Welcome to the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program website. The Parker B. Francis Fellowship in Pulmonary Research is intended to support the development of outstanding investigators embarking on careers in pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. We seek to help them as they make the transition to independent investigators.

The PBF Fellowship Program is open to new investigators with M.D. or Ph.D. degrees, or their equivalent, who are embarking on careers in pulmonary science. The program provides three years of support for research with the guidance of an experienced mentor. In October 2018, 51 candidates from the US and Canada submitted applications. This past January the PBF Scientific Council selected 14 of these for funding. Each of these PBF Fellows will receive $156,000 in salary support over a three-year period, so the total amount awarded to the 2019 PBF Fellows will be $2,184,000. We look forward to following the achievements of these and our other PBF Fellows as they pursue their careers in pulmonary research.

The Scientific Council and the Francis Family Board of Directors regularly reviews the success of the Parker B. Francis Fellowship Program. More than 875 fellows have been supported since it began in 1976 and most of them have become prominent investigators and international leaders in pulmonary research. Their work has led to significant new discoveries that have improved the health of patients with a wide range of lung diseases. The 2009 PBF Fellowship Survey of 1976-2006 PBF Fellows showed that more than 70 percent of PBF Fellows continue to be involved in pulmonary research. (AJRCCM 2012;185:479–485). Fellows have continued to be surveyed since 2009 and the success remains impressive with the majority spending more than 50% of their time in research, obtaining extramural funding, publishing in high impact journals and mentoring the next generation.

From the onset of the fellowship program the importance of mentorship and the need for protected time for research have been recognized as critical for individuals embarking on careers in science. A commitment of 75% protected time has been one of the long standing requirements for a PBF fellowship. Understanding the increased costs of research and the pressures on institutions, I am excited to report that a decision was made by the Francis Foundation Board with input from the Scientific Advisory Council to increase the amount of the award to $75,000 per year beginning with those individuals who start their PBF fellowship in 2020 (applications due by October 14, 2019).

It is a great privilege to serve as the steward of the PBF fellowship program. I am grateful to the remarkable dedication and generosity of the Francis Family Foundation and to the commitment and expertise of the members of the Scientific Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Polly E. Parsons, MD
Scientific Director