

**University of Nebraska Medical Center
Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology**

Thomas L. McDonald Graduate Student Travel Fund

A generous endowment by Dr. Thomas L. McDonald is intended to support graduate education in the Immunology, Pathology, and Infectious Diseases (IPID) program in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology. One way the endowment will support students is through travel awards as follows:

Thomas L. McDonald Travel Award: This is a one-time travel award that each IPID student can receive during their program of studies at UNMC. The value of the award is \$1000 for domestic travel and \$1500 for international travel (outside North America).

Thomas L. McDonald Distinguished Graduate Student Award: This award is given to an IPID student who has received an honorary recognition such as a competitive travel award or an invited oral presentation from a national or international society or meeting (e.g., Gordon Research Conference or equivalent) in their field of study. The value of the award is up to \$2000 to support domestic or international travel to attend the scientific meeting.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. The applicant must be a current UNMC student enrolled in either a PhD or MS Immunology, Pathology and Infectious Disease (IPID) graduate program.
2. The applicant must be in good academic standing (GPA \geq 3.0).
3. The applicant must be conducting thesis or dissertation research with a UNMC graduate faculty member.
4. The applicant must submit an abstract for the conference that will be attended with financial support from the award.

General Rules and Application Process:

- *Thomas L. McDonald Travel Award*
 - Candidates are expected to provide a personal statement of 250-500 words summarizing the educational value they obtained from the travel award. Students should apply via email by submitting the attached application form to Tuire Cechin (tcechin@unmc.edu):

- *Thomas L. McDonald Distinguished Graduate Student Award*
 - Application form, including a signed attestation from the primary faculty advisor, should be submitted via email to Tuire Cechin (tcechin@unmc.edu) and include the following additional requirements:
 - Documentation of the presentation type (e.g., conference program) and any awards received during the meeting.

- Documentation supporting that the student has successfully passed their comprehensive examination
 - The student's complete curriculum vitae bearing background and personal data, education, publications, honors, awards, and membership in professional societies, registered student organizations and student groups, and other relevant activities.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
 - Applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee consisting of members of the IPID Graduate Committee
 - Award notifications will be sent to the applicant, their primary faculty advisor, the chair of the Department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology, and IPID Graduate Committee members.
 - The award can be used to supplement travel expenses over and above those provided by the society. If no supplemental travel expenses are needed to attend the society's annual meeting when the award is received, up to \$1000 may be carried forward and used to cover travel to a future meeting for the society or another society within the student's study field while the student is in the IPID program. The selection of a future meeting for which the funds can be used requires approval of the faculty advisor and the chair of the Selection Committee.
 - Awardees cannot apply in the fiscal year immediately following acceptance of the award.
 - The Award should be acknowledged in the poster or oral presentation.

Last revised: 11/16/2024

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**Thomas L. McDonald Travel Award
Application Form**

Thomas L. McDonald Graduate Student Travel Award: This is a one-time travel award that each IPID student receives during their program of studies at UNMC. The value of the award is \$1000 for domestic travel and \$1500 for international travel (outside North America).

Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone Number: _____

Student Start Date at UNMC (Month/Year): _____

Faculty Advisor: _____

Name of conference: _____

Dates of conference: _____

Title of the presentation (include an accepted abstract of the presentation on page 2):

Student's Signature: _____

Faculty Advisor's Signature: _____

Program Chair's approval: _____

All applicants are expected to provide a personal statement of 250-500 words summarizing the educational value they expect to obtain from the travel award.

Please send this application with the accepted abstract and the personal statement to Tuire Cechin (tcechin@unmc.edu).

Thomas L. McDonald Travel Award

Student: _____

Abstract:

Personal Statement: