2018 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
Call for Nominations

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2018 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 11–13, 2018 at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. Approximately 30 nominees will be selected to participate in the workshop, which includes activities prior to and following the meeting, to maximize potential for funding success. **Nominations must be received no later than Friday, March 30, 2018.**

BACKGROUND
Nurturing the success of early-career investigators in urologic research is a major goal of the AUA Office of Research and the AUA Research Council. The collaborative Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW) provides an opportunity for promising junior investigators in urologic research (MD and PhD or equivalents) to receive individualized mentoring, insights into the scientific review process, information about independent funding sources, and grant writing guidance. The goal of the workshop is to motivate and support surgeon-scientists and researchers in the early stages of their careers by providing an outstanding career development program led by established, well-funded investigators in urologic research. 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 provide participants with a solid foundation for successful grant writing. The workshop and activities include interaction with senior scientific advisors in small group and individual sessions. The program consists of four major components (full agenda provided in Appendix 1):

- Didactic Instruction
- Individual Proposal Review and Critique
- Grant Review/ Revision
- Mock Study Section

COST
A $400 registration fee is required for participation in the workshop and its activities. 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.
ELIGIBILITY (continued)

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 no later than submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2019.
  - 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 2019 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, 2019. 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 research@auanet.org no later than Friday, March 30, 2018. 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_2018ECIW.pdf” (For example: Doe.J_2018ECIW.pdf):

1. Nominee Information Form (can be downloaded on the ECIW webpage) at [http://www.auanet.org/research/early-career-investigators-workshop.cfm](http://www.auanet.org/research/early-career-investigators-workshop.cfm)
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).
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 ([http://www.auanet.org/research/national-urology-research-agenda.cfm](http://www.auanet.org/research/national-urology-research-agenda.cfm)).
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.
To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, nominees must also submit:

8. 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. 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 assist in determination of program acceptance 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 Friday, April 27, 2018.
PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP

By Friday, June 15, 2018, each selected Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that includes the following elements:

- Specific Aims
- Background
- Supporting Data
- Experimental Plan
- References
- 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. To every extent possible, 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 2019.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All nomination packages should be emailed, as per the above-mentioned guidelines, to: research@auanet.org

All questions regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:

Julia Gumminger, MA, MSEd
Research Education and Events Manager, Office of Research
American Urological Association
Office Telephone: (410) 689-3806
Email: jgumminger@auanet.org
**EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE**

Please note that due dates following the application deadline are not finalized, but should be considered when submitting your nomination package. Failure to meet confirmed deadlines may result in removal from the workshop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Timelines:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 30</td>
<td>Nomination Packages Submitted</td>
<td>To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, submit additional materials as outlined above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 27</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, June 15</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participant must submit a complete draft research proposal.</td>
<td>The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, August 10</td>
<td><em>Early Grant Development Group</em> participant must submit updated Specific Aims</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 11–Saturday, October 13, 2018</td>
<td>Early-Career Investigators Workshop</td>
<td>Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring or Summer 2019</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2019</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participants provide copy of grant application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FACULTY
Recruitment of faculty advisors and speakers for 2018 is underway. 2017 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:
- Rosalyn M. Adam, PhD, Children’s Hospital Boston
- Toby C. Chai, MD, Yale School of Medicine
- Peter E. Clark, MD, Carolinas HealthCare System
- Stephen J. Freedland, MD, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
- Michael R. Freeman, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
- Michael H. Hsieh, MD, PhD, Biomedical Research Institute, George Washington University, and Children’s National Medical Center
- H. Henry Lai, Washington University School of Medicine
- Dolores J. Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB), Baylor College of Medicine
- Aria F. Olumi, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School
- John T. Wei, MD, MS, University of Michigan
- Erika Wolff, PhD, University of Washington
- Li Xin, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine

ADDITIONAL TALKS BY:
- 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
- Melissa Cunningham, 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)
- Kenute Myrie, PhD, Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development
- Sergei Radaev, PhD, National Cancer Institute (NCI)
- Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
### Appendix 1 – 2018 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop Program Agenda (subject to change)

#### Day One: Thursday, October 11, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td>Attendee Arrival (light lunch and snacks available)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Welcome, Introductions, Program Overview</td>
<td>Carolyn Best, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>American Urological Association</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Aria Olumi, MD &lt;br&gt; <em>Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20</td>
<td>Research Careers from the NIH Perspective</td>
<td>Tamara Bavendam, MD &lt;br&gt; <em>National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45</td>
<td>NIDDK Grant Mechanisms</td>
<td>Tracy Rankin, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:10</td>
<td>NCI Career Development Grant Mechanisms</td>
<td>Sergei Radaev, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>National Cancer Institute</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:35</td>
<td>NIA Urologic Research Portfolio</td>
<td>Candace L. Kerr, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>National Institute on Aging</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:20</td>
<td>DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs: Funding Opportunities and Application Review</td>
<td>Melissa Cunningham, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45</td>
<td>VA Merit and Other Key Award Programs</td>
<td>Kenute Myrie, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>VA Office of Research and Development</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:10</td>
<td>American Cancer Society Research Programs</td>
<td>Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH &lt;br&gt; <em>American Cancer Society</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:35</td>
<td>AUA, Urology Care Foundation, and Other Grant Mechanisms</td>
<td>Krystal Brinson, PhD &lt;br&gt; <em>AUA Office of Research</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Networking Reception and Tour of the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History Museum</td>
<td>Tupper Stevens &lt;br&gt; <em>Museum and Archives Manager, AUA</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Adjourn for the day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Day Two: Friday, October 12, 2018

7:30 AM  Attendee Arrival (continental breakfast available)
8:00 AM  Welcome, Faculty Introductions, and Goals for the Day  Carolyn Best, PhD
          American Urological Association
8:10 AM  Setting the Stage: An Overview of the State of Urology Research and Funding  Carolyn Best, PhD
          American Urological Association
8:20 AM  Mock Peer Review Study Section  Faculty Panel
10:20 AM Break
10:35 AM Identifying & Composing the Pieces of a Successful Research Grant Proposal  Erika Wolff, PhD
          University of Washington
11:15 AM Lessons Learned from Fellow to Funded Investigator  Michael Hsieh, MD, PhD
          Biomedical Research Institute,
          George Washington University,
          and Children's National Medical Center
11:35 AM The Importance of Translating Research Into Clinical Impact  Rosalyn Adam, PhD
          Boston Children’s Hospital
12:00 PM Lunch (assigned seating by research interest with faculty)  See sticker on back of nametag for table assignment
1:15 PM Transition to Breakout Groups

1:30 PM  Concurrent Training Tracks – Session One

Early Grant Development Group:
Didactic Presentations:

1:30 PM  New Paradigms for Basic Research  Dolores J. Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB)
          Baylor College of Medicine
2:00 PM  How to Start a Lab as a Junior Faculty  Li Xin, PhD
          Baylor College of Medicine
2:30 PM  How to Establish, Initiate, and Maintain Successful Collaborations  Toby C. Chai, MD
          Yale College of Medicine
3:00 PM  Building Outcomes/Health Services Research  John T. Wei, MD, MS
          University of Michigan
3:30 PM  Establishing Effective Career Development Goals and Translation to Your Training Plan  Stephen Freedland, MD
          Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

3rd Floor Executive Boardroom

2018 Early-Career Investigators Workshop: Call for Nominations (rev. 2/9/2018)
4:00 PM  Selling Yourself Through Your NIH Biosketch  
H. Henry Lai, MD  
Washington University School of Medicine

4:30 PM  Advanced Grant Development Group: Meetings with Faculty Mentors

4:30 PM  Break

4:45 PM  Concurrent Training Tracks – Session Two

Advanced Grant Development Group:  
Independent Work Time (to make edits to proposals)  
First Floor Conference Room

Early Grant Development Group: Small Group Meetings with Faculty Mentors  
Auditorium

6:00 PM  Networking Dinner

7:30 PM  Adjourn for the day

Day Three: Saturday, October 13, 2018

7:30 AM  Attendee Arrival (continental breakfast available)

8:00 AM  Welcome and Goals for the Day  
Carolyn Best, PhD  
American Urological Association

8:15 AM  Advanced Grant Development Group: Presentation of Research Proposals:

9:30 AM  Feedback from Mentors, Q&A

10:15 AM  Break

10:30 AM  Tricks of the Trade: A Mentor’s Perspective  
Dolores J. Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB)  
Baylor College of Medicine

11:00 AM  Transitioning from a K to an R  
Aria Olumi, MD  
Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School

11:30 AM  Project Management Techniques for Research  
Erika Wolff, PhD  
University of Washington

12:00 PM  Lunch

1:00 PM  Establishing Your Research Program as a Physician  
Peter E. Clark, MD
Scientist

1:30 PM  Negotiating the Unique Challenges of MD vs PhD Research Careers
        Carolinas HealthCare System
        Rosalyn Adam, PhD
        Boston Children’s Hospital
        Stephen Freedland, MD
        Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

2:15 PM  Lessons Learned
        All Faculty

3:00 PM  Meeting Wrap up and Adjourn Workshop

3:30 PM  Faculty/Steering Committee Meeting

4:30 PM  Adjourn