

## GPILS/OPS Award Descriptions

### Award Nominations Submitted by Program Directors

Nominees for the following four awards are to be submitted by Program Directors. Each Program Director should contact their faculty, ask for potential nominees, and work with their governing committee to select an appropriate student to nominate for each award.

#### *MS Scholar Award*

This award is intended to recognize a student who has demonstrated an outstanding record of academic performance and shown great potential as a scientist. Nominees for this award may not have previously earned a higher degree. (e.g., PhD, MD, etc.).

Each GPILS MS program is invited to nominate one student for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from the GPILS MS Program Director
- Two letters of support from faculty members (Letters from individuals who have served as a mentor, course director, or member of the student's thesis committee are strongly recommended.)
- A curriculum vitae including the student's GPA

#### *PhD Scholar Award*

This award is intended to recognize a student who is within their first three years of study and research, with an outstanding academic performance record, and great potential as a scientist. In addition to the nomination letter, two support letters are requested.

Each program is invited to nominate one student for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from the student's mentor
- Two letters of support from faculty members (Letters from the Program Director, a course director, or member of the student's thesis committee are strongly recommended.)
- A curriculum vitae including the student's GPA

#### *PhD Thesis Project Award*

This award is intended to recognize a student whose thesis work shows significance within their field of study.

Nominations for this award are limited to students who have successfully defended their dissertation between May 2021 and August 2022 or who will defend before the end of the Fall 2022 semester (December 22). The letters of recommendation should focus on a description of the significance of the work in the specific field of study.

Each program is invited to nominate one student for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from the student's mentor
- A letter of support from a faculty member
- A curriculum vitae
- An abstract of no more than 500 words summarizing the overall dissertation project

## *The Otani Award*

The Otani Award commemorates Elaine Miye Otani. She was a student who stood for hard work and perseverance with a particular interest in the mechanisms of cellular differentiation and carcinogenesis. Yet she found time to spread her friendship and goodwill among those around her, trying at the same time to inspire them in their studies. Her family established this living memorial as a tribute to her and her aspirations.

This award will be given annually to a graduate student of outstanding character who demonstrates superior academic performance and shows outstanding promise to develop into a resourceful independent investigator. Nominees for the Otani Award must have successfully passed their Program's Qualifying Examination.

The student must have a consistent record of service and support to the overall goals of GPILS by stimulating interest in and attempting to improve the quality of academic studies among fellow students in GPILS. The recipient of this award must show evidence of a good working relationship with peers and GPILS faculty and have earned the esteem of others.

Each program is invited to nominate one student for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from the Program Director explaining why the student is being nominated
- A letter from the nominee's faculty mentor or another appropriate faculty member
- A curriculum vitae including the student's GPA

## **Award Nominations Submitted by Mentors**

### *Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Research Award*

This award is intended to honor a postdoctoral fellow who shows an outstanding record of research performance, professional development, and an exceptional record of accomplishments. The supporting letters should address the significance of the nominee's work in the context of the specific discipline and science in general.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from the mentor
- A letter of support from a faculty member
- A curriculum vitae
- An abstract of no more than 500 words summarizing the overall work and its significance in the field

## **Award Nominations Submitted by Faculty Members, Postdoctoral Fellows, Graduate Students, or Staff Members**

### *Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Service Award*

In recognition of the University's commitment to our core values and community engagement, this award is intended to honor a postdoctoral fellow of outstanding character who demonstrates a consistent record of service and support to the School of Medicine or the community outside of the laboratory. The recipient of this award must show evidence of a good working relationship with peers and faculty and have earned the esteem of others.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- Two letters from faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, staff members, graduate students, or representatives of a service organization highlighting why the postdoctoral fellow is being nominated for their service specifically
- A curriculum vitae highlighting the candidate's service record

### *Postdoctoral Fellow Excellence in Mentorship Award*

This award is intended to honor a postdoctoral fellow who shows an outstanding record of supportive mentorship in a laboratory during their time at the School of Medicine.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from a mentee of the candidate. Letters should include stories from mentees who value their postdoctoral fellows for their expertise, patience, availability, creativity, kindness, and the investments the postdoctoral fellows make in their commitment to training the next generation of researchers. Letters should describe the frequency of the interactions with mentees, the length of the relationships with mentees, and the importance of their impact on the mentee's professional or educational success.
- An additional letter of support from a faculty member, postdoctoral fellow, graduate student, staff member, or additional mentee
- A curriculum vitae highlighting the candidate's mentorship activity

### **Award Nominations Submitted by Postdoctoral Fellows**

#### *Faculty Excellence in Postdoctoral Mentorship Award*

This award is intended to honor a faculty member with a record of supportive mentorship of postdoctoral fellows.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- Nomination letters from two postdoctoral fellows who the candidate mentored
- The candidate's curriculum vitae including a list of current and past postdoctoral fellows and, if known, the current position of past postdoctoral fellows

### **Award Nominations Submitted by Graduate Students or Faculty Members**

#### *Teacher of the Year Award*

This award is intended to honor a Graduate Program in Life Sciences faculty member with an outstanding record of teaching graduate students. The nominee must be a member of the UMB Graduate Faculty and at least one of the GPILS graduate programs.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award:

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from a faculty member and two separate letters from individual graduate students or three separate letters from individual graduate students
- The candidate's curriculum vitae with detailed information on previous and current teaching activities and, if possible, a teaching portfolio with student evaluations

## **Award Nominations Submitted by Faculty Members**

### *GPILS Alumnus Award*

This award is intended to recognize the exceptional achievements of an alum of the Graduate Program in Life Sciences or a graduate program that predated the creation of GPILS (e.g., Program in Physiology, etc.). The nominee's degree must have been awarded no earlier than 2017.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- A nomination letter from a faculty member that outlines the nominee's accomplishments
- The candidate's curriculum vitae

## **Award Nominations Submitted by Graduate Students**

### *The Dr. Mark E. Shirliff PhD Student Mentor Award*

This award honors Mark E. Shirliff, PhD, former Professor in the Department of Microbial Pathogenesis in the School of Dentistry, and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine. The nominee must have a record of supportive graduate student mentorship.

There is no limit to the number of nominations that we will accept for this award.

The following items are required by the committee:

- Two separate nomination letters from individual students who have been mentored by the candidate
- The candidate's curriculum vitae including a list of current and past students and if known, the current positions of past students