University of Memphis Bioinformatics
Dr. Thomas C. Gettelfinger Student Travel Awards

Travel Awards of up to $750 are available for Bioinformatics graduate students on a competitive basis to support travel to conferences, workshops, or related activities.

The travel awards are designed to offer partial funding for the travel. Thus, the student must clearly indicate other sources of funding in their cover letter. Please submit travel grant applications at least one month prior to the event. The recipient is expected to pay for all expenses prior to travel and will be reimbursed upon return.

Award recipients are expected to give a presentation to the Bioinformatics students and faculty within three weeks of returning from travel. The presentations should include an overview of the meeting/conference in addition to one or more specific topics of interest to the student.

Application Requirements:
1. A cover letter emailed to bioinformatics@memphis.edu that includes the following items:
   a. Title, location and description of the conference or workshop.
   b. Duration of travel.
   c. Personal statement describing the student’s academic and research accomplishments and how the travel will impact their research and/or training.
   d. If planning to present at the meeting, please include the title and abstract for your presentation.
   e. Other sources of funding which will be used to cover the expenses. Students who have secured other travel awards or have partial support from their research advisor will be viewed favorably.
2. Letter of support from the student’s research advisor.
3. Travel authorization form, indicating the estimated total cost of travel, lodging, meals, registration and incidental expenses. Include other sources of funding.

Selection criteria:
1. Availability of funds. Only two awards are given per fiscal year (beginning July 1).
2. Student’s academic and research performance.
3. Relevancy of travel to student’s training and research project.
5. Preference will be given to students who are presenting at the meeting and have not previously received this travel award.
6. Only one award will be given to a research group per year.

Application Deadlines:
Applications will be reviewed three times each year: January 15, May 15 and September 15
**Thomas C. Gettelfinger, MD**

Dr. Thomas C. Gettelfinger specializes in cataract surgery, intraocular lens implant surgery, corneal surgery and other surgical procedures. He is described as an "artist" by his peers because of the exquisite nature of his surgeries.

An honors graduate from University of Notre Dame, Dr. Gettelfinger received his Medical Degree from Harvard Medical School in 1966. He served his Internship and Residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Washington in Seattle and completed his Fellowship in Ocular Motility with Dr. Eugene Helveston at Indiana University Medical School.

He has served as a national committee member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and has received a National Honor Award. He is the founder of the Tennessee Ophthalmic Personnel Society, an organization active in training ophthalmic assistants, and has served as president of the Tennessee Academy of Ophthalmology. He is also Board Certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

Dr. Gettelfinger is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Tennessee, in Memphis, and has been active in teaching and training in Ophthalmology programs in third world countries, including Afghanistan, India, Mexico, Zaire, China and Brazil. For more than a decade, he has been active in international charitable work with Orbis International, an airborne surgical eye hospital that travels to developing countries. He was an early recipient of the Good Samaritan Award presented by The Memphis Health Care News/Church Health Center.

Dr. Gettelfinger is an avid art collector and photographer.