

Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award (DISCA)

Program Description, Application, and Instructions

Deadline for Applications: January 1

Award Notification: March 1

The Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award (DISCA) supports direct collaboration between American senior scientists and their colleagues from outside the United States. The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) sponsors the program to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction through cooperation on new research methods and techniques; data analysis; collaborative research reports or proposals; or basic, clinical, and applied research. Applicants should propose innovative collaborations that can produce outcomes such as a new investigative finding, scientific publication, or research grant proposal. Within 30 days of completing the exchange visit, awardees will be required to submit a report to NIDA. NIDA is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The U.S. collaborating researcher must be a current NIDA grantee throughout the award period, and the exchange visit must be completed within 12 months of the award announcement.

The DISCA Award

The Distinguished International Scientist Collaboration Award provides:

- Monthly allowance of \$6,250 to cover short-term living expenses in the United States for a period of 1 to 3 months, depending on the project requirements.
- One round trip from and to the home city for the scientist only.

Visas and health insurance are the responsibility of the awardees. NIDA will supply a list of recommended health insurance providers, and awardees must provide documentation of health insurance prior to travel.

Eligibility

Applicants for the DISCA Award must:

- Be a citizen or permanent resident of a country other than the United States;
- Have a minimum of 7 year's experience in drug abuse research beyond the postdoctoral level;
- Document a scientific record that includes peer-reviewed publications;
- Obtain letters of concurrence from the home institution, the collaborating U.S. scientist, and the U.S. host institution; and

- Submit two letters of reference documenting research expertise: one from a supervisor and one from a research colleague.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Successful candidates will be highly qualified researchers from other countries who are working with U.S. scientists currently receiving funding from NIDA. Priority may be given to new initiatives, projects demonstrating defined support from the U.S. or foreign institution, or to proposals that will enhance research skills in the United States or the applicant's home country. Successful applications will:

- Have the potential to advance scientific understanding of drug abuse and addiction (as assessed by significance, approach, innovation, and qualifications);
- Be likely to produce a product or other outcome within one year; and
- Fall within the NIDA research mission.

To Apply

Each applicant for the DISCA award must:

- Complete Part I of page 1 and pages 2 through 6. Use additional sheets if necessary.
- Ask your U.S. collaborating researcher to complete Part II of page 1, plus pages 7 through 10.
- Ask your U.S. collaborating researcher to have officials from the U.S. host institution complete page 10.
- Ask your home country supervisor and a research colleague for confidential letters of support. These letters should be sent directly to the NIDA International Program.
- Submit the completed application to:
 - NIDA International Program
 - Office of Science Policy and Communications
 - Research Training and Exchange
 - National Institute on Drug Abuse
 - 6001 Executive Boulevard
 - Bethesda, Maryland 20892 USA
 - Telephone: +1-301-443-6480
 - Fax: +1-301-443-6277
 - E-mail: ip@nida.nih.gov
 - Web site: www.drugabuse.gov