

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR THE

2021 Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program

Sponsored by:

Herbert Brendler, MD, Research Fund
Arkansas Urologic Society
Florida Urological Society
Nathirmal N. Lalchandani, MD Research Fund

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, January 7, 2021

Peer Review: February 2021

Funding Notification: February-March 2021

Award Period: May - August 2021 (exact dates will vary; project duration not less than 50 working days)



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 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 all aspects of Urology Care Foundation mentored research award proposal receipt and review, as well as grant management. For any questions related to administration of awards or award proposals, see **Section V. Contact Information** of this Program Announcement.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

Urologic research is critically important to advancing patient care and requires a diverse array of talented, dedicated individuals. Recruitment of outstanding individuals in the early stages of their careers is essential to maintain the pipeline of researchers needed to make the discoveries patients need. Motivating and meaningful research experiences, mentored by urologic research leaders, stimulate interest and lead medical students to pursue careers that include research. The Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program is designed to meet this critical need.

Initiated in 2010, the Summer Medical Student Fellowship program has funded 99 awards to date. These awards are provided by the Urology Care Foundation through four additional funding sources: the **Herbert Brendler, MD Urology Research Fund**, the **Arkansas Urologic Society**, the **Florida Urological Society** and the **Nathirmal N. Laichandi, MD Research Fund**. Each funding source has different eligibility criteria that are described in the Eligibility Information section below.

Current or matriculating medical students are invited to apply for funding to support their exposure to the dynamic field of urology and training in urologic research. Studies conducted through this fellowship may be in basic, translational, clinical or health services research in any area of urologic research. The fellowships have a required duration of ten weeks (not less than 50 working days) during the summer of the award year. The exact dates may vary as agreed upon by the institution, applicant, and mentor.

For 2021 Only: The current SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has resulted in various institutional restrictions on research conducted by medical students. Proposals that describe projects that are not within the ten-week time frame discussed above will be considered, on a case-by-case basis, and with primary concern for the quality and proposed impact of the research project and experience for the student, as assessed via the peer review criteria.

Medical students are permitted to apply for a second summer of fellowship training. However, such proposals will be considered for funding after all qualified proposals for first-time awardees have been funded.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

To be eligible to compete for a 2021 Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Student Fellowship, the applicant must be either a current or matriculating medical student at an accredited research institution within the boundaries of the AUA Sections (<https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>). All applicants are eligible for the Herbert Brendler, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program. Applicants may also be eligible for the following awards if the criteria listed below is met:

Arkansas Urologic Society Summer Medical Student Fellowship: the applicant must be either a current or matriculating medical student from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine. The fellowship may be conducted at any institution within the geographical boundaries of the AUA Sections, but the student must enter or return to the University of Arkansas following the fellowship summer.

Florida Urological Society Summer Medical Student Fellowship: the applicant must be either a current or matriculating medical student within the state of Florida. The research must be conducted in an appropriate academic laboratory or medical facility within the state of Florida.

Nathirmal N. Lalchandi, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship: the applicant must be either a current or matriculating medical student of Indian descent.

Beyond support through a Urology Care Foundation fellowship, the institution must sponsor the candidate by guaranteeing adequate support, including a suitable research environment, laboratory equipment, and supplies needed to conduct the research.

The fellowship has a required 10-week duration that must occur between May 1 and August 31, 2021. Longer research projects are permitted only if there will be 10 consecutive weeks of research during this time period; however, stipends will not exceed \$4,000. Fellows are expected to devote 100% of their time to the fellowship and may not concurrently hold other academic commitments.

Applicants must be entering or returning to medical school following the completion of the summer research period. Applicants may not hold an advanced degree with a focus on urology. If the applicant holds an advanced degree and intends to apply for a Summer Medical Student Fellowship, **the applicant should contact Idrissa Heard at iheard@auanet.org or (410) 689-3773 for prior approval.**

Applicants must have at least one mentor for the proposed project. The mentor(s) must possess a strong track record of achievement in urologic research and must be a currently funded, established physician-scientist or other researcher with a strong track record of achievement in urologic research. Mentors must also demonstrate experience in mentoring of research trainees.

AUA membership is required should the applicant's proposal be selected for funding. All applicants who are not AUA members at the time the proposal is submitted must commit to applying for AUA membership in the event of being selected to receive a Summer Medical Student Fellowship. The AUA offers free membership for medical students. Membership proposals must be submitted within one week of accepting the 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 <https://www.AUAnet.org/join/medical/graduate-students>.

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 Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

Depending on the number and quality of the proposals submitted, the Urology Care Foundation anticipates awarding a total of up to 15 fellowships for 2021: nine Herbert Brendler, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowships, four Arkansas Urologic Society Summer Medical Student Fellowships, one Florida Urological Society Summer Medical Student Fellowship, and one Nathirmal N. Lalchandi, MD Summer Medical Student Fellowship. However, the Urology Care Foundation continually seeks additional sponsors for Summer Medical Student Fellowships; thus, the portfolio of awards available has the potential to increase during the course of the competition.

2. FUNDING OVERLAP

Recipients of a Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Student Fellowship must dedicate **100%** of their level of effort to the fellowship during the performance period. Awardees may not be simultaneously obligated to other grants or awards requiring a time commitment.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

A salary stipend of \$4,000 will be paid directly to the awardee in mid-July/early August contingent upon project completion dates. **Under no circumstances should Urology Care Foundation funds be used for institutional direct or indirect costs.**

The Urology Care Foundation does not withhold taxes from awards (i.e., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes). It is the responsibility of the host institution and/or awardee 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 for the project. More than one mentor per project is both permitted and recommended if the project is highly translational or multidisciplinary. **Each mentor must provide a Mentor Letter of Support and complete the required mentor sections within the Proposal Agreement Form.**

Electronic Registration: Applicants must go to the Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program site at <https://www.AUAnet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/summer-medical-student-fellowships> to view the current Program Announcement and Proposal Agreement Form. Applicants must submit all documents electronically via the proposal submission system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. **To prevent emails from the submission system from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that the applicant adds pcsupport@altum.com to his/her address book or safe sender list.**

Applicants requiring technical support related to the grant submission portal should visit <https://proposalcentral.com/> and/or contact Customer Service or email pcsupport@altum.com.

B. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE

After creating a proposalCENTRAL account and logging into the system, the proposal process can be accessed by clicking on “Grant Opportunities” (grey tab, top right corner). The American Urological Association’s Summer Medical Student Fellowship Program can then be located and the “Apply” link selected. Each required proposal section should be completed as follows:

1. Title Page
 - This section is self-explanatory. Please follow instructions provided via the portal.
2. Download Templates
 - The applicant should download and complete the Proposal Agreement Form, which will be uploaded in Section 11.
3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
 - This section allows the applicant to give other users access, such as Mentors, to the grant proposal.
4. Applicant/PI
 - The applicant should click “Edit Professional Profile” to provide the required applicant 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.
 - 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 sections of the proposal and the Professional Profile in order to reference and complete the required information. Upon returning to the Applicant/PI section of the proposal, 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.
 - **New for 2021:** In concurrence with the NIH policy requiring ORCID iDs from all applicants beginning October 2020 “to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes” (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-109.html>), all Urology Care Foundation award mechanisms will also require applicants to provide ORCID iDs. Applicants may register for ORCID iDs at <https://orcid.org/>.
5. Eligibility
 - AUA Section Information: Applicants should select the AUA Section in which the proposed research will be conducted. **Applicants who intend to conduct their research at an institution within the state of New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania should reference the institution’s zip code to select the appropriate Section.** For more information on AUA Sections visit <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics> or call 1-866-746-4282 (toll-free, U.S. only).

6. Institution & Contacts
 - This information is automatically populated from the applicant's institution selected in the Professional Profile.
7. Mentors/Key Personnel
 - The applicant must enter the email address and additional required information for one or more project Mentors. NOTE: Each Mentor will receive an automated email from the system but is not required to acknowledge or respond.
8. Project Information
 - 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. The "Technical Abstract" should briefly summarize the proposed project using any necessary scientific terminology or procedures.
9. Budget Detail
 - Please provide project start and stop date in this section, instructions are provided via the portal.
10. Budget Summary
 - No action required here, please skip to section 11.
11. Upload Proposal Attachments Here
 - The applicant must prepare the following components of the proposal as PDF files with each component adhering to its specific page limitation as indicated below. NOTE: Pages in excess of the limitation for any component will be truncated from the proposal. In addition, if the Research Project Description component is missing, the proposal will not be reviewed. If the Student Resume, Mentor Letter of Support, or Mentor Biosketch is missing, the proposal will not be reviewed.
 - **Proposal 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.
 - **Applicant Resume and Background (two-page limit)**
 - Include the applicant's resume in any style, plus a description of any research experience as well as research interests and career goals.
 - **Mentor Biosketch(es) (five-page limit per biosketch)**
 - Include a current NIH-style biosketch of the research project mentor or for each member of the mentoring team. The NIH Guidelines can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-15-032.html>.
 - **Mentor Letter(s) of Support (two-page limit per letter)**
 - The proposal must contain one Letter of Support from each mentor or a combined letter from all mentors, and must be written on institutional letterhead. The Mentor Letter of Support should clearly demonstrate that the mentor is strongly supportive of both the research project and the applicant and that the mentor has the expertise required to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the respective portions of the research project and training. Include descriptions of not only the research project but also any plans for the student to participate in seminars, courses, grant writing, manuscript

preparation, or other research-related activities. Mentors should be independent investigators with track records of success in research publication, grant funding, and development of trainees who have achieved academic success. Mentor Letter(s) of Support are not considered confidential and should be submitted by the applicant.

- **Research Facilities and Environment Description (one-page limit)**
Describe the facilities, faculty, technical assistance, and relationship to mentor's ongoing research program.
- **Research Project Description (two-page limit) All figures and tables must be included within the two-page limit for the Research Project Description.**
 - **Background:** Describe the background and rationale behind the proposed research project, including relevant literature citations. Be sure to describe the **scientific/clinical problem** and how the proposed project will address it. **Note: This award is intended to support research in basic, translational, or clinical science, including outcomes research. Studies on the urology workforce are not considered appropriate for this opportunity.**
 - **Key Objectives/Specific Aims:** State the project's aims/objectives and the approach(es) to be used to accomplish the objectives. A brief timeline for the project is recommended.
 - **Impact:** Describe the project's potential impact on urologic research and/or patient care, as well as how the project will encourage the applicant to ultimately pursue a career in academic urology. Note: The description should also clearly state how the applicant will allocate his or her research/clinical time (indicate 100% level of effort, plus individual activities to be conducted) for the duration of the award period.
 - **Font:** Use of a simple font style (e.g., Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman) and 12-point size is recommended. Overall, formatting (e.g., line spacing, margins) of the Research Project Description is at the discretion of the applicant and mentor(s). However, applicants are encouraged to be mindful of ease-of-review considerations (avoid overcrowding of text, use figures of sufficient size for understanding, bold the most notable text, etc.).
 - **References:** A bibliography, references cited, and/or abbreviations page may be included at the end of the Research Project Description but will not count towards the two-page limit.

12. Validate

- This ensures that all required components of the proposal have been completed and will identify any required but incomplete components.

13. Print Full Proposal with Uploads

- This enables the applicant to download the entire proposal package for his/her records.

14. Submit

- Once submitted, additional changes cannot be made to the proposal, unless released by the Office of Research.

The proposal package must be SUBMITTED electronically at <https://proposalcentral.com/> no later than Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Applicants should allow ample time for compiling and submitting materials. Late submissions will not be considered.

C. CHECKLISTS FOR APPLICANT AND MENTOR

Completion of the checklists below will ensure that all required proposal components have been included.

1. APPLICANT CHECKLIST

Proposal Item	Completed?
Item 1: Proposal Agreement Form	
Item 2: Applicant Resume and Background (two-page limit)	
Item 3: Research Facilities and Environment Description (one-page limit)	
Item 4: Research Project Description (two-page limit)	

2. MENTOR CHECKLIST

Proposal Item	Completed?
Item 5: Mentor Biosketch(es) (5-page limit per mentor)	
Item 6: Letter of Support from Mentor(s) (two-page limit per letter)	

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

Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of proposals deemed fundable, available awards will then be matched. All funding decisions must be approved by the AUA Director of Research and AUA Chair of Research.

All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process. Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure policy that proposal and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the peer review 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 to date, stated career goals, and mentor Letter(s) of Support indicate his or her potential for a successful career in academic urology.

Mentor(s)

- To what degree the mentor(s) has/have demonstrated strong support for both the research project and the applicant as evidenced by a strong mentor Letter(s) of Support, apparent guidance in preparation of the proposal, and design (appropriate objectives, methods, timeframe) of the proposed research project.
- To what degree the mentor(s) has the required expertise and track record, especially in relation to urologic research, to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the research project and training.

Research Project

- To what degree the proposed project is focused on a significant problem in urologic research.
- To what degree the research project and training are appropriately designed and will provide the applicant with an experience to promote the development of a successful career in urologic research.
- 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.

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

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions via the proposal submission system ProposalCentral, and/or in writing via email in early March 2021. Results will not be given over the phone. **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.**

Applicants selected for funding must:

1. Send an email to iheard@auanet.org to confirm or decline the funding within 48 hours.
2. Confirm AUA membership **within a week** of being notified of funding:
 - a. Submit your AUA membership ID number into ProposalCentral.

- b. If you are not already an AUA member, apply for membership and submit proof of application via ProposalCentral (screenshots of submitted/confirmed applications are acceptable).
3. Submit a high-quality photo in professional attire (see, “**Photographs for UrologyHealth.org and AUAnet.org**” below for more detailed instructions).
4. Ensure that the correct individuals (e.g., mentors) are listed to have access to the award in ProposalCentral, if applicable.

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 proposalCENTRAL post-award management system at <https://proposalcentral.com/> within **7 days after receiving a notification email from the proposal submission system, or other electronic communication** (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.

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 Summer Medical Student Fellowship 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 proposalCENTRAL post-award management system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. ***IRB approval or exemption for the project must be obtained prior, to the award performance period start date. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award, if the above terms are not met.***

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 ProposalCentral post-award management system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. ***IACUC approval or exemption for the project must be obtained prior, to the award performance period start date. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award, if the above terms are not met,***

B. REPORTING

NOTE: Failure to adhere to reporting requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation may result in a delay in payments, repayment of any unspent or inappropriately spent Urology Care Foundation funds, termination of the award, and/or suspension of the awardee, mentor, or institution from eligibility for subsequent Urology Care Foundation funding opportunities.

Specific instructions for report submission will be provided in the Notice of Award; **all reports must be submitted via the ProposaCentral post-award management system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.**

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; 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 reserve 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/>).

1. AWARDEE REPORT AND PERSONAL STATEMENT

Within 30 days of the completion of the funded project, or no later than September 30, 2021, the awardee must submit a final report **via the ProposaCentral post-award management system at <https://proposalcentral.com/>.** The report should:

- 1) Summarize the main focus of the research, clearly state the findings, and specify how the research results met the objectives established in the proposal (one-two pages).
- 2) Include a personal statement from the awardee on his or her experience during the award period, how the funding provided by Urology Care Foundation helped the awardee's overall professional growth (i.e., research experience, potential research focus), and whether the awardee plans to continue within the field of urologic research and pursue a career in academic urology (one-page).
- 3) List and describe any products or outcomes that were at least in part supported by the Urology Care Foundation award, such as conference abstracts, presentations, and journal manuscripts published or in press.

2. MENTOR REPORT

Under separate cover, the primary mentor must submit a *confidential* statement (approximately one-page) evaluating the student's performance during the research project. Guidance will be provided via the Notice of Award on how to submit the report,

3. POST-AWARD REPORTING

At time points following the completion of the Urology Care Foundation fellowship (e.g., following residency match and residency completion), 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.

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.
- **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.
- **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
- **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.
- **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.

- **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

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).
- **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

D. CHANGES TO PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION, OR FUNDING

Any projects, personnel, or location changes that occur after the proposal is selected for funding or during the award period must be reported to and approved by the AUA Office of Research. Typically, changes in medical student fellow are not allowed. Exceptions will be made very rarely and only 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 awardees 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. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement and proposal content or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Research Program Specialist Idrissa Heard. The preferred method of communication is email at heard@AUAnet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, can be directed to 410-689-3773. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.