

## **Society of Interventional Radiology International Travel Scholarship Program**

### **Program Description**

This year, SIR is introducing a new international travel grant program. This program is intended to enable physicians within 10 years of completion of training who are practicing outside North America an opportunity to attend the SIR meeting. Our objective is to offer physicians from other nations a chance to train and learn in the hope that they can return to teach and improve patient care. The SIR International Travel Scholarship Program is intended to foster professional networking through meeting participation, focused programming, and optional visiting observerships before or after the Annual Scientific Meeting. It will build key relationships with future international IR leaders, educate the U.S. membership, strengthen the developing international IR movement, build the leadership base among partnered international societies, and enhance the educational experience for international and U.S. physicians.

### **Funding**

The International Travel Scholarship Program is funded through generous unrestricted educational grants from initial program supporter Cook Medical and other corporate supporters. If you wish to support the SIR International Travel Scholarship Program, please contact Beth Allgaier, director of corporate relations, at [ballgaier@SIRweb.org](mailto:ballgaier@SIRweb.org).

### **Goals**

The number of scholarships awarded annually will be based on merit and available funds. The goal for 2012 is to be able to fund up to 25 international visiting scholars at \$2,000 each. The grant is intended to defray, but not fully cover, direct expenses incurred. We expect the applicant and or their local/national IR community and societies to invest equally in the opportunity.

### **Annual Scientific Meeting Attendance**

The purpose of the grant is to help partially defray the direct costs of Annual Scientific Meeting attendance, such as registration, hands-on course fees, special programming, airfare and hotel expenses. The International Visiting Scholar must secure funding to cover a portion of their expenses. SIR will provide a list of suggestions for local travel agencies, translation services, etc., but will not directly support or engage in travel planning.

During the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting, the international visiting scholars will receive a chance to meet the President and other SIR leaders. During the International Scholars Educational Evening, each scholar will be presented with a Scholarship Certificate. Attendance at this Educational Evening event is required. The International Scholars Educational Evening event will take place during the Annual Scientific Meeting. Additionally, scholars will be recognized on the SIR Web site, on signage at the meeting and via other communication vehicles. We will offer a local media press release for each scholar's national society and hospital to build recognition in the local media market. Upon completion of the Annual Scientific Meeting, scholars will be required to submit a short essay about their experience. Once that final essay is submitted, SIR will send out the scholarship payment.

We will endeavor to provide an optimal educational experience. We will invite affiliated international society members and leaders to help host scholar groups. Finally, each scholar will receive one-year of complimentary SIR membership dues, which includes an online subscription to the *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology*.

### **Observerships**

Given the distances many of our awardees will travel and the investment meeting attendance represents, there may be interest in enhancing the educational experience through observational opportunities before or after the meeting. The goal of an observership is to offer the scholar an opportunity to learn about U.S. IR practice through presence in the environment of care in a U.S. facility. Observers should be able to attend conferences and lectures and observe clinics, patient care, research and rounds. Resources, medical staff policy, and federal and state regulations will likely exclude any direct patient contact.

While it is not the intention of the SIR International Travel Scholarship Program to cover expenses associated with a clinical observership, we believe that such a “value-added” opportunity can be facilitated through this program if there is interest. To this end, through local angio clubs and direct correspondence, SIR will endeavor to identify regional programs proximate to the Annual Scientific Meeting site interested in hosting visiting scholars. Direct costs associated with such ancillary programs will be borne by the awardees’ or observership sponsor. Scholarship recipients are requested to provide SIR with an invitation letter from the program where the observership will take place. Arrangements should be finalized before International Visiting Scholars arrive in the United States.

If you are interested in offering an observership at your hospital, contact Tricia McClenny at [tricia@SIRweb.org](mailto:tricia@SIRweb.org).

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Member of a recognized national radiology society outside of North America
- Within 10 years of completion of training
- In active IR practice or interest in same
- Support/sponsorship letter from national IR or radiology society; applicants with a strong record of participation and leadership potential are encouraged
- Has not attended SIR in the past three years
- Interest or plans to develop IR educational, informational or collaborative programs
- Adequate English language skills to derive benefit from meeting attendance

### **Eligibility Exclusions**

- Annual Scientific Meeting faculty/scientific program presenters\* (\*Authors or applicants awaiting notification on submitted abstracts may apply but cannot accept the award if they are presenting)
- Past recipients of travel scholarships

### **Selection**

The application will be judged by the SIR International Travel Scholarship Review Committee based on the information provided in the grant application form. Notification of acceptance/denial will be sent Monday, January 30, 2012.

### **Deadline for Applications**

Deadline for receipt of applications is January 13, 2012.

### **How to Apply**

The applicant must complete the official online application form. Letters of recommendation must be submitted to Jennifer Rowley, senior manager of professional education and certification, by email at [jrowley@SIRweb.org](mailto:jrowley@SIRweb.org) or by fax at (703) 691-1855 by the application deadline.

### **Required Documents**

1. International Travel Scholarship application form
2. Essay that explains the reasons why you want to apply for the scholarship and how the experience will benefit you and patients in your country. The essay should show how participation in this program will:
  - a. Help advance IR practice in your nation or advance the global practice of IR
  - b. Improve your patient care skills in IR
  - c. Initiate or expand research/educational programs in your country
  - d. Improve the delivery of IR care nationally through participation or leadership in national IR society(ies), government or regulatory agencies
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Two letters of recommendation:
  - a. From your Professor or Chairperson or Supervising Physician
  - b. From your national IR or radiology society (If an applicant’s country does not have a national IR or radiology society, please contact Jennifer Rowley by email at [jrowley@SIRweb.org](mailto:jrowley@SIRweb.org).)

### **Post-meeting Report Requirement**

On returning home, international visiting scholars must submit a final report of one to two pages about their experience, which may be published in the *IR News*, *Enews*, other Society publications or on the SIR Web site. In your report, please describe your experiences in the United States, the objectives you achieved during your stay and how the scholarship affected your career goals. In addition, we invite you to critique the program and offer suggestions for modification and improvement. Once the final essay is received, SIR will send International Travel Scholarship Program grant recipients their grant payment.