

# UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

## FOR THE 2020 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 8, 2019 *(required)*

**Application Submission Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, September 5, 2019 *(required)*

**Peer Review:** October/November 2019

**Funding Notification:** December 2019

**Award Period:** July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 (one-year award)

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022 (two-year award)



American  
Urological  
Association

*Advancing Urology™  
through Research*

*Urology Care*  
FOUNDATION™  
The Official Foundation of the  
American Urological Association

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## 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 amangement, 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.

**NEW for 2020:** Clinical fellows (MD or equivalent) are permitted to request only one year of funding (unless the applicant's fellowship includes two years of appropriately protected time for research).

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 2020 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award, applicants must, **by July 1, 2020**, be either:

***Track 1: (for clinical or post-doctoral fellows)***

- Urologists in accredited clinical fellowships (available for research year starting July 1, 2020);
- Post-doctoral fellows no more than five years beyond completion of the PhD; or

**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 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award sponsored 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.**

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1. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

**AUA Membership**

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>.

**AUA Section Membership**

Should an applicant be selected to receive a Research Scholar Award sponsored by one of the following AUA Sections (for more information, visit <https://www.auanet.org/about-us/about-the-uaa/uaa-sections-and-demographics>), and the applicant is not already a member of the Section, the applicant must commit to applying for AUA Section membership provided that an appropriate eligibility category exists:

- |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ Western Section       | ▪ Mid-Atlantic Section  |
| ▪ South Central Section | ▪ North Central Section |
| ▪ New England Section   | ▪ Southeastern Section  |
| ▪ Northeastern Section  | ▪ New York Section      |

Please contact the AUA Section for additional information about how to apply for AUA Section membership.

**Sponsoring Societies and Organizations**

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

- 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.

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## 2. 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 **section D. Funding Information** of this Program Announcement for list).

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

## D. FUNDING INFORMATION

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### 1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

At least **19** awards are available for the 2020 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 2020 competition, the following Section-based awards are available:**

- North Central; two awards
- Northeastern; one award
- South Central; one award
- 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 2020 competition:

- Chesapeake Urology Associates Sanford J. Siegel, MD Prostate Cancer Research Scholar Award; specific to prostate cancer research
- Dornier MedTech, Inc.
- Endourological Society
- Endourological Society/Raju Thomas, MD Research Scholar Award; specific to minimally invasive endourology (e.g., stone disease, laparoscopy, robotics)
- IAUA/Anupam Ted Kedia MD Research Scholar Award
- 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; restricted to one-year of funding

- SUO Research Scholar Award; urologic cancer research at any site within the AUA Sections; two awards
- SUFU/Hari Badlani Research Scholar Award
- Sexual Medicine Society of North America

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** For institutions outside the sectional boundaries of the AUA, institutional cost-matching is encouraged but not required.

***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 2020, 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

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## **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 to 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.

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### 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).

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### 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 2020 Urology Care Foundation Research Scholar Award Program site at <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.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](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) to their address books or safe sender lists.**

## B. LETTER OF INTENT

Applicants are required to complete an electronic Letter of Intent via the proposal submission system at <https://proposalcentral.com/> no later than **Thursday, August 8, 2019 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. 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. 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.

After creating a proposalCENTRAL account and logging into the system, the application process can be accessed by clicking on “Grant Opportunities” (grey tab, top right corner). The Urology Care Foundation (under American Urological Association) Research Scholar Award Program can then be located and the “Apply” link selected. The Letter of Intent section should be completed as follows:

### 1. Title Page

- Notate if you are Track 1 or Track 2, the number of years of support that you are applying for, etc.

### 2. Download Templates & Instructions

- Program Guidelines and Instructions
  - The Program Announcement is provided in this section of the portal as a reference.
- Download Application Agreement Form
  - This form must be completed in its entirety including all necessary signatures and contact information. Signatures may be signed electronically or by hand. This completed form will be uploaded in Section 10 during submission of the full proposal.
- Applicant CV/Biosketch Template
  - A NIH formatted Biosketch Template is provided to be used to create the applicant CV/Biosketch
- Biosketch Example

### 3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

No action required in this section.

#### 4. Applicant/PI

- The applicant should click “Edit Professional Profile” to provide the required information.
- Once the applicant clicks “Edit Professional Profile,” he/she will see an orange text box indicating that the “Primary institution is required, please click here to add one.” The applicant should search for and enter the applicant’s medical school. **NOTE:** Multiple iterations of the medical school name may be available, but the name indicated as “Confirmed” in the “Institution Status” column should be selected.
- Once the institution has been added, the applicant should click on the orange “Return to LOI/Proposal” button. This button will allow the applicant to toggle between the proposal sections of the application and the Professional Profile in order to reference and complete the required information.
- Upon returning to the Applicant/PI section of the application, the applicant should click the drop down box next to “Principal Investigator” and select his/her name with the newly added institution. This will autofill the “PI Institution” and address information. The applicant should then return to the Professional Profile to complete the remaining required information in the Applicant/PI section.
- AUA Section Information: All applicants are required to notate the AUA Section in which the proposed research will be conducted. **NOTE:** It is imperative that the correct AUA Section be selected. For more information on AUA Sections and for assistance in selection, visit <https://www.aunet.org/about-us/about-the-aua/aua-sections-and-demographics> or call 1-866-746-4282 (toll-free, U.S. only).

#### 5. Institution & Contacts

Confirm contact information for institution and institutional representatives

#### 6. Contact Information for All Letters of Support

- Enter the contact information and role for each person that will serve as a mentor, Additional Letter(s) of Support, and, if applicable, collaborator(s) that will be providing Letter(s) of Support (**NOTE:** the “Phone” and “Effort” fields should be disregarded).

#### 7. Blind Letters of Support

- Enter the contact information and role for each person that will serve as a mentor, Additional Letter(s) of Support, etc. that will be providing Letter(s) of Support *confidentially* via the proposal submission system (**NOTE:** the “Phone” and “Effort” fields should be disregarded).
- After the Letter of Intent is submitted, any email address listed here will receive notification that the recipient has been added to the proposal. All applicants are responsible for contacting these individuals and uploading letters of support into the proposal portal system by the proposal deadline. **NOTE:** Applicants do not need to put email addresses for collaborator(s) in this section since letters of support from collaborators do NOT need to be submitted *confidentially*.

#### 8. Project Information

- Lay Statement
  - The applicant must complete all required information in this section. The “Lay Statement” should briefly summarize the proposed research project in language that can be understood by audiences without a background in science or medicine. By providing this information, the applicant thus gives permission for its use on the Urology Care Foundation website, [www.UrologyHealth.org](http://www.UrologyHealth.org), and the AUA website, [www.AUAnet.org](http://www.AUAnet.org), and in press releases and other promotional materials for the Research Scholar Award program.

- Technical Abstract/Description
  - The “Technical Abstract/Description” should briefly summarize the proposed project using any necessary scientific terminology or procedures.
- Enter in Research topic and type keywords relevant to the proposal.

**9. Upload Applicant Biosketch (five-page limit)**

Include the applicant’s curriculum vitae or biosketch (NIH-style recommended but not required).

**10. Validate**

This section will check for any missing REQUIRED information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. All missing information should be included before proceeding to Letter of Intent submission.

**11. Preview Letter of Intent**

**NOTE:** Signature of the title page by the PI/chairman/signing official **is not** required. This guidance should be disregarded.

**12. Submit**

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is highly recommended that the applicants, individuals providing letters of support, and institutional representatives on the proposal add [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto: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.

**C. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE**

After administrative review of the Letter of Intent, the AUA Office of Research will open the submission portal to allow applicants to submit their full proposal submissions. **Prepare the proposal to include all documents as indicated below.** Each component must adhere to its specific page limitation as well as use a header to signify each section listed below. **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.** Mentor(s) may provide guidance on preparation of the application; however, the applicant should prepare and submit his or her own application package. Each required proposal section should be completed as follows:

**1-9. Title Page, Download Templates & Instructions, Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal, Applicant/PI, Institution & Contacts, Contact Information for All Letters of Support, Blind Letters of Support and Project Information**

The information shown in these sections will be pre-populated with the information previously provided for the Letter of Intent. Note: Section “5 PI Data Sheet” shown in the full proposal part of the proposal submission system is for internal AUA Office of Research viewing/use only.

**10. Budget Detail**

Applicants must 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-matching or cost-sharing funds). Enter budget information via the proposal submission system found at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.

## 11. Budget Summary

Provides a summarized view of your budget submissions

- Budget Justification
  - Please provide a narrative justification for each line item on the budget including which portion of your budget reflects funds from the Urology Care Foundation and those from that will be provided by your institution via institutional cost-matching or cost-sharing.

## 12. Other Research Support

Provide information on the applicant's other existing and/or pending funding.

## 13. Assurances & Certifications

Indicate whether the proposed research involves human subjects and/or vertebrate animals. If so, provide the appropriate IRB and/or IACUC approval/exemption information, if available at the time of application.

## 14. Upload Application Attachments Here

The applicant must prepare the following components of the application as PDF files with each component adhering to its specific page limitation as indicated below as well as use a header to signify each section listed. **NOTE:** Pages in excess of the limitation for any component will be removed from the application. In addition, if the Research Project Description component is missing or exceeds the two-page limit, the application will not be reviewed. If the Applicant CV/Biosketch, Mentor Letter of Support, or Mentor Biosketch is missing, the application will not be reviewed.

- **Item 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](mailto:grantsmanager@AUAnet.org) for additional information.
  - 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 (see **Application Agreement Form, Part B**).
- **Item 2: Applicant Biosketch (five-page limit)**

Include the applicant's curriculum vitae or biosketch (NIH-style recommended but not required).
- **Item 3: Applicant Career Plan (one-page limit)**

Include a statement of and timeline of career goals and plans including description of any coursework, conferences, seminars, teaching or clinical responsibilities, grant writing training, plans for funding applications, 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).
- **Item 4: Institutional Plan (to be completed by the mentor(s); two-page limit)**

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 chairpersons for their allowable level of effort for the proposed research project. **Item 5: 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.

➤ **Item 6: Mentor Biosketch(es) (five-page limit per person)**

Include a biosketch for each mentor (NIH-style required).

➤ **Item 7: 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 the Research Project Abstract:

2. Problem to Be Addressed
3. Specific Aims and Experimental Design
4. Mentoring Plan
5. Potential Impact of Project on Urologic Research and on the Applicant's Career Development

➤ **Item 8: Research Project Description (eight-page limit)**

***Formatting Guidance: 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 less than half inch margins may not be forwarded to peer review. Paragraphs should be single-spaced. Legibility can influence proposal evaluation. All figures and tables must be included within the eight-page limit for the Research Project Description.***

▪ **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 the applicant has generated or data that has been generated by the laboratory of the mentor(s) and is related to the 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)**
- **Item 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, **excluding** those from collaborator(s) as described below, must be sent *confidentially* via the application portal system at <https://proposalcentral.com/> prior to the application submission deadline on September 5, 2019. 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. 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.
- **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.**
- **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)

- **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 are **not** submitted confidentially and should be submitted by the applicant via the proposal submission system.

**15. Validate**

This section will check for any missing REQUIRED information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. All missing information should be included before proceeding to Letter of Intent submission.

**16. Print Full Application with Uploads**

**17. Submit**

The proposal must be SUBMITTED electronically at <https://proposalcentral.com/> no later than **Thursday, September 5, 2019 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

Proposal Item	Completed?
Submit Letter of Intent information electronically into portal system	
Application Agreement Form	
Applicant Biosketch (five-page limit)	
Applicant Career Plan (one-page limit)	
Budget (submit Budget information electronically into the portal system)	
Institutional Plan (to be completed by the mentor(s); two-page limit)	
List(s) of Mentor's Previous Trainees (one-page per mentor)	
Mentor Biosketch(es) (five-page limit per mentor)	
Research Project Abstract (one-page limit)	

Research Project Description (eight-page limit)	
Letter(s) of Support from collaborators if applicable (two-page limit per letter)	

## 2. MENTOR CHECKLIST

Proposal Item	Completed?
Letters of Support (two-page limit per letter)*	

## 3. ADDITIONAL LETTER OF SUPPORT PERSON CHECKLIST

Proposal Item	Completed?
Letters of Support (up to two letters, two-page limit per letter)*	

**\*NOTE:** Letters of Support from Mentors and Additional Letters of Support persons should be sent *confidentially* via the proposal submission system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. The system will send emails to 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).

### **Institution**

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

### **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. Note: Values shown in budget that are above \$40,000 reflect contributions from both the Urology Care Foundation and the cost-matching or -sharing amounts from the applicant's institution.

### 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](mailto: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 AUA.net.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.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  $\geq 1$ MB) 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.

### **New for 2020: Public Access Publishing and Sharing of Grant Information**

All Urology Care Foundation awardees are subject to a public access policy. In addition, the American Urological Association is a member of the Health Research Alliance (HRA) ([www.healthra.org](http://www.healthra.org); a national consortium of non-governmental, nonprofit funders of biomedical research and training) and has agreed to deposit basic grant information in the HRA database of privately funded grants, HRA Reporter.

The American Urological Association and Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to include information relating to the grant (such as the grantee name and project title) in materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and Urology Care Foundation, including periodic reports, newsletters or news releases, the website, or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and Urology Care Foundation. Grant information will be provided to the HRA Reporter database and **may be shared with the public**: investigator/director name (as named in the grant documentation), degrees, clinical specialty if applicable, institution, project title, abstract, grant start date and duration, grant amount and Open Researcher and contributor ID (ORCID) of the investigator/director, if applicable. HRA aggregates these data for its member organizations and for periodic publication of findings. View more information on HRA reporter and use of these data by HRA members (<https://www.healthra.org/resources/hra-reporter-goes-public-webinar-january-24-2019/>).

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## 1. INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT FOR TWO-YEAR SCHOLARS

### **Scholar Report**

One month prior to the end of year one (June 1), 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.

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## 2. INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Institutional Accountability Reports must be submitted by institutional grant administrators **no later than December 31 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.**

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### 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.

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### 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.

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#### 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.

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## 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.

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## 3. SPONSORING AUA SECTIONS, SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATION EVENTS

- Awardees may be asked to attend or present their research at events and/or meeting of their sponsoring AUA Section, society, or organization and are required to make arrangements to do so if contacted by the representatives from their sponsoring AUA Section, society, or organization.

## 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 “2020 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 on the Scholar Travel Support Program, contact Research Program Specialist, Idrissa Macklin, [imacklin@AUAnet.org](mailto:imacklin@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](mailto:grantsmanager@AUAnet.org). Phone calls, when necessary, can be directed to 410-689-3762.