



THE MICHELSON PRIZES



Dr. Laura Mackay
Michelson Prize Winner 2018

The Michelson Prizes are a \$20 million initiative funded by the Michelson Medical Research Foundation and administered by the Human Vaccines Project. The \$150K scientific awards support young investigators from across the globe applying disruptive research concepts and inventive ideas to *significantly advance the discovery of vaccines and immunotherapies for major global diseases.*

This year's winners will be announced June 2019.

Mark your calendars for September 2019 to apply for 2020 Prizes

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[www.humanvaccinesproject.org/
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\$150K PRIZE

*Applications Open
Sept 2019*

Overview of the Michelson Prizes

Prizes of US\$150,000 each for Vaccine and Immunotherapy Discovery Research

Overview

The Michelson Medical Research Foundation (MMRF) together with the Human Vaccines Project established the Michelson Prizes for Vaccine Research in 2017. This \$20 million initiative, funded by the MMRF and administered by the Human Vaccines Project, supports young investigators under the age of 35 who are using disruptive research concepts and inventive processes to significantly advance the development of vaccines and immunotherapies for major global diseases. Michelson Prizes are awarded in focus areas that are reviewed and updated annually. In 2018/19, the focus areas included: 1) Human Immunology 2) Computational Biology and Protein Engineering, and 3) Neglected Parasitic Diseases (excluding malaria).

The Michelson Prizes are intended to support individuals early in their careers who possess novel ideas and who have significant potential to execute these ideas to affect transformative change in their respective fields. Research should incorporate multiplexed and non-traditional approaches from outside the fields of immunology and vaccinology and demonstrate a high degree of novelty and creative thinking. The successful applicants will clearly articulate a vision that challenges current dogma and demonstrates an ability to look beyond convention to make a lasting impact on vaccine and immunotherapy research.

Eligibility Information

Applicants must be under the age of 35 at the time of pre-application submission. Early career independent investigators, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows (including residents and interns), and other researchers currently in training positions are eligible for these awards. An eligible applicant, regardless of ethnicity, nationality or citizenship status, must be employed by, or affiliated with, an eligible organization. Examples of eligible organizations include academia, biotechnology companies, foundations, government and non-governmental organizations, and research institutes. Individuals from such organizations, including organizations based outside of the US, are eligible to apply. Each applicant may submit only one Michelson Prize application per year.

While the Michelson Prizes are focused on research outcomes in the fields of vaccine and immunotherapy discovery, applicants from the full spectrum of related disciplines, including clinical research, biochemistry, molecular biology, engineering, computer science, biophysics, nanotechnology, etc., are encouraged to apply. *Prior experience in the specific focus areas of the Michelson Prizes is not required*; however, the pre-application must clearly articulate how the proposed research will impact and advance our understanding of human immunology and/or vaccine science.

Selection Process

Applying for a Michelson Prize is a two-step process requiring both a **pre-application** and **full application**. Applicants must submit an online pre-application that are judged based primarily on innovation and the ability to bring new insight and approaches to vaccine-based research. Both pre-applications and full applications are reviewed by a distinguished committee of internationally-recognized research scientists.

Oral Presentation and Awards Dinner

Michelson Prize winners are required to present a brief overview of their awarded research project at the Annual *Conference on the Future of Vaccine Discovery*, as well as attend the Michelson Prizes awards ceremony dinner.