AUA Staff Liaison  
W. Taylor Monson, MA

Chair  
Ganesh Raj, MD, PhD

Terms of Office  
Chair: 2-year term, non-renewable  
Member: 3-year term (renewable once)

Committee Makeup  
The Committee is composed of 8-12 members. Recommendations for new members will be solicited from current members of the Committee, members of the Research Council, and the AUA community at large. The Research Council Chair and staff liaison will work with the Committee Chair to collaboratively assess and prioritize all recommendations prior to new member selection and invitation.

Mission Statement  
The mission of the Research Grants and Investigator Support Committee is to develop and implement urologic grant funding mechanisms and research training, networking, and other investigator support programs that shape the brightest and most talented urologic researchers for long term success.

Committee Meetings  
The Research Grants and Investigator Support Committee shall meet by video/teleconference approximately every other month or as deemed necessary by the Committee Chair and Research Grants Program Officer, with one to two in-person meetings per year typically at AUA Headquarters. The Chair of the Committee will also participate in all Research Council meetings, with optional involvement of the Chair-elect.

Time Commitment  

Chairs: 4 hours per week (average)  
This includes video/teleconferences and meetings with staff, various committees and representatives of external organizations/agencies. The Chair may also travel up to 5 days annually for attendance at research grant review panel meetings and AUA/Urology Care Foundation strategic planning meetings.

Member: 2 hours per week (average)

Responsibilities  

Chair: In executing responsibilities, the Chair will report to the Research Council Chair and the Research Council as a whole and oversee any workgroups or subcommittees that may be created. The Chair, moreover, must work in a mutually effective and collaborative manner with the Research Council Chair, Research Grants Program Officer, and AUA Office of Research staff to help coordinate and implement research grant development and administration, peer review, award outcomes analyses, and needs assessments.

Members: Committee members must 1) be available to participate in Committee meetings and grant peer review meetings if requested and 2) work collaboratively and effectively with the Research Council Chair, the Committee Chair and other members of the Committee, the Research Grants Program Officer, and other Office of Research staff.
Qualifications

Chair:
- Must be an AUA Member and active in urologic research at the time of assumption of the position.
- Must be a urology surgeon-scientist or researcher with current or recent research funding and a strong track record of achievement in urology research as evidenced by funding and publication history.
- Must possess NIH Study Section or other similar review experience and familiarity with NIH operating procedures and leadership.
- Must possess a strong track record of mentoring and urology training experience.
- Must be available for communication with members of the Committee, Council, Board of Directors, and staff.
- Preferable: Possess experience in fundraising or development at some level.

Members:
- Must have a strong track record of achievement in urologic research.
- Must possess substantive scientific peer review experience.
- Must possess a strong track record of mentoring and urology training experience.

Recent Accomplishments 2020
- Provided guidance to the solicitation, receipt, and peer review of 165 applications to the Urology Care Foundation mentored research award programs (Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, Research Scholar Award, Residency Research Award, and Summer Medical Student Fellowship).
- Advised on mentee and mentor recruitment for the Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy. Conceptualized and approved recommendations to expand the Academy in 2021.
- Conducted and reviewed outcomes of the restructuring of the 2020 Residency Research Award.
- Designed and reviewed the results of an outcomes analysis of the Rising Stars in Urology research Award, which showed increased likelihood of receiving NIH R01 research funding for individuals receiving the award versus individuals who applied but were not selected for funding.
- Discussed the development of new types of Urology Care Foundation-supported research awards.
- Developed prioritization of new funding for research award programs.
- Examined and discussed recommendations for increasing diversity in research award recipients.
- Provided input for early development of the 2021-2025 AUA Research Strategic Plan.