light on the fundamentals that affect the outcomes of this encounter: how colonization, infection, commensalism and other relationships play out at levels ranging from molecular interactions to systemic ones. Studies supported by the program may have their roots in pathogen or host biology but the focus of the work should be on the interplay of host and microbe. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund particularly encourages human health-relevant applications from veterinary scientists.

The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue high-risk projects and new avenues of inquiry. Research on under-studied infectious diseases, including pathogenic fungi, protozoan and metazoan diseases, and emerging infections is especially of interest. Biochemical, pharmacological, molecular, genetic, immunologic, and other approaches are all appropriate for support by the program. While work on AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and microbes of interest for biodefense is allowed, proposed work in these areas may be viewed as less relevant to the program’s goals.

Candidates will generally have a M.D., D.V.M., or Ph.D. degree. Candidates must (1) have an established record of independent research and hold a tenure-track position as an assistant professor or equivalent (at the time of application) and (2) be citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application.

NOTE: Not all eligibility criteria may be listed in this abstract. Before submitting an application for this internal competition, it is the applicant’s responsibility to visit the foundation website http://www.bwfund.org/grant-programs/infectious-diseases/investigators-pathogenesis-infectious-disease and verify that both the applicant and their project meet ALL eligibility criteria. Applicants will need to verify their eligibility by taking the “Eligibility Quiz” on the foundation website http://www.bwfund.org/grant-programs/infectious-diseases/investigators-pathogenesis-infectious-disease/eligibility. Please also note on the website is information that the Burroughs Wellcome Fund staff will hold three conference calls between August and October for applicants who have questions about the program.

UM may nominate two candidates. To encourage applications from veterinarians, institutions that nominate a researcher who holds the D.V.M. will be allowed three nominations. Institutions may have a single additional nomination if they nominate a researcher working in pathogenic helminths, mycology, or reproductive science. The foundation deadline is November 1, 2013, 4:00PM EDT.

For consideration as an institutional nominee, submit ONLY the items below electronically by September 12, 2013 following the instructions listed on the cover sheet. Download the cover sheet and see FAQs at:
http://www.med.umich.edu/medschool/research/support/funding.htm#limited

- Cover sheet
- Nominating letter from the department chair
- 3-page research plan
- NIH formatted biosketch

We acknowledge receipt of all electronic submissions. If you do not receive a response from us by the end of the next business day, please call us at 734-615-8802. Contact Camille Mrozowski at 734-615-8802 or (cmrozow@umich.edu) with any questions.