



## **George Bennett Dissertation Fellowships**

### **Request for Proposals**

The Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making is pleased to announce a fellowship program to support dissertation and postdoctoral research in shared medical decision making. The grants are designed to support basic and applied research that can advance the field, and to attract scholars to the field of shared decision-making® in medical care. Through this program we hope to attract scholars from divergent fields including medicine, psychology, sociology, anthropology, public health, public policy, political science, economics, engineering, business, law, and related fields of study.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program in a graduate school where a doctoral dissertation is one of the requirements. Applicants must have completed all required coursework toward the doctorate and the dissertation proposal must be approved in order to submit a proposal to the Foundation.

### **Funding**

Awards will provide \$25,000 to be paid through each fellow's school. Fellows may use stipends to cover living expenses, travel, tuition support, or research expenses. The Foundation requires an update of each fellow's research progress at six months and at the conclusion of the fellowship period. Updates should not be longer than 10 pages.

Each fellow is eligible to receive a direct payment of an additional \$2,000 upon publication of findings from the funded research in a peer-reviewed journal within two years of the fellowship period. Additionally, the Foundation will support travel to present the results of the dissertation at one national conference within two years of the fellowship period (up to \$2000). Any publication or presentation of this research should include acknowledgment of the Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making for its support.

## **Format**

The proposal narrative should not exceed 10 pages using 1.5 line spacing, exclusive of title page, abstract, references, CV, budget, budget justification, and supporting documents. Font size requirement is Arial 12 point. One inch margins are required on all sides.

## **Proposals should include the following:**

Title Page:

Project Title

Name

Street address

Email

Phone

Institution

Degree program

**Abstract:** The abstract should summarize the proposal in 200 words.

**Specific Aims/Research question(s):** Specify the overall goal of the research as well as delineating the research questions that will be addressed.

**Background and Significance:** This section should include background of the research, any theories or hypotheses to be addressed, and the possible implications of the research.

**Research Design and Methods:** This section should explain the data collection plan, including who will be the participants/subjects, how data will be collected, what measures or tests will be used, outcomes, and analysis plan. We welcome both quantitative and qualitative methodologies.

**References**

**Budget:** The proposal should outline how the money is to be spent. If it is to be used as a stipend to cover living expenses, other sources of support should be described. If it is to be used to cover research expenses, those expenses should be described.

**Supporting documents:** You must include a letter from a dean, department head, or dissertation advisor certifying that you have completed all doctoral work except the dissertation (ABD status). We also require one letter of recommendation from a different person that addresses your interest in and ability to contribute to the field of shared decision-making®. Please also submit your CV including a brief biographical sketch listing your hometown, high school, and undergraduate institution.

## Possible topics

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list of topics. We welcome creative, thoughtful proposals that will allow us to advance the growing field of shared decision-making®.

- Literacy and numeracy as these topics relate to the communication of complex medical information and related information such as tradeoffs and uncertainty, communicator and target effects, comprehension of audiovisual presentations.
- Legal and economic implications of shared decision-making®.
- Psychosocial implications of shared decision-making®, including family, community, competing messages.
- Knowledge, values, and outcomes. What relationships exist among patient and physician knowledge, patient and physician values, patient satisfaction with their medical choice, clinical guidelines, and clinical outcomes?
- Acceptability of shared decision-making® by health care providers and patients.
- Learn about and document how medical decisions are currently made
- Develop and evaluate strategies for providing information and support to patients making decisions
- Basic research on how best to communicate information and understanding
- Support research on the impact of different approaches to making decision on various aspects of the medical care system, including patients, providers, costs of care, physician vulnerability to suits, what treatments are chosen, and the quality of the decisions that are made.

## Submission

The proposal should be submitted by email to **GBproposals@fimd.org**. Proposals **including all supporting documents** are due by May 3, 2010 at 5PM EST. Selected students will be notified by June 30, 2010 with funding to follow. The number of awards will be contingent on the availability of funds and the quality of the applications. A tentative deadline for proposal submission for the next round of funding will be December 1, 2010 with funding notification by February 15, 2011.

The Foundation for Informed Medical Decision Making does not discriminate because of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, or disability.