

Isaac Morris Hay and Lucille Elizabeth Hay Graduate Fellowship Award

Background:

Elizabeth (Betty) D. Hay, graduated from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1952, and began a research career that spanned five decades and included seminal contributions to our understanding of limb regeneration, extracellular matrix and the process of epithelial-mesenchymal transition.

Dr. Hay developed an interest in biological research while an undergraduate at Smith College and determined to pursue a career in academic medicine. After earning her M.D., she served on the Hopkins faculty in Anatomy for four years. After working at Cornell Medical College with Don Fawcett, an eminent figure in the newly emerging field of cell biology, Dr. Hay moved to Harvard. There, she was the first to demonstrate that cells depend on the extracellular matrix not just for support but also for communication--a discovery that was considered heretical at the time. In 1975, she became the chair of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Harvard, stepping down in 1993 to concentrate full time on teaching and research. Dr. Hay was active in many scientific societies and served as editor of *Cell Biology of Extracellular Matrix*, a definitive text in the field. Among her many achievements, Dr. Hay was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the first female president of the Society for Developmental Biology and the American Society for Cell Biology, and the first female full professor in a preclinical department at Harvard Medical School. Additional biographical information can be found at the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>).



Prior to her death in 2007, Dr. Hay established the Isaac Morris Hay and Lucille Elizabeth Hay Professor of Embryology, currently held by Dr. Peter Devreotes. The professorship, named in honor of Dr. Hay's parents, supports this graduate fellowship award. In 1929, Isaac Morris Hay, a general practitioner, established the first and only hospital in Melbourne, Florida. Lucille Elizabeth Hay assisted with administrative and caretaker duties at the hospital in addition to raising three children. The private hospital weathered the Great Depression and eventually became the Brevard County Hospital.

Nature of Award:

The Isaac Morris Hay and Lucille Elizabeth Hay Graduate Fellowship Award was established to provide support for predoctoral students performing outstanding research in the field of cell biology. Awardees receive one year of stipend and medical insurance (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024). Two awards will be given in 2023 and future competitions will be held based on availability of funds.

Application procedure:

Students from School of Medicine graduate programs who have more than a year remaining in their thesis work in the Department of Cell Biology are eligible to apply. Complete applications will include the following:

- 1) A completed cover page (attached).
- 2) Description of the scope and significance of thesis research. Research description should not exceed two single-spaced pages excluding literature cited (0.75" margins, Arial 11 pt font) and must include a paragraph describing how this award will advance your research goals.
- 3) Current copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae.
- 4) A letter of recommendation from the applicant's thesis advisor.

Applications are due by August 25. Applications will be reviewed by a faculty panel and awards will be announced by September 8, 2023. Please send the complete application and the letter of recommendation to Hiromi Sesaki (hsesaki@jhmi.edu).