



2019 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
Call for Nominations
Due April 15, 2019

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for **early-career investigators seeking success in research funding** to attend the 2019 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 3-5, 2019 at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The goal of the workshop is to support provide surgeon-scientists and urologic researchers (MD and PhD or equivalents) 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 no later than submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2020.
 - 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 2020 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, 2020. 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 April 15, 2019.
- ✓ 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_2019ECIW.pdf" (For example: Doe.J_2019ECIW.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-\(nura\)](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 determine 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 May 17, 2019.

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP

By **Monday, June 24, 2019** 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 | 4. Experimental Plan |
| 2. Background | 5. References |
| 3. Supporting Data | 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. 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 2020.

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.

2019 timeline	Due	Notes
April 15	Nomination Packages Submitted	To be considered for the <i>Advanced Grant Development</i> Group, submit additional materials as outlined above.
May 17	Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email.	Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time.
June 24	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participant must submit a complete draft research proposal.	The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop.
August 19	<i>Early Grant Development Group</i> participant must submit updated Specific Aims	
October 3–5	Early-Career Investigators Workshop	Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland
Spring or Summer 2020	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies.	
December 31, 2019	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research	



FACULTY

Recruitment of faculty advisors and speakers for 2019 is underway.

2018 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:

Rosalyn M. Adam, PhD, *Boston Children's Hospital*

Peter E. Clark, MD, *Carolina HealthCare System*

Margot Damaser, PhD, *Cleveland Clinic*

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*

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*

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)*

Donna Kimbark, PhD, *DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs*

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)*