

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

David Burr Mid-Career Award

Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health (ICMH)

About the Award

The **David Burr Mid-Career Award** recognizes outstanding investigators who have established themselves as leaders in musculoskeletal health research and have demonstrated sustained contributions to advancing the field.

Named in honor of **Dr. David Burr**, an internationally recognized scientist whose influential research, leadership, and service have shaped the field of musculoskeletal biology, this award celebrates investigators who have successfully built impactful research programs and continue to make significant contributions through discovery, innovation, mentorship, and leadership.

The award honors individuals whose careers reflect sustained excellence, scientific impact, and a continued commitment to advancing musculoskeletal health.

Purpose

The David Burr Mid-Career Award is presented annually to a mid-career investigator who has demonstrated sustained excellence and significant impact in musculoskeletal health research.

The award recognizes individuals who have established an independent and productive research program, achieved national or international recognition, and continue to advance the field through scientific discovery, innovation, leadership, and collaboration.

Award Includes

- Recognition at the annual ICMH Awards Ceremony
 - Commemorative award plaque
 - \$1,000 honorarium
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Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Be active contributors to musculoskeletal health research.
- Be ICMH members.
- Be in the mid-career stage of their professional trajectory.
- Have established an independent research program with a demonstrated record of sustained scholarly achievement.
- Be in good standing with Indiana University or their home institution.
- Submit a current full curriculum vitae (CV).

For purposes of this award, mid-career investigators are generally individuals who are beyond the early-career stage and have established an independent program but have not yet reached retirement or emeritus status.

Previous recipients are not eligible for nomination within five years of receiving the award.

Selection Criteria

Nominations will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Sustained Research Excellence

- Demonstrated record of high-quality and impactful musculoskeletal health research.
- Consistent scholarly productivity through peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and other academic contributions.
- Evidence of sustained scientific achievement over time.

2. Scientific Impact

- Contributions that have significantly advanced understanding, treatment, prevention, or management of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Evidence that the nominee's work has influenced research directions, clinical practice, policy, education, or translational efforts.
- National or international recognition of the nominee's scientific contributions.

3. Leadership and Independence

- Demonstrated success in building and maintaining an independent research program.

- Leadership within the institution, professional societies, collaborative initiatives, or the broader musculoskeletal research community.
- Success in obtaining competitive funding and sustaining a productive research portfolio.

4. Mentorship and Community Building

- Contributions to the development of trainees, junior faculty, and future leaders in musculoskeletal health.
- Promotion of collaboration, interdisciplinary research, and community engagement.
- Commitment to fostering excellence within the scientific community.

5. Continued Trajectory of Excellence

- Evidence of ongoing innovation, productivity, and impact.
 - Strong potential for continued leadership and future contributions to musculoskeletal health research.
 - Demonstrated commitment to advancing the field beyond current accomplishments.
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Nomination Materials

A complete nomination package must include:

1. Nomination Letter (Maximum 2 Pages)

The nomination letter should:

- Describe the nominee's major scientific accomplishments and impact.
- Highlight sustained contributions to musculoskeletal health research.
- Provide evidence of leadership, independence, and national or international recognition.
- Explain how the nominee exemplifies the spirit of the David Burr Mid-Career Award.

2. Current Full Curriculum Vitae (CV)

A complete and current CV is required.

3. Optional Supporting Letters

Up to two supporting letters may be included to provide additional evidence of the nominee's scientific impact, leadership, and sustained contributions.

Review Process

Nominations will be reviewed by the ICMH Awards Selection Committee using the published selection criteria.

Committee members will recuse themselves from reviewing nominations where conflicts of interest exist.

Recipients will be expected to serve a one-year term on a future ICMH awards nominations and selection committee.

Timeline

Activity	Date
Call for Nominations Opens	[Date]
Nomination Deadline	[Date]
Award Notification	[Date]
Award Presentation	Annual ICMH Retreat/Awards Ceremony

Questions

Questions regarding the David Burr Mid-Career Award may be directed to:

Indiana Center for Musculoskeletal Health (ICMH)

Award Summary

The David Burr Mid-Career Award recognizes an ICMH member who has demonstrated sustained excellence, leadership, and impact in musculoskeletal health research.

Nominees should have established an independent research program, achieved national or international recognition, and demonstrated a continued trajectory of scientific achievement and leadership within the field.

The recipient will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and recognition at the annual ICMH Awards Ceremony.