



**National  
Medical  
Association**

**RABB -VENABLE COMPETITION**

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*Ophthalmology Conference Services*  
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Dear Program Director:

On behalf of the Ophthalmology Section of the National Medical Association (NMA), we seek your assistance in identifying qualified medical student/resident/fellow researchers to participate in the Rabb-Venable research competition, which will be held in Las Vegas July 25-29, 2009. Travel grants are available for this meeting and are sponsored by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Eye Institute (NEI) through a R13 grant.

The NMA is the oldest and largest organization representing African-American physicians and healthcare professionals in the United States. As part of its goal to provide health parity for all Americans, the NMA focuses on health issues related to minority populations, the disadvantaged and the medically underserved. NIH, NEI and NMA are committed to equal opportunity and diversity, and do not discriminate on the grounds of race, sex, age, religion or disability.

The Rabb-Venable Award is named in honor of Dr. Maurice Rabb, Jr. and Dr. H. Philip Venable, two pioneering African American ophthalmologists and researchers. Dr. Rabb, who died in 2005, was internationally known for his pioneering work in cornea and retinal vascular diseases. Dr. Venable was the first African American to join the faculty of Washington University in 1958. He died in 1989 and was well known in St. Louis for his efforts to educate and train young African American physicians in the field of ophthalmology.

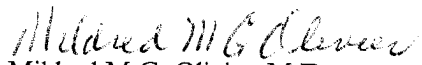
This year, ten \$1500 travel grants will be awarded. Each will cover roundtrip airfare to Las Vegas, hotel costs and ground transportation. While at the conference, the awardees will present their research and meet with a NEI representative. In addition, there will be a workshop the day prior to their presentations which will focus on public speaking skills as well as grant writing and funding opportunities. Awardees who attend the conference will also compete for three Rabb-Venable Awards for Outstanding Research in the amounts of \$2000, \$1500, and \$500. The resident/fellow winner of this award will receive a second travel grant to attend the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) meeting held in Ft. Lauderdale and attend an NIH writing grant session the following year (2010).

Research may be in any of the subspecialties of ophthalmology and emphasize the latest developments in the understanding, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of the many sight-threatening diseases and conditions which affect minority patients as well as the general population.

The application deadline for the Rabb-Venable Research Competition is March 1, 2009. Criteria by which research projects will be judged include: The importance of the research question; its potential impact (e.g. to patient care, healthcare disparities, etc.); quality of the study data; data analysis; background knowledge of subject; and knowledge/discussion of the limitations of the study, including the next steps the researcher would pursue.

The application for the Rabb-Venable Award and abstract submission form are available on the NMA Ophthalmology website at <http://ophthalmology.nmanet.org>  
If you have any questions about this program please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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Rabb-Venable Award Program Director



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