2020 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
Call for Nominations
Due April 15, 2020

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2020 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 8-10, 2020 at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The goal of the workshop is to provide surgeon-scientists and urologic researchers (MD and PhD or equivalents) with insights into the scientific review process, information about independent funding sources, and individualized grant writing guidance. This 2.5-day workshop and its activities are geared for individuals planning to submit competitive research proposals to the National Institutes of Health or other major funders of urologic research.

CURRICULUM
The workshop agenda is designed to foster career success and skills for successful grant writing. The program consists of four major components:

- Didactic Instruction
- Individual and Small Group Proposal Review and Critiques with Senior Scientific Advisors
- Grant Review/Revision
- Mock Study Section

COST
- $400 registration fee for AUA members
- $500 registration fee for non-AUA members

The AUA will cover travel costs to/from the workshop within AUA guidelines, lodging, and meals on location during the workshop. Incidental costs and meals outside of those provided during the workshop will be the responsibility of the workshop participant. The registration fee will be paid after nominee reviews have been completed and the participants have been selected.

ELIGIBILITY
All nominees must meet the following eligibility criteria by the application submission deadline:

- Be active in urologic research as evidenced by involvement in laboratory- or clinic-based urologic research projects.
- Not have previously received extramural R01 or independent investigator funding as a Principal Investigator.

Early vs. Advanced: A dual-track training program has been incorporated into the workshop to provide the best possible training experience. All nominees will be reviewed and, if selected to attend the Early-Career Investigators Workshop, will be assigned to one of the following participant groups:

- **Early Grant Development Group**: postdoctoral fellows, trainees currently enrolled in fellowship programs (e.g., K12, T32), and faculty who require intensive training in grant development but will not submit a career development or independent research grant application within 12 months after the workshop.
- **Advanced Grant Development Group**: investigators in the process of preparing applications for K- or R-type research grants with submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2021.
  - Nominees who wish to be considered for the **Advanced Grant Development Group** must:
    - Be listed as the Principal Investigator on an unfunded R or K award, or equivalent grant application (new or planning to resubmit). The proposed research must be focused on urologic diseases or conditions.
    - In order for the AUA Office of Research to track outcomes of the workshops and provide continuing mentorship, **Advanced Grant Development Group** applicants are expected to submit (or resubmit) their grant applications to the NIH or other federal agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2021 and provide a copy of the application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research no later than December 31, 2021. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared externally.
NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

✓ All nominations must be submitted by the urology department of any institution within the boundaries of the eight sections of the AUA.
✓ Each department may nominate a maximum of two individuals.
✓ Nomination packages must be emailed to AKemp@auanet.org no later than April 15, 2020.
✓ Late submissions will not be considered.
✓ All nominees must submit application documents in the following order, combined into a single PDF file saved as: “Lastname.FirstInitial_2020ECIW.pdf” (For example: Doe.J_2020ECIW.pdf):

1. Nominee Information Form (can be downloaded on the ECIW webpage) at https://www.auanet.org/research/research-education-and-events/early-career-investigator-workshop
2. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures.
3. Curriculum vitae or NIH-formatted biosketch of the nominee.
4. List and status of all extramural grant submissions for the past two years (if not included in the biosketch).
5. A draft Specific Aims Page (one-page maximum) for the research project intended for a future grant application. For guidance, see http://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx
6. Nominee letter (one-page maximum) that:
   - States the career goals of the nominee, and
   - Explains the relevance of his/her research to the National Urology Research Agenda (https://www.auanet.org/research/research-publications/national-urology-research-agenda-(nura)).
7. Letter of Support (two-page maximum) from the nominee’s urology department chair or mentor detailing the research environment, institutional support, commitment to the nominee’s research and career development, and reasons why the nominee should be selected.
8. (ADVANCED group only) A preliminary Research Proposal that contains, at minimum, a hypothesis and experimental plan outline. Other sections may include background and experimental plan. The Research Proposal must be at least four pages, not including references cited.
9. (ADVANCED group only) A copy of grant review summary sheets and scores, if the proposed research has been previously submitted for funding and was scored but not funded. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared external to the Office of Research.

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

- Nominee
  - To what degree the nominee’s achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
  - To what degree the nominee’s stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout his or her career.
- Letter of Support
  - To what degree the letter indicates the high potential of the nominee for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.
- Proposed Research
  - (All nominees): To what degree the project addresses, or can be revised to address, an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in urologic research.
  - (Advanced Grant Development Group nominees only)
    - To what degree the PI is well suited to the project or the project can be modified to better suit the experience and training of the PI.
    - To what degree the project as written, or with revision, will challenge current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - To what degree the scientific environment in which the work will be conducted contribute to the probability of success.
SELECTION PROCEDURES
Nomination packages will be evaluated by the program faculty to determination program acceptance, group assignment, and wait list selections. All accepted ECIW participants will be assigned to either the Early Grant Development or Advanced Grant Development group. Group assignments are intended to ensure the participants’ current grant status aligns with programmatic content and intent of the workshop. Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions and group assignments via email no later than June 10, 2020.

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP
By Monday, July 13, 2020 each selected Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that includes the following elements in the following order:
1. Specific Aims
2. Background
3. Supporting Data
4. Experimental Plan
5. References
6. Career Development & Training Plan

The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop. Advanced Group participants are expected to review and address the first round of faculty comments prior to coming to the workshop. Participants will meet with faculty advisors at the workshop during one-on-one and small group sessions for additional revision and improvement to the proposal. A key outcome of the workshop is that each participant will have a research proposal in “near submission” condition. All Advanced Grant Development Group participants will be expected to submit the proposal to the NIH or other major funding agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2021.

CONTACT INFORMATION
✓ All nomination packages should be emailed, as per the above-mentioned guidelines, to: AKemp@auanet.org
✓ All questions regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:
  Alicia Kemp
  AUA Research, Quality, and Scientific Affairs Division Project Coordinator
  Office Telephone: (410) 689-4016 Email: AKemp@auanet.org

FACULTY
Recruitment of faculty scientific advisors and speakers for 2020 is underway. 2018 and 2019 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:
  Rosalyn M. Adam, PhD, Boston Children’s Hospital
  Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University
  Benjamin Canales, MD, MPH, University of Florida
  Peter E. Clark, MD, Atrium Health and Levine Cancer Institute
  Margot Damaser, PhD, Cleveland Clinic
  Stephen Freedland, MD, Cedars Sinai Medical Center
  John Gore, MD, MS, University of Washington
  Magda Grabowska, PhD, Case Western Reserve University
  Michael H. Hsieh, MD, PhD, Biomedical Research Institute, George Washington University, and Children’s National Medical Center
  Dolores J. Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Weil Cornell Medical College
  Aria F. Olumi, MD, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School
  Siam Oottamasathien, MD, Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital for Children
  J. Todd Purves, MD, PhD, Duke University
  Douglas Strand, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern
  John T. Wei, MD, MS, University of Michigan
  Erika Wolff, PhD, University of Washington

2020 Early-Career Investigators Workshop: Call for Nominations (rev. 3/2/2020)
ADDITIONAL TALKS BY:
- Julia Barthold, MD, Center for Scientific Review, NIH
- Tamara Bavendam, MD, MS, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
- Krystal Brinson, PhD, AUA Office of Research, Research Grants Project Manager
- Theresa Miller, PhD, DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)
- Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH, American Cancer Society (ACS)
- Candace L. Kerr, PhD, National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- Donna Kimbark, PhD, DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
- Kenute Myrie, PhD, Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development
- Theresa Miller, PhD, DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
- Candace L. Kerr, PhD, National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- Dona Kimbark, PhD, DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
- Kenute Myrie, PhD, Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development
- Susan Lim, PhD, National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)

EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE

The following due dates should be considered when submitting your nomination package. Failure to meet confirmed deadlines may result in removal from the workshop.

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<tr>
<th>2020 timeline</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Nomination Packages Submitted to <a href="mailto:AKemp@auanet.org">AKemp@auanet.org</a></td>
<td>To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, submit additional materials as outlined above</td>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email</td>
<td>Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete draft research proposal to <a href="mailto:AKemp@auanet.org">AKemp@auanet.org</a></td>
<td>Participants will submit a draft proposal that fulfills the requirements of their specific grant’s program announcement. The ECIW program does not have additional requirements.</td>
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<td>July 15-September 3</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant and assigned mentor communicate by email and phone</td>
<td>Participants will be assigned faculty mentors. When a match is made, email introductions will be sent to the participant and their mentor. Faculty mentors will review the proposal and provide an initial critique to participants. Faculty mentors will be available to answer participants’ questions. Phone conversations are encouraged, whenever possible.</td>
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<td>September 7</td>
<td>Early Grant Development Group participant must submit updated Specific Aims page to <a href="mailto:AKemp@auanet.org">AKemp@auanet.org</a></td>
<td>Participants will be assigned faculty mentors for small group mentoring sessions at the workshop</td>
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<td>September 21</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit updated research proposal to <a href="mailto:AKemp@auanet.org">AKemp@auanet.org</a> and assigned faculty mentor</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant will utilize feedback from mentor and make edits to grant proposal. Faculty will review updated grants prior to meeting in person at the workshop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8-10</td>
<td>Early-Career Investigators Workshop</td>
<td>Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland</td>
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<td>Spring or Summer 2021</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies</td>
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<td>December 31, 2021</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research</td>
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