Isaac Morris Hay and Lucille Elizabeth Hay Graduate 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:

We are excited to announce the **2026 Hay Awards**, which will support **four outstanding predoctoral or postdoctoral trainees** conducting research in Cell Biology. Eligible applicants must be working in Cell Biology at the time of the award and must have a **PI in Cell Biology.** Each award provides **$2,500** for research-related expenses.*

Application Requirements:

Please submit a **single-page summary** that follows NIH formatting guidelines for font and line spacing. The application should include:

- Applicant name
- Project title
- PI name
- Collaborators, including co-first authors, if applicable
- A brief description of the research
- Relevant figures and references
- The related published manuscript, or a **bioRxiv** preprint if available

Important Dates:

- **Application deadline:** August 15, 2026
- **Award announcement:** August 31, 2026
- **Funds must be used by:** January 31, 2027

Applications will be reviewed by a faculty panel. Please send the complete application to Hiromi Sesaki (hsesaki@jhmi.edu).