

Kosasa Graduate Student Assistantship

Purpose

The Kosasa Graduate Student Assistantship (Kosasa Assistantship) is funded by Dr. Thomas Kosasa, a Director of the Pacific IVF and a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii.

The purpose of this Fund is to provide support for one (1) Graduate Assistantship (GA) to a student in the Developmental and Reproductive Biology (DRB) graduate program. The Fund will be used for costs associated with research that would enable the awarded student to be hired as Research Graduate Assistant and pursue an MS or PhD research project in the laboratory of a DRB Graduate Faculty

The Kosasa Assistantship was created to strengthen a bridge between the Institute for Biogenesis Research (IBR), with which the DRB program is associated, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pacific IVF. The assistantship is expected to foster high-quality reproductive research and mingling of basic and clinical research activities.

The Kosasa Assistantship Fund will be managed by the UH Foundation in accordance with policies adopted by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Eligibility

1. Full-time, incoming MS or PhD student entering the DRB graduate program at JABSOM, or under special circumstances, current PhD student in the program.
2. Student conducting research strictly related to reproductive and developmental biology, with preference given to research with implications for male and female fertility.
3. Student that has identified a lab in which he/she will carry out MS or PhD project.
4. Student that has obtained a commitment letter from a DRB program mentor confirming acceptance of the conditions of the assistantship, as described in the Conditions of the Kosasa Assistantship.

Selection

The information about the Kosasa Assistantship will be included on the DRB website. Students will be advised to indicate an interest in obtaining the assistantship in their Personal Statement prepared as a part of their DRB Admission Portfolio. Recipients will be selected by the Chair of DRB and DRB Admission Committee.

Notification

The DRB Admission Committee will notify the recipients of their selection.

Number

One (1) graduate assistantship will be awarded annually at the required minimum level for 11 months appointment. If in a given year Kosasa Assistantship is not awarded, the amount will roll over to the next academic year allowing for support of two (2) students.

Proof of Enrollment

Recipients must provide proof of enrollment at JABSOM before any publicity or announcement of recipient is made.

Renewal

Assistantship is renewable for a second year so long as all criteria are met, student maintains good academic standing, is currently enrolled at JABSOM, and has achieved sufficient progress (as assessed by the DRB Chair and DRB Admission Committee)

Conditions of the Kosasa Fellowship

1. The Kosasa Assistantship can be awarded to a given student for a maximum of two (2) years.
2. In special circumstances, the Kosasa Assistantship may be awarded to an exceptional PhD student already in the DRB program as long as the student meets the criteria and the student and the mentor accept the conditions. The specific situation of such student will be considered to assure that the Kosasa Assistantship is used to advance his/her research. Interested student and mentor can petition the DRB Chair, who will make a decision after consultation with the DRB Admission committee.
3. The second year of support will be provided to a given student only if he/she maintains a high GPA and if sufficient research progress has taken place (assessed by the DRB Chair and the DRB Admission Committee).
4. It is expected that a first-author publication will result from the two years of work of the Kosasa Assistantship awardee.
5. The Kosasa Assistantship awardee is expected to work full time on the research, and is therefore not allowed to be hired in any other position during the Kosasa Assistantship tenure.
6. The mentor of Kosasa Assistantship awardee is expected to continue supporting the student with his/her grant funding after the assistantship has ended. While it is recognized that funding one or two years in the future cannot be guaranteed, the applications with a strong letter of support from the mentor regarding the possibility of future funding will be prioritized.
7. By the end of the first year of support the Kosasa Assistantship awardee must:
 - a. Present data at the JABSOM BIOMED Symposium and/or the TESTER Symposium.
 - b. Present data at the Ob-Gyn Ground Rounds.
 - c. Submit a Progress Report summarizing all research related activities to the DRB Chair.
8. By the end of the second year of support (if it is awarded) the Kosasa Assistantship awardee must:
 - a. Present data at the JABSOM BIOMED Symposium and/or the TESTER Symposium in the second year of funding.
 - b. Present data at the national level conference; the cost of student's participation is expected to be covered by the mentor although the student is welcome to apply for various travel grants to decrease the expenses.
 - c. Present data at the Ob-Gyn Ground Rounds.
 - d. Draft and submit a first-authorship paper to a peer-reviewed journal.
 - e. Submit a Final Progress Report summarizing all research activities to DRB Chair.