FARK Education Scholarships Available to Volunteers Engaged in Patient Communications

MELBOURNE, FL – July 19, 2011 – The Preeclampsia Foundation announced today the creation of the FARK Education Scholarship, a special fund that will provide $500 scholarships to current volunteers interested in furthering their knowledge about preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy in order to improve their work as patient educators. The scholarship is made possible by a donation from FARK, Inc. and will provide travel stipends to attend scientific and medical conferences and meetings.

Up to ten scholarships will be awarded in 2011 to be used for a single pre-approved educational activity for travel, accommodations, meals or registration fees. Mechanisms for education include attending one of the professional or patient education courses and symposia offered by the Preeclampsia Foundation, or any of the professional scientific meetings held most years in the United States (e.g., SGI, SMFM, NASSHP). Other educational opportunities will also be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Applicants must complete a simple one-page application , available upon request, explaining how they currently provide preeclampsia education in their role as a Foundation volunteer and how they plan to utilize the educational opportunity to support that role. Preference will be given to volunteers who have demonstrated at least one year of active involvement in educational activities and spend at least 80 percent of their volunteer hours providing patient education and support. Preeclampsia Foundation staff and members of the Board of Directors are not eligible.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our Community Forum moderators and others who are actively engaged in patient education to learn about the latest preeclampsia research, diagnostic and management practices, and interface directly with our medical board and other thought leaders in the field,” explained Eleni Tsigas, Preeclampsia Foundation executive director. “We’re very grateful to our donor who supports our desire to energize our volunteers’ commitment to patient education and enables them to stay current on evidence-based information, primarily to help educate the lay public, but also, in some cases, health care providers.”

The scholarship application review committee meets as needed to review applications, but for applicants interested in attending the 2011 professional course and/or patient symposium on

November 12 in New York City, the deadline for applicants is August 15, 2011. For any other desired educational activities, applications must be received at least 8 weeks prior to the scheduled event. For more information or to receive application instructions, please email Program Coordinator Laney Poye .

About the Preeclampsia Foundation: The Preeclampsia Foundation is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 2000. It is dedicated to providing patient support and education, raising public awareness, catalyzing research and improving health care practices, envisioning a world where preeclampsia and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and babies. For more information, visit www.preeclampsia.org
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