

## **Characteristics of Successful & Unsuccessful Applicants**

The purpose of the Foundation's Kendall and Doctoral Opportunities for Clinicians and Scholars (DOCS) programs is to develop doctorally prepared researchers who will add to or refine the body of knowledge on which physical therapist practice is based. The following are general characteristics of successful and unsuccessful scholarship applicants:

### Successful Scholarship Applicants

- 1) Have a strong publication/productivity record to date (articles, abstracts, presentations).
- 2) Have excellent endorsements (letters of recommendation) from well-published mentors.
- 3) Have strong career goals with an emphasis on research. For example, strong career goals may include aspirations to: a) procure independent funding from federal sources, b) publish extensively in specific areas consistent with the Clinical Research Agenda (CRA), and c) present at well-known scientific meetings, which provide peer review from national and international experts. Moreover, an applicant's previous clinical and research experience (presentations, publications, grants) provides evidence to support the written career goals. Many successful applicants show glimpses of productive research careers by an already established publication and presentation record.
- 4) Come from strong research environments that have funded NIH or federal research.
- 5) Have some clinical experience.
- 6) Demonstrate commitment to their part-time or full-time program of study by proposing and clearly demonstrating by their plan of study, time commitments, and other relevant information in their application, that they will be able to progress through their studies in a timely fashion.
- 7) Have a mentor in their planned area of study. A mentor with a history of successfully advising physical therapists to completion of their doctoral studies.

- 8) Have some research experience in the area they are planning to study.

#### Unsuccessful Scholarship Applicants

- 1) Have little or no evidence of productivity (published abstracts, articles, presentations).
- 2) Have mentors with limited publications.
- 3) Have plans for research that are not clearly outlined.
- 4) Do not propose convincingly to progress through their full-time or part-time studies in a timely fashion as demonstrated by their plan of study, time commitments, and other additional relevant information in their application.
- 5) Have research directions not relevant to the CRA and physical therapy.
- 6) Do not provide sufficient information or enough evidence to clearly demonstrate that they will be able to further the physical therapy profession through research and teaching in the United States and its territories.
- 7) Do not follow explicitly the directions in the scholarship guidelines for completing an application (including those for page limits and font size).

This list is provided as a guide only; it is not all-inclusive and should not be used as such.