FOR THE
2019 Research Scholar Award

Sponsored by:
AUA Sections and Affiliated Societies and Associations
Urology Care Foundation Partners and Supporters

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

Letter of Intent Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, August 9, 2018 (required)
Application Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, September 6, 2018 (required)
Peer Review: October/November 2018
Funding Notification: December 2018
Award Period: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020 (one-year award)
July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021 (two-year award)
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## I. Funding Opportunity Description

- A. Urology Care Foundation Mentored Research Awards ........................................... 3
- B. Award Information .................................................................................................. 3
- C. Eligibility Information ............................................................................................. 3
- D. Funding Information ................................................................................................. 5
  1. Awards Available ........................................................................................................ 5
  2. Overlap in Funding ...................................................................................................... 7
  3. Institutional Matching Funds ...................................................................................... 7
  4. Distribution of Funds ................................................................................................... 8

## II. Preparation and Submission of Proposal Materials

- A. General Information ................................................................................................ 8
- B. Letter of INTENT .................................................................................................... 9
- C. Preparation and Submission of the Proposal Package ............................................. 9
- D. Checklists .................................................................................................................. 13
  1. Applicant Checklist ..................................................................................................... 13
  2. Mentor Checklist ....................................................................................................... 13
  3. Additional Letter of Support Person Checklist ......................................................... 14

## III. Proposal Review Information

- A. Proposal Review and Selection Process ................................................................. 14
- B. Review Criteria ......................................................................................................... 14
- C. Notification of Proposal Review Results ................................................................. 15
- D. Notice of Award ....................................................................................................... 16

## IV. Award Requirements

- A. Regulatory Approvals and Exemptions .................................................................... 16
- B. Reporting ................................................................................................................... 17
  1. Interim Progress Report for Two-Year Scholars ....................................................... 17
  2. Institutional Accountability Report ............................................................................. 17
  3. Final Progress Report for one- and two-Year Scholars .............................................. 17
  4. Post-award Reporting ............................................................................................... 18
- C. AUA and Urology Care Foundation Research-Related Activities ............................. 18
  1. AUA Annual Meeting Events .................................................................................. 18
  2. Events at AUA Headquarters ................................................................................... 19
- D. Publication Acknowledgements .............................................................................. 19
- E. Changes to Project, Personnel, Institution, or Funding ........................................... 20

## V. Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program

## VI. Contact Information

2019 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award (rev. 6/2018)
## I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

### A. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION MENTORED RESEARCH AWARDS

The Urology Care Foundation, the official foundation of the American Urological Association (AUA), works to ensure the future of urologic health by supporting and improving the prevention, detection, and treatment of urologic diseases through research and patient education. The Urology Care Foundation has recognized a major need to encourage bright, young physician-scientists and researchers to dedicate their careers to improving patients’ lives through better understanding of the development and management of urologic diseases and conditions.

The AUA Office of Research, created in 2001, works toward its mission to increase and maintain the workforce of urology physician-scientists and researchers to catalyze the advancement of clinical practice and reduce the burden of urologic disease through impactful research. The AUA Office of Research administers proposal receipt and review, as well as grant management, for all Urology Care Foundation mentored research awards. For any questions related to administration of awards or award proposals, see Section VI. Contact Information of this Program Announcement.

### B. AWARD INFORMATION

Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Awards support future research leaders and ensure they receive the necessary training and guidance for a successful research career. Initiated in 1975, these awards provide funding for one- and two-year mentored research training for clinical and postdoctoral fellows or early-career faculty. To date, the program has invested over $25 million to support over 600 Research Scholars, most of whom have remained in committed research career tracks and now serve as leaders in urologic research and clinical practice. Physician scientists (MD or equivalent degree) and researchers (PhD or equivalent degree) are invited to apply. Awards provide $40,000 per year for one or two years of support and require intensive involvement of one or more mentors committed to advancing the development of the award recipient.

Research Scholar Awards require cost-sharing from the sponsoring institution. For MD (or equivalent degree) applicants, cost-sharing is required as matching funding ($40,000 per year) to aid in protecting research time and ensure the provision of a strong scientific environment, laboratory equipment, and supplies to conduct the research. For PhD (or equivalent degree) applicants, cost-sharing to support the salary/stipend for the trainee, supplies and equipment to conduct the research, or other direct costs to appropriately support the trainee is required. Details of the sponsoring institution's plan for cost-matching or -sharing for the trainee are a required component of the proposal as described below.

### C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

To be eligible to compete for a 2019 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award, applicants must, by July 1, 2019, be either:

**Track 1: (for clinical or post-doctoral fellows)**
- Urologists in accredited clinical fellowships (available for research year starting July 1, 2019);
- Post-doctoral fellows no more than five years beyond completion of the PhD; or

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2019 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award (rev. 6/2018)
Track 2: (for early-career faculty)
- Early-career MD (urologist) or PhD investigators within the first five years after beginning their faculty positions.

In addition, applicants must be able to commit to no less than one year of performance on the award and no less than 50 percent (for MD applicants) or 70 percent (for PhD applicants) of their time on their research. Deviation from this requirement will result in disqualification for award consideration or discontinuation of funding. MD applicants should clearly state how their balance of research and clinical time will be allocated for the duration of the award (see Section II.C.4 of this Program Announcement).

Applicants must indicate the eligibility track to which they are applying when they begin their online proposal submissions. In addition, only one proposal per applicant is allowed during each competition year.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Applicants who are not AUA members at the time of application must commit to applying for AUA membership in the event of being selected to receive a Research Scholar Award. Membership applications must be submitted within one week of accepting the Research Scholar Award and proof of AUA membership must be provided to the AUA Office of Research prior to funds being dispersed; additional information about AUA membership can be found at http://www.AUAnet.org/about-us/membership/membership-value.

Similarly, if you are selected for funding that will be sponsored by one of the following organizations, then you must also apply for membership in that organization and provide proof of membership prior to funds dispereement:

- Endourological Society
- Indian American Urological Association (IAUA)
- Sexual Medicine Society of North America (SMSNA)
- Society for Pediatric Urology (SPU)
- Society for Urologic Oncology (SUO)
- Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU)

If the research is being conducted in the United States, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens but must have valid Social Security numbers for Internal Revenue Service purposes.

Neither the Urology Care Foundation nor the AUA Office of Research discriminate as to age, race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, citizenship or national origin in the employment and promotion of staff or in the selection of participants in the Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award.

HOST INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
1) To be eligible as a host institution, the institution must provide appropriate laboratory or medical facilities typically within the boundaries of the eight sections of the AUA.
2) International Research Scholar Awards, when available, allow the research training to be conducted in appropriate laboratory or medical facilities outside the U.S. (see Funding section for list).
D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

At least 19 awards are available for the 2019 Research Scholar Award competition. **Funding is available for research training in all urologic disease areas and across all research types: basic, translational, clinical, and health services/outcomes.**

All of the eight AUA Sections have one or more endowed research funds to support Research Scholars in perpetuity. Scholars must carry out their research within the geographical boundaries of the Section sponsoring the award. **For the 2019 competition, the following Section-based awards are available:**

- Mid-Atlantic; one award
- New England; one award
- Northeastern; two awards
- South Central; two awards
- Southeastern; two awards
- Western; one award

In addition, urology subspecialty societies and other organizations also have established endowments or provided other support to the Research Scholar Award Program, and the following awards are available for the 2019 competition:

- Endourological Society/Raju Thomas, MD Research Scholar Award; specific to minimally invasive endourology (e.g., stone disease, laparoscopy, robotics)
- Endo Pharmaceuticals Research Scholar Award; specific to Peyronie’s disease
- Genentech, Inc.; specific to bladder cancer or prostate cancer
- IAUA/Sakti Das, MD Research Scholar Award
- Joseph Segura Scholarship in Endourology and Stone Management
- Robert J. Krane, MD Research Scholar Award; specific to erectile dysfunction, prostate cancer, or male incontinence
- SPU/Sushil Lacy, MD Research Scholar Award
- SUO Research Scholar Award; urologic cancer research at any site within the AUA Sections
- SUO Research Scholar Award; urologist research training at a NCI SPORE site
- SUFU/Hari Badlani Research Scholar Award

The following three awards from the list above are open to both AUA Section-based and international applicants:

- Joseph Segura Scholarship in Endourology and Stone Management Award, sponsored by the Boston Scientific Corporation and the "Friends of Joe";
- Endourological Society/Raju Thomas, MD Research Scholar Award; and
- IAUA/Sakti Das, MD Research Scholar Award.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Institutional cost-matching is encouraged but not required for institutions outside the sectional boundaries of the AUA. Please contact the AUA Office of Research at grantsmanager@AUAnet.org for additional information.

*The Urology Care Foundation continuously seeks additional sponsors for Research Scholar Awards; thus, the portfolio of awards available is ever-evolving both within and between funding years. The entities listed above may not represent the complete list of sponsors that will support awards in 2019, nor do these sponsors or the Urology Care Foundation make any guarantees that any/all awards will be filled.* Research Scholar Awards are granted based on the objective evaluation.
of all aspects of eligibility criteria, scientific review, and the financial portfolio available at the time the awards are finalized by the Urology Care Foundation. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right for final approval for any/all awards provided through the program.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Other than choosing a one-year or two-year award, applicants cannot designate the award(s) for which they are applying (e.g., AUA Section Award). All proposals will be reviewed and scored by a peer review panel of experts. From the pool of proposals deemed fundable, the AUA Office of Research will match those proposals to the appropriate Urology Care Foundation awards that are available in the given year of competition.

While applicants may propose any type of research on any urologic disease or condition, and each proposal will be objectively reviewed based on its merits in accordance with the peer review criteria, the Urology Care Foundation encourages consideration of key gaps in research that have been identified in the AUA clinical guidelines and, if addressed, could ultimately have a significant impact on improving urology patient care. However, while the certain below areas of research are encouraged, they will **not** automatically confer any competitive advantage in the peer review of proposals.

**Research gaps from the American Urological Association clinical guidelines:**

**Kidney Diseases and Conditions**
- **Medical Management of Kidney Stones:** comparative effectiveness of dietary manipulation, preventative medications, genetic basis for disease development
- **Surgical Management of Stones:** enhanced imaging for optimization of treatment selection, outcomes research, improvements in stent morbidity
- **Clinically Localized Renal Neoplasms:** identification of well-defined diagnostic and prognostic indicators for follow-up care
- **Renal Mass and Localized Renal Cancer:** molecular analysis of biopsy specimens toward improved clinical management, active surveillance, survival-dependent outcomes research

**Bladder Diseases and Conditions**
- **Asymptomatic Microhematuria:** risk stratification
- **Interstitial Cystitis:** patient phenotyping and molecular correlates
- **Overactive Bladder:** pathophysiology and risk factors, patient phenotyping, outcomes research in vulnerable populations
- **Surgical Management of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence:** prevention, patient phenotyping and etiology, innovations in treatment
- **Urinary Retention:** understanding of the natural history and risk factors to support the development of biomarkers and new pharmacological and neurological interventions
- **Male Urethral Strictures:** prevention and non-trauma etiology
- **Bladder Cancer:** risk assessment to improve therapeutic targeting, personalization and optimization of combinatorial and sequential treatment
- **Urothelial Cancer:** improvements in risk stratification and targeted therapies to increase efficacy and minimize toxicity, large-scale outcomes research
- **Upper Tract Urothelial Cancer:** outcomes research to improve clinical management

**Prostate Diseases and Conditions**
- **Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH):** comparative effectiveness of lifestyle changes on the clinical symptoms of BPH
- Early Detection of Prostate Cancer: comparative effectiveness of screening and risk assessment tools, improvements in biopsy and biopsy-driven prognostics
- Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer: molecular and phenotypic profiling, personalization and optimization of combinatorial and sequential treatment
- Radiation after Prostatectomy: improvements in imaging-guided RT, biomarkers of prognosis

Sexual Medicine
- Erectile Dysfunction: improvements in indicators for testosterone therapy
- Premature Ejaculation: disease etiology and comparative effectiveness of mono- and combinatorial therapeutic interventions
- Peyronie’s Disease: pathophysiology and mechanistic basis of disease
- Priapism: pathogenesis and outcomes research
- Vasectomy: outcomes research to diminish complications

Developmental/Congenital Conditions
- Cryptorchidism: etiology and clinical correlates of disease, outcomes research
- Vesicoureteral Reflux: scientific basis for treatment selection

2. OVERLAP IN FUNDING

Applicants are not eligible to hold the Research Scholar Award if they currently possess or are awarded a training grant (e.g., K12, T32, DoD) for salary support that has a level of effort requirement in conflict with the level of effort committed to the Research Scholar Award. In addition, acceptance of large independent investigator awards such as an NIH R01 is also incompatible with maintaining the Research Scholar Award. If a conflict exists or arises, the Research Scholar Award recipient must notify the AUA Office of Research immediately and will be required to decline or relinquish one of the awards.

In addition, applicants are not eligible to hold the Research Scholar Award if they are awarded a grant for salary support that results in support or compensation in excess of institutional salary limitations. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis to allow for a reduced payment from the Research Scholar Award to enable recipients to keep the award and not exceed institutional salary limitations. All decisions will be final and at the discretion of the AUA Office of Research.

Applicants are permitted to hold simultaneous intramural grants provided they do not result in salary support in excess of institutional salary limitations. Applicants are required to include a notification of proposals filed to other funding sources in their proposal packages, and provide the Urology Care Foundation with any updates regarding monies secured during the award period.

Applicants are not eligible to hold to the Research Scholar Award if they are awarded other grants supported by AUA or Urology Care Foundation funds for the same research project.

3. INSTITUTIONAL MATCHING FUNDS

MD Scholars: The sponsoring institution for MD Scholars must provide $40,000 per year in matching support for salary and/or requisite supplies and equipment to complete the research. No funds, whether those from the Urology Care Foundation or those representing an institution’s
matching funds, may be used to support salary for personnel other than the Research Scholar Award recipient, nor to support institutional indirect costs. Details of the sponsoring institution's plan for financial support should be provided in the budget section of proposal (see Section II.C.9 in this Program Announcement).

**PhD Scholars:** Sponsoring institutions for PhD Scholars are required to cost-share for salary and/or requisite supplies and equipment to complete the research, and are no longer required to provide full matching support (i.e., $40,000 per year). Details of the sponsoring institution's plan for financial support should be provided in the budget section of the proposal (see Section II.C.9 in this Program Announcement).

**Provision of Travel Costs by Institutions**
Institutions are strongly encouraged to include travel costs as a part of their proposed support for the Research Scholar Award applicant. In association with Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Awards, the AUA Office of Research will provide additional travel support to enable Research Scholar Award recipients to attend scientific meetings via the Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program (see Section V. in this Program Announcement for more information).

### 4. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation scholarship funds will be paid directly to the Scholar's sponsoring institution. Scholarship funds will be payable in two annual installments available for distribution in July and January. The Urology Care Foundation does not withhold taxes from scholarship disbursements (e.g., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes). It is the responsibility of the Scholar to ensure that appropriate federal and local taxes are accounted for.

### II. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL MATERIALS

#### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting a complete proposal. Each applicant must have a primary mentor. More than one mentor per project is both permitted and recommended if the project is highly translational or multidisciplinary. Listing of consultants or collaborators on the project is allowable; the applicant must describe the role of each member of the personnel on the project, (see Section II.C.10 below).

Institutions should encourage the submission of proposals from all of their eligible and highly qualified urologic research trainees and early-career faculty in need of support. Within any given funding year, however, the Urology Care Foundation prefers to provide support to as many institutions as possible, provided each institution has submitted a highly meritorious proposal. Therefore, funding decisions will be impacted by not only the merit of the proposal and the alignment with awards available, but also may be impacted by the intent to distribute Urology Care Foundation funds to qualified proposals from as diverse a distribution of institutions as possible.

**Electronic Registration:** Applicants must go to the 2019 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award Program site at [http://www.AUAnet.org/research/funding-opportunities/research-scholar-award](http://www.AUAnet.org/research/funding-opportunities/research-scholar-award) to view all pertinent information regarding the program. Applicants must submit all documents electronically via the proposal submission system at [https://proposalcentral.altum.com/](https://proposalcentral.altum.com/). To prevent emails from the proposal submission system from being identified as spam, it is strongly
recommended that applicants, individuals providing letters of support, and institutional representatives add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists.

Applicants whose institutions are located outside the boundaries of the AUA Sections should contact the AUA Office of Research at grantsmanager@AUAnet.org for additional information about applying to the Research Scholar Award Program.

B. LETTER OF INTENT

Applicants are required to complete an electronic Letter of Intent via the proposal submission system at https://proposalcentral.altum.com/ no later than Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Only one Letter of Intent can be submitted per applicant.

The Letter of Intent requires information regarding the proposed project (e.g., project title, research type, brief project description, contact information for the applicant), mentor(s), individuals providing additional letters of support, and institutional representative. PLEASE NOTE: It is highly recommended that the applicants, individuals providing letters of support, and institutional representatives on the proposal add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists to receive emails from the submission system PRIOR TO submission of the Letter of Intent.

Information in the Letter of Intent is not peer reviewed but rather used by the AUA Office of Research to prepare for peer review of proposals. There is no approval process for the Letter of Intent, and applicants should assume that they have permission to submit a full proposal. Applicants are not bound to complete a full proposal upon submitting a Letter of Intent.

C. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE

*Prepare the proposal to include all documents as indicated below.* Each component must adhere to its specific page limitation. PLEASE NOTE: any components that exceed their respective page limits will be removed from the proposal or administratively truncated, with one exception: if the Research Project Description exceeds the 8-page limit, the proposal will not be considered.

1. Application Agreement Form

The applicant must download and complete the Application Agreement Form located at http://www.AUAnet.org/research/funding-opportunities/research-scholar-award. This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and grant administrator contact information. Please type information into the Application Agreement Form (illegible information will not be accepted). PLEASE NOTE: Information listed on the Sponsoring Institution Section located on the Application Agreement Form will be used to submit award payments. Applicants whose institutions are located outside the boundaries of the AUA Sections should contact the AUA Office of Research at grantsmanager@AUAnet.org for additional information.

Mentor(s) may provide guidance on preparation of the application; however, the applicant should prepare and submit his or her own application package. All mentors are required to complete the mentor sections (Part A) within the Application Agreement Form; however, only the primary mentor is required to state his or her involvement in the application process (Application Agreement Form, Part B).

**PLEASE NOTE:** These actions MUST be completed by the proposal submission deadline.
2. Research Project Abstract (one-page limit)
Briefly summarize the following elements of the proposed research project and training and use each listed as a heading in your Research Project Abstract:

- Problem to Be Addressed
- Specific Aims and Experimental Design
- Mentoring Plan
- Potential Impact of Project on Urologic Research and on the Applicant’s Career Development

3. Research Project Description (eight-page limit)

*Times New Roman font in 12-point format is recommended, although other fonts will be accepted. Proposals that use less than a 10-point font and half inch margins may not be forwarded to peer review. Paragraphs should be single-spaced. Legibility can influence proposal evaluation.*

Section 1: Specific Aims (suggested length: one page)
Briefly introduce the problem to be addressed, providing the major reasons why this is an important problem to study. Define the major hypothesis to be tested and list the specific aims proposed to test the hypothesis. Summarize the experiments proposed and explain how they will address the aims of the proposal.

Section 2: Background (suggested length: two pages)
Describe the background of the problem to be addressed, citing the appropriate literature. Introduce the subject area of the research, including sufficient background material to place the project in scientific perspective. Ensure that the significance of the scientific problem to be addressed and the potential impact of the research are clearly described.

Section 3: Supporting Data (suggested length: two and a half pages)
Provide any preliminary data pertinent to the proposed experiments. Present either research data that you have generated or data that has been generated by the laboratory of the mentor(s) and is related to your proposal. Unpublished data or published data (with references) may be included. *It is recommended that no more than three to four figures be used. The data in this section should support the major hypothesis of the proposed work.*

Section 4: Experimental Plan (suggested length: two and a half pages)
Describe each proposed experiment in enough detail that reviewers can determine the feasibility of the methods and how they will address the hypothesis. For each experiment, outline the rationale for doing the experiment, possible anticipated results, and the approaches that will be used for data analysis and statistical interpretation, as appropriate. *Briefly describe alternative experimental approaches should the initial approaches prove unsuccessful.*

Section 5: References and List of Abbreviations/Acronyms (*the space needed for this section does not count toward the page limit of the Research Project Description*)

4. Institutional Plan (to be completed by the mentor(s); two-page limit)
This section should describe the institution's facilities, any technical assistance available to the applicant, specific duties of the applicant, time protected for the proposed research project (PhD applicants must commit at least 70% of their time, MD applicants must commit at least 50% of their time), clinical activities, teaching duties, relationship to primary mentor’s ongoing research program, and immediate supervisor (if other than the primary mentor). MD applicants are strongly
recommended to obtain written confirmation from their department chairperson for their allowable level of effort for the proposed research project.

5. **Applicant Biosketch (five-page limit)**
Include the applicant’s curriculum vitae or biosketch (NIH-style recommended but not required).

6. **Applicant Career Plan (one-page limit)**
Include a statement of career goals and plans including description of any coursework, conferences, seminars, teaching or clinical responsibilities, grant writing, or other activities that the applicant plans to use in his or her career development. In addition, applicants should describe longer-term career goals (10-15 years post-award).

7. **Mentor Biosketch(es) (five-page limit per person)**
Include a biosketch for each mentor (NIH-style required).

8. **List of Mentor’s Previous Trainees (one-page limit per mentor)**
Provide a list of each mentor’s previous trainees and their current positions (please indicate if there are none). Generally, all trainees should be included in the list of previous trainees; however, for mentors that have extensive records of previous trainees that may exceed one page in length, it is acceptable to list only the most notable trainees by name and position, and then annotate the remaining trainees numerically only.

9. **Budget**
Applicants are required to submit budget information with their proposal submissions. While the budget should clearly identify the role of any persons contributing to the project, no salary for personnel other than the award recipient is allowed (whether for Urology Care Foundation funds or institutional cost-sharing funds). Enter budget information via the proposal submission system found at https://proposalcentral.altum.com/.

10. **Letters of Support (two-page limit per letter)**
The proposal must contain one letter of support on institutional letterhead from each mentor and two letters of support from other professionals. Letters of support must be sent confidentially via the application portal system at https://proposalcentral.altum.com/. Upon submission of the Letter of Intent, an email will be sent via the proposal submission system to each mentor and other professionals from whom a letter of support is requested.

All letters of support, excluding those from collaborator(s) as described below, must be submitted confidentially. As such, the proposal submission system will use contact information provided by the applicant to directly solicit via email the letters of support from each mentor and other persons providing letters. While applicants will not be able to view the submitted letters in the proposal submission system, the applicant may use the system to view verification that the letters have been received.

a. **Mentor Letter(s) of Support**
The letter of support from each mentor should describe the applicant’s training program and the mentor’s specific involvement in and commitment to providing training, career development, and mentorship in urologic research. Specifically, the letter should address the following:
• Applicant’s characteristics and accomplishments to date, potential for an independent career in urologic research, and estimated timeline for career development
• Mentor’s history of training clinical and postdoctoral fellows
• Training environment, including ongoing urologic disease research and how it will promote the development of the applicant
• Mentor’s plan to support the research project and guide the applicant

PLEASE NOTE: If a letter of support from the primary mentor is missing, the proposal cannot be considered.

b. Additional Letters of Support

Two letters of support from individuals OTHER THAN THE MENTOR(S) are also required (these individuals can be from the same or different institution as the applicant). However, if these letters are missing, the proposal will still be forwarded for peer review. Suggested content for these letters includes the following:

• In what context (e.g., colleague, supervisor, personal associate) the writer of the letter has known the applicant
• How the applicant’s characteristics and accomplishments have prepared him or her to undertake the proposed research and training
• How the applicant’s skills, knowledge, and abilities have prepared him or her for the proposed research and training
• The applicant’s potential for an independent career in urologic research
• How the applicant will benefit from the proposed research and training environment including the mentor(s)

c. Letters from Collaborator(s), (only if applicable)

In addition, it is recommended that a letter of support be included from any collaborator(s) on the project, if applicable. These letters do NOT need to be submitted confidentially and should be submitted by the applicant via the proposal submission system at https://proposalcentral.altum.com.

11. Supplemental Information: Lay Statement for UrologyHealth.org and AUAnet.org

The applicant must submit via the proposal submission system a Lay Statement, which is a short paragraph (3–4 sentences), in language that can be understood by individuals without backgrounds in science or medicine, about the research project.

With the submission of this information, the applicant thus gives permission for the information to be used in press releases and other promotional materials for the program. The statement should be submitted via the proposal submission system at https://proposalcentral.altum.com no later than Wednesday, September 6, 2018, 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.

The proposal must be SUBMITTED electronically at https://proposalcentral.altum.com/ no later than Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 5:00 pm Eastern time. Applicants should allow ample time for composing, compiling, and submitting materials. Late submissions will not be considered.
D. CHECKLISTS

To complete the proposal package, ensure submission of the following:

1. APPLICANT CHECKLIST

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<th>Proposal Item</th>
<th>Completed?</th>
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<td>Submit electronic Letter of Intent</td>
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<td>Item 1: Application Agreement Form</td>
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<td>Item 2: Abstract (one-page limit)</td>
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<td>Item 3: Research Project Description (eight-page limit)</td>
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<td>Item 4: Institutional Plan (to be completed by the mentor(s); two-page limit)</td>
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<td>Item 5: Applicant Biosketch (five-page limit)</td>
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<td>Item 6: Applicant Career Plan (one-page limit)</td>
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<td>Item 7: Mentor Biosketch(es) (five-page limit per mentor)</td>
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<td>Item 8: List(s) of Mentor’s Previous Trainees (one-page per mentor)</td>
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<td>Item 9: Budget</td>
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<td>Item 10C: Letter(s) of Support from collaborators if applicable (two-page limit per letter)</td>
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<td>Item 11: Lay Statement</td>
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2. MENTOR CHECKLIST

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<td>Item 10A*: Letters of Support (two-page limit per letter)</td>
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3. ADDITIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT PERSON CHECKLIST

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<th>Proposal Item</th>
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<td>Item 10B*: Letters of Support (up to two letters, two-page limit per letter)</td>
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*NOTE: Item 10 parts A and B should be sent confidentially via the proposal submission system at [https://proposalcentral.altum.com/](https://proposalcentral.altum.com/). The system will send emails to the solicit the letters and provide links for uploading.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The AUA Office of Research strongly recommends that, prior to submission, all applicants send their proposals through both institutional scientific review (where available) and appropriate institutional grant administration review at their home institutions to optimize grant quality and ensure compliance with institutional policies.

### III. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

#### A. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals are evaluated by a peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers. Each proposal is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

Available awards will be matched following the completion of peer review and from the pool of proposals deemed fundable. Since the process of matching highly meritorious proposals with available awards is complex, it must be understood that the highest scoring proposals from peer review are not automatically funded; however, every effort is made to support all of the proposals of highest merit. All funding decisions must be approved by the AUA Director of Research and Research Council Chair.

**All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process.** Panel members sign a nondisclosure statement that all proposal and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the voiding of peer review results and other corrective actions. In addition, the applicant, mentor(s), and other individuals involved in or otherwise standing to benefit from the proposal’s funding are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the disqualification of the proposal.

#### B. REVIEW CRITERIA

**Applicant**

- To what degree the applicant’s achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, previous publications, etc.) indicate his or her potential for a successful career in urologic research.
• To what degree the applicant’s stated career goals and the letters of support indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout his or her career.

• Whether the applicant’s proposed level of effort is appropriate for successful training and completion of the proposed work.

**Mentor(s)**

• To what degree the mentor letter(s) of support demonstrates strong support for both the research project and the applicant.

• To what degree the letter of support from each mentor includes a realistic time frame for the applicant’s research project.

• To what degree the mentor or mentoring team has the required expertise and track record, especially in relation to urologic disease research, to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the research project and training.

• To what degree the preparation of the proposal demonstrates appropriate guidance from the mentor(s) (the primary mentor states his or her involvement in the proposal process on the Application Agreement Form).

**Research Project**

• To what degree the research project is appropriately designed and will provide the applicant with a research experience and training to promote the development of a successful career in urologic research.

• To what degree the experimental plan is appropriately designed to achieve the aims of the project and achieve them within the proposed time frame. Expected results, potential obstacles and alternative strategies should be discussed.

• Whether there is evidence that the applicant is contributing intellectually to the proposed project, either technically or conceptually, as opposed to simple inclusion in ongoing projects of the mentor(s).

• To what degree the proposed project is likely to help the applicant transition into a more advanced academic position.

• To what degree the proposal is well organized, clearly presented, and suggests the applicant’s ability to think clearly and to present an argument in a logical, compelling way.

• To what degree the research project has an appropriate budget to support the applicant and his or her proposed studies.

**Institution**

• To what degree the institution provides a training environment with ongoing urologic disease research that will promote the development of the applicant.

**C. NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL REVIEW RESULTS**

Research Scholar Award applicants will be notified of funding decisions via the proposal submission system and/or in writing via email. To prevent emails from the proposal submission system from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended to add pcsupport@altum.com to your address book or safe sender list. An initial communication will advise the applicant whether or
not his or her proposal will be funded. Regardless of funding status, the applicant will be provided with a summary statement of his or her proposal’s review in a separate communication, typically within 60 business days following the funding notification. Please note that results will not be given over the phone.

**Photographs for UrologyHealth.org and AUAnet.org**

For applicants selected for funding, a headshot photograph saved as a jpeg file must be submitted electronically via the proposal submission system at [https://proposalcentral.altum.com](https://proposalcentral.altum.com) **immediately after receiving a notification email from the proposal submission system** (save the file as, “Last name, First name_Photo” e.g., “Smith, John_Photo”). The photograph should be a high-quality headshot (file size typically ≥1MB) with either professional dress or a laboratory/white coat. Please do not compress the photograph after it is taken. With the submission of the photograph, the applicant thus gives permission for his/her photo to be used in press releases and other promotional materials for the program. The photograph will not be shared with reviewers and will not impact the review process or funding decisions.

**D. NOTICE OF AWARD**

For applicants selected for funding, a Notice of Award letter will be issued prior to the first payment to notify the awardee that an award has been made and to specify the terms and conditions of the award.

**IV. AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

All Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award recipients must adhere to the requirements described below.

**A. REGULATORY APPROVALS AND EXEMPTIONS**

**Institutional Review Board (IRB)**

If activities involving human subjects are planned during the proposed research, the applicant must provide a letter of approval or exemption from the local IRB. IRB letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of proposal submission. Should the proposal be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IRB approval or exemption letter by the AUA Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the proposal submission system. If IRB approval or exemption for the project is not obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date, the Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award.

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

If activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the research, the applicant must submit a letter of approval or exemption by the IACUC. IACUC letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of proposal submission. Should the proposal be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IACUC approval or exemption letter by the AUA Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the proposal submission system. If IACUC approval or exemption for the project is not obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date, the Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award.
B. REPORTING

Failure to adhere to reporting requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation may result in a delay in payments, repayment of some or all Urology Care Foundation funds previously paid to the awardee (if funds were not appropriately expended), and/or termination of the award.

Instructions for report submission will be provided in the Notice of Award.

1. INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT FOR TWO-YEAR SCHOLARS

Scholar Report

One month prior to the end of year one (June 1st), each two-year scholar must submit an interim progress report and personal statement. The second year of funding is contingent upon satisfactory reporting of progress.

Mentor Report (approximately one page)

Under separate cover, the mentor must submit a confidential statement evaluating the scholar’s performance, progress on the funded research in addition to any other information as outlined in the Notice of Award Interim Progress Report section, and, for MD (or equivalent degree) awardees only, how the awardee will allocate the research/clinical time for the remainder of the scholarship in order to maintain the required 50% effort.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Institutional Accountability Reports must be submitted by institutional grant administrators no later than December 31st of each funding year. This report re-affirms that the institution is adhering to all terms of the award, especially the provisions of institutional support and level of effort requirements. Continued funding is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory report. A final Institutional Accountability Report should be included in the Final Progress Report package, which is due within 60 days of the end of the award period of performance, typically August 30.

3. FINAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR ONE- AND TWO-YEAR SCHOLARS

Scholar Report

Within 60 days after the end of the award period of performance (typically August 30), the award recipient must submit a final report. The report should include all information as outlined in the Notice of Award.

Mentor Report (approximately one page)

Under separate cover, the primary mentor must submit a confidential statement evaluating the awardee’s performance and detailing the future career plan for the scholar as described in the Notice of Award.
4. POST-AWARD REPORTING

At specified time points following the completion of the Urology Care Foundation award (approximately three, five, and 10 years post-award), the AUA Office of Research will contact previous awardees to collect additional award outcomes information including, but not limited to, publications, funding, invited speakerships and presentations, mentorship, and leadership positions within the AUA or affiliated organizations. The Urology Care Foundation and the AUA Office of Research request that all past awardees provide updated contact information when appropriate and be responsive to requests for post-award information.

C. AUA AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation coordinate several events designed to advance urologic research and provide educational venues, especially for early-career investigators. The AUA Office of Research also provides opportunities for funded investigators to present posters at several of these events. All Urology Care Foundation awardees receiving funding when these events occur are required to attend, with some exceptions as described below. Unless prior approval is given, failure to attend an event may disqualify the awardee from receiving a future Urology Care Foundation award or payment. Travel awards or other means of travel support may be available for some events.

1. AUA ANNUAL MEETING EVENTS

- **Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program and Reception:** All current Urology Care Foundation funded investigators are acknowledged at this program. Attending the program and presentation of a poster is required for all individuals receiving funding from the Urology Care Foundation.

- **Basic Sciences Symposium:** This symposium is a premier research event attracting basic and translational researchers and physician-scientists from various specialties. Past program topics include stem cells and nanotechnology, inflammation and fibrosis, new perspectives in pelvic health, and aging and urologic manifestations. Attendance is required if the topic is associated with the research being conducted by the awardee.

- **Urologic Oncology Research Symposium:** The intent of this symposium is to create synergies and foster collaboration in genitourinary oncology by bringing together scientists and clinicians at all career levels in a stimulating and interactive setting. The information discussed and shared during this meeting is expected to catalyze the translation of laboratory research to practical application. It is also intended to serve as a forum where early-career investigators can interact with leaders in a host of disciplines related to urologic cancers. Attendance is required if the topic is associated with the research being conducted by the awardee.

- **AUA Research Forum – Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing Workshop:** Typically each year, the AUA Office of Research offers an educational course/forum to assist researchers in identifying and understanding sources of funding and skills needs for successful grant writing. The forum provides information on major funding opportunities, preparing an effective grant application, and peer review processes. Representatives from public (e.g., federal) and private (e.g., foundations, societies) funding organizations are
typically in attendance to provide information on current opportunities. All investigators funded by the Urology Care Foundation are required to attend the session if it is offered.

- **AUA Research Forum – Early-Career Investigators Showcase:** This event provides a venue showcasing the research of promising early-career investigators. The program features presentations on innovative, relevant, and potentially impactful research studies that are of great interest to the basic, translational and clinical research communities. A panel of judges scores the presentations and awards are provided to the top three presenters. All investigators receiving funding from the Urology Care Foundation are required to attend this event.

- **Early-career Scientists Exchange:** Held every other year, this event brings together Urology Care Foundation awardees with representatives from the AUA Office of Research and funding organizations in an informal setting to discuss research career challenges and strategies for success. Attendance is required at the discretion of the AUA Office of Research.

### 2. EVENTS AT AUA HEADQUARTERS

- **AUA Co-Sponsored Research Symposia:** The AUA Office of Research often co-sponsors research symposia and workshops with other urology sub-specialty societies and research institutions that cover the spectrum of urologic disease (e.g., AUA/SBUR Summer Research Conference, Diabetes and Diabetic Uropathy Symposium). Attendance to these meetings is optional but strongly encouraged if the research topic is relevant to the funded research award.

- **Early-Career Investigators Workshop:** The goal of this workshop is to motivate and support early-career researchers and surgeon-scientists by providing an outstanding program of mentoring, career development, and scientific perspectives presented by leaders in the field. The program agenda typically includes information and interaction with representatives from public and private funding organizations, a mock scientific peer review panel/study section, and faculty presentations on research success and career development. Attendees preparing to submit grant applications for independent research or career development funding also participate in working sessions that provide 1-on-1 instruction from faculty advisors with concrete guidance for improving current or developing grant applications, as well as roundtable discussions with experts on federal funding opportunities. Attendance is strongly recommended but not required.

### D. PUBLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Awardees are required to send the AUA Office of Research electronic copies of articles published based on their Research Scholar Award-funded research. Any publication or presentation arising from work supported by the Urology Care Foundation should include the following acknowledgment:

“This work was supported in part by the Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award Program and [SPONSOR NAME].”

In addition, it is suggested that all awardees add “2019 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award Recipient” to their email signature blocks.
E. CHANGES TO PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION, OR FUNDING

Any changes in the research project, mentor, personnel, or location/contact information that occur after the application is selected for funding or during the award period must be reported to and approved by the AUA Office of Research. Changes in the scholar will typically result in award termination. However, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the AUA Director of Research.

If the awardee is selected for any additional funding from organizations other than the Urology Care Foundation after being selected for a Urology Care Foundation award, the awardee MUST contact the AUA Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, return of any used or unused Urology Care Foundation funds may be required.

V. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION SCHOLAR TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program, administered by the AUA Office of Research, is intended to provide opportunities for investigators funded through the Urology Care Foundation research award programs to attend scientific/professional meetings relevant to basic, translational and clinical research in urology. This program provides travel support (maximum of $1,500 per award year, with a maximum of $1,000 per meeting) to Research Scholar Award recipients upon the review and approval of the Scholar Travel Support Program application request. This program is not intended to serve as the sole source of travel funding for scholars, but rather to provide supplemental travel funds to those provided by travel awards and the scholar’s host institution, especially when funds are needed for scholars to attend the meetings required by our award programs. For more information, contact grantsmanager@AUAnet.org.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement, Letter of Intent and proposal content or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Office of Research.

Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.

The preferred method of communication is email to grantsmanager@AUAnet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, can be directed to 410-689-3762.