



American
Urological
Association

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

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2022 Residency Research Award

Sponsored by:

Urology Care Foundation Partners and Supporters

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent Deadline 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, December 2, 2022

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, January 13, 2022

Peer Review: February 2022

Funding Notification: March 2022

Award Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 (3-12 months to be proposed by applicants, commensurate with the need of proposed projects)

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION MENTORED RESEARCH AWARDS

The mission of the Urology Care Foundation, the official foundation of the American Urological Association (AUA), is to support the improvement of urological care by funding research, developing patient education, advancing humanitarian initiatives and pursuing philanthropic support. Having recognized a major need to support the future of the urologic research workforce, the Urology Care Foundation offers a portfolio of mentored research training awards designed to recruit promising young physicians and investigators into urologic research and foster their career success.

These awards are administered by the AUA Office of Research, with funding provided by the Urology Care Foundation and partner organizations and sponsors. The AUA Office of Research was created in 2001 and works toward a 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. All proposals are evaluated by a peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers who evaluate the scientific merit of each project as well as the applicant's potential to become a future research leader.

The AUA and its Urology Care Foundation are committed to promoting diversity within the urologic research workforce. Information related to the applicant's race/ethnicity and sex is collected during the proposal process to assess these efforts, but is de-identified for all reporting purposes. In the event that an available research award is restricted to applicants of a particular race/ethnicity or sex, this information may be taken into consideration during the award selection process. 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 Residency Research Award.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

Urologic research is critically important to advancing patient care and requires a diverse array of talented, dedicated individuals. Research training during urology residency provides residents with exposure to a research career path and experience to enable them to continue their development towards becoming independent investigators. Importantly, residency research training has the potential to address the critical and increasing shortfall of urology surgeon-scientists and to play a key role in improving patients' lives through research.

Initiated in 2010, the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award program is made possible through the support of the Urology Care Foundation, the Robert J. Krane, MD Urology Research Fund, Russell Scott, Jr., MD Urology Research Fund, the Kahlert Foundation, and other sponsors.

Residency Research Awards **provide \$10,000 per award** to outstanding urology residents while they fulfill their obligation for research training. The award period is one year, however the length of the research project proposed by the applicant should be commensurate with the project's needs, and can range from three to 12 months.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT

To be eligible to compete for a 2022 Residency Research Award, applicants must be enrolled in an accredited urology resident program within the geographic boundaries of the AUA Sections (<http://www.AJAnet.org/about-us/aua-governance/aua-sections-and-demographics>).

Applicants must be able to spend at least **80 percent** of their total time on the Residency Research Award project during the duration of the research project period. Deviation from this requirement will result in reimbursement to the

Urology Care Foundation of any remaining funds provided through the award and/or jeopardize future Urology Care Foundation awards to the institution.

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.

2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the AUA is required for recipients of this award. All applicants who are not AUA members at the time of proposal must commit to applying for AUA membership if selected to receive a Residency Research Award. Membership applications must be submitted within one week of accepting the Residency Research 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/membership/member-benefits-and-programs/resident/fellow>.

3. MENTOR

Each applicant must have a primary mentor for the proposed research project. Mentors should be independent investigators with track records of success in research publication, grant funding, and documented development of trainees who have achieved academic success. **The proposal must be prepared by the applicant under the supervision and guidance of, but with minimal assistance provided by the mentor(s).** More than one mentor per project is both permitted and recommended if the project is highly translational or multidisciplinary. Listing of collaborators and/or consultants on the project is acceptable; the applicant should clearly describe the role of each member of the project personnel within the Research Project Description section.

4. HOST INSTITUTION

To be eligible as a host institution, the institution must reside within the boundaries of the AUA Sections (<https://www.AUANet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>) and support the applicant by guaranteeing adequacy of the environment, laboratory equipment, and supplies needed to conduct the research.

Institutions may support the proposals of multiple residents within any given funding year. However, depending on the number of awards available, the Urology Care Foundation prefers to support meritorious proposals from as many institutions as possible. Therefore, funding decisions will be impacted not only by the merit of the proposal and alignment with awards available, but also the intent to distribute Urology Care Foundation funding to as diverse a distribution of institutions as possible.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

At least 12 awards are available for the 2022 Residency Research Award. Funding is available for research training in all urologic disease areas and across all research types: basic, translational, clinical, and health services/outcomes. For the 2022 competition, the following awards are available:

- The Kahlert Foundation (three awards)
Supports bladder cancer research.
- Leadership in Education, Achievement, and Diversity (LEAD) Program sponsored by Urovant Sciences Inc. (three awards)

Supports awardees from a racial and/or ethnic group underrepresented in research¹ whose project addresses men's health or bladder dysfunction. More information about the expanded benefits of this new mechanism may be found at: <https://www.auanet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/lead>

- Merck & Co. (two awards)

Supports awardees from a racial and/or ethnic group underrepresented in research whose project addresses prostate, kidney, or bladder cancer.

- Robert J. Krane, MD Urology Research Fund (two awards)

Supports erectile dysfunction, prostate cancer, or male incontinence research.

- Russell Scott, Jr., MD Urology Research Fund (two awards)

Supports all areas of urologic research.

The Urology Care Foundation continuously seeks additional sponsors for the Residency Research 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 for this competition cycle, nor do these sponsors or the Urology Care Foundation make any guarantees that any/all awards will be filled. Residency Research 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.

Other than **eligible applicants noting their interest in the LEAD Program**, applicants cannot designate the award for which they are applying. Please note that LEAD Program consideration will not disqualify the applicant for a Residency Research Award nor impact the overall review process.

While applicants may propose any type of research on any urologic disease or condition, 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. Clinical guideline topics include:

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

¹ The following racial and ethnic groups have been shown to be underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders.”
National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director, Scientific Workforce Diversity
Populations Underrepresented in the Extramural Scientific Workforce
<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>

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

Prostate Diseases and Conditions

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

Sexual Medicine

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

Developmental/Congenital Conditions

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

2. CONCURRENT FUNDING

Provided there is no overlap in direct costs, a Residency Research Award may be used to support a research project that is awarded funding from other extramural organizations or government agencies. It is the applicant's responsibility to adequately justify any other current or pending funding for the proposed project in the Applicant Biosketch (see *Section II, Subsection E: Applicant Biosketch*) and Other Support section of the full proposal (see *Section III, Subsection B: Full Proposal*).

3. INSTITUTIONAL MATCHING FUNDS

Host institutions **are not** required to provide matching funds for the awardee; however, they must indicate acceptance of the required 80% protected time during the research project period. Institutional commitment to the resident's research training and project must be demonstrated through the required letters of support (see *Section II, Subsection B: Confidential Letters of Support*), and will be evaluated by peer review and contribute to the funding decision.

4. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation funds will be paid directly to the awardee's sponsoring institution via wire transfer in one installment in July 2022. The Urology Care Foundation does not withhold taxes from awards (federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes, etc.). It is the responsibility of the host institution and/or awardee to ensure that appropriate federal and local taxes are accounted for.

5. ALLOWABLE USE OF FUNDS

The intent of Residency Research Award funds is to provide minimally restricted support in the form of any direct costs that benefit the project during the resident's research training. These funds are to be used for research costs not typically covered by residency programs, including: purchase of research supplies, services, and/or database access; research education (coursework or workshops related to the proposed research project); and other non-personnel resources needed to conduct the proposed research project.

6. PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation funds cannot be used for institution indirect costs, applicant salary support, or costs for or related to any personnel other than the awarded resident.

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Residency Research Award application process consists of a **letter of intent** followed by a **full proposal**. Applicants should review this Program Announcement in its entirety to understand and begin preparing the required components.

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by December 2, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. 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. Only one letter of intent can be submitted per applicant and applicants are not bound to complete a full proposal upon submitting a letter of intent.

Following administrative review of the letter of intent, the AUA Office of Research will open the full proposal submission portal. **The deadline to complete the full proposal is January 13, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.** Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting a complete proposal. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the proposal submission system, including those requested from the mentor(s), Residency Program Director, Urology Department Chair, and institutional representative, prior to the proposal deadline.

Electronic Registration

Applicants must submit a letter of intent, proposal, and all required documents electronically via ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. **To prevent emails from ProposalCentral from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that applicants, individuals providing letters of support for the proposal, and institutional representatives add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists.** Applicants requiring technical support related to the grant submission portal should contact ProposalCentral directly.

B. CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Confidential letters of support are required from the applicant's project mentor(s), Residency Program Director, and Urology Department Chair (letter writers). **Applicants are responsible for assigning letter writers to their proposals after access is granted to the full proposal. It is critical to assign letter writers as soon as possible to allow ample time to submit required letters by the proposal deadline (see Section III, Subsection B: Full**

Proposal). Applicants are highly encouraged to contact their respective letter writers prior to the letter of intent deadline, and should instruct them to add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists.

Once the applicants assign a letter writer to their proposal, ProposalCentral will send an automated email to the letter writer with an upload link that will enable them to submit their letter confidentially. Applicants have the ability to log into their proposals at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support, and may resend notification emails as needed. All required letters must be received by the proposal deadline in order for the proposal to be considered.

1. MENTOR LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT

The proposal must contain one letter of support from each project mentor, or a combined letter from all mentors, on institutional letterhead. There is a two-page limit for each mentor letter. Each mentor letter of support should:

- Clearly demonstrate that the mentor is strongly supportive of both the research project and the applicant's training, 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.
- Provide assurance that any funds needed beyond those provided by the award are available through the mentor's or institution's funding.
- Commit to any additional laboratory, departmental, and/or institutional resources (supplies, core facilities, additional mentors, collaborators, etc.) that will support the resident's research training and project.

2. RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

The proposal must contain one letter of support from the Residency Program Director on institutional letterhead, limited to one page. The Residency Program Director letter of support should:

- Attest to the applicant's strong performance in residency thus far and demonstrated aptitude for a career in urology research.
- Commit to a project duration of not less than three months or more than one year.
- Provide 80% protected time for research for the duration of the project and indicate any additional allowable time for research beyond the assured, protected time.
- Commit to the provision of adequate research supplies and other support.

3. UROLOGY DEPARTMENT CHAIR LETTER OF SUPPORT

The proposal must contain one letter of support from the Urology Department Chair. The letter is limited to one page and should attest to the departmental support for research for the duration of the proposed project.

C. BUDGET DETAILS

Applicants are required to report how the award will be allocated across the following allowable expense categories: supplies, equipment, services/resources, research coursework, and other non-personnel expenses (see *Section I, Subsection D, Part 4: Distribution of Funds*). The budgeted amount should not exceed \$10,000.

D. APPLICANT CAREER PLAN

The Applicant Career Plan is limited to one page. Applicants should describe how they intend to build on this research award to continue on a path that includes research in their career as a urologist or urology surgeon-scientist. The career plan may further include descriptions of any intended fellowships, coursework, conferences, seminars, teaching or clinical responsibilities, grant writing, or other activities that applicants plan to use in their career development.

E. APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Applicants are required to submit an NIH-style biosketch, limited to five pages. A template is provided in the Download Templates and Instructions section in ProposalCentral. Applicants may also visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html> for current NIH biosketch guidelines.

The biosketch must also report any pending or awarded grants, and describe how those funds will be allocated differently than the funding provided by the Residency Research Award.

F. MENTOR BIOSKETCH(S)

A biosketch for each mentor is required, is limited to five pages, and must adhere to NIH-style formatting.

G. PROPOSAL AGREEMENT FORM

This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures from key personnel and the institutional representative. Primary mentors are required to describe their involvement in the development of the proposal, and applicants must provide contact information for a grant administrator who is responsible for receiving award payments. All information should be typed into the Proposal Agreement Form (illegible information will not be accepted). The Proposal Agreement Form may be downloaded from the Download Templates & Instructions section in ProposalCentral.

H. RESEARCH FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

The Research Facilities and Environment Description is limited to one page. Applicants should describe the institution's facilities, funding, and technical assistance available to the project. Applicants should also include their specific duties, clinical activities, relationship to mentor's ongoing research program, and immediate supervisor. **Applicants must indicate their time committed to research (no less than 80%) in bold font.**

I. RESEARCH PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Research Project Abstract is limited to one page and should summarize the following elements of the proposed research project and training under the following headings:

- Problem to be addressed
- Specific aims and experimental design
- Mentoring/Training plan
- Potential impact of the project on the applicant's career development
- Potential impact of the project on urologic research and clinical practice

J. RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Research Project Description should be organized into the three sections listed below and is **limited to three pages**, inclusive of figures and tables. The suggested length for each section is one page. References cited page(s) and abbreviation/acronyms lists do not count against the page limit. **Research Project Descriptions that exceed the page limit will result in disqualification of the entire proposal.**

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, or include illegible figure legends, may not be forwarded to peer review. Paragraphs should be single-spaced. Legibility can influence proposal evaluation.

Section 1: Background and Specific Aims

Introduce the problem to be addressed, providing the major reasons why this is an important problem to study and citing the appropriate literature. Define the major hypothesis to be tested and list specific aims proposed to test the hypothesis. Ensure that the aims are appropriate for the proposed duration of the project.

Section 2: Supporting Data

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 proposed project. Unpublished data or published data (with references) may be included. Data in this section should support the hypothesis of the proposed work.

Section 3: Experimental Plan

Describe each experiment such that reviewers can determine the feasibility of the methods and how they will address the hypothesis and aims. Outline the rationale for each experiment, possible or 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. If collaborators are present, clearly describe the role of each collaborator.

K. LETTERS FROM COLLABORATORS

Collaborator letters of support (e.g., for promised materials or other research support) **are not required** for this award; however, if applicable, they are permitted. These letters are not confidential and the applicant is responsible for uploading them into ProposalCentral by the full proposal deadline.

L. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applications violating any of the following conditions are deemed noncompliant and thus will not be advanced for review and are ineligible for award consideration. Attempts to appeal the triage will not be considered and final determination is at the sole discretion of the AUA Office of Research.

- Research Project Descriptions over the prescribed page limits
- Applicant biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor letter of support not included in submission materials
- Proposal Agreement form not included in submission materials

Further, any items in excess of the prescribed page limits will be reduced to the appropriate limit without other edits (e.g., not rewritten or copy edited), and the shortened file will be added into the submission.

III. LETTER OF INTENT AND FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. LETTER OF INTENT

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the Residency Research Award program by clicking on the “Grant Opportunities” tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The letter of intent can be accessed by clicking the “Apply Now” button. **The letter of intent sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section.**

1. Title Page

- Provide a title for your proposal and indicate the proposed length of the research period, in months.

2. Download Templates & Instructions

- Proposal Agreement Form – This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information, and submitted with the full proposal. It is provided here to give the applicant ample time to complete.
 - Biosketch Template – This is a reference document to assist applicants in completing a biosketch. Applicants may also visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html> for current NIH biosketch guidelines.
3. **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal**
 - This section enables applicants to give other users access to the letter of intent but is not required.
 4. **Applicant/PI**
 - Applicants will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the letter of intent in order to reference and complete the required information.
 - ORCID Identifier – 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** (see <https://www.AUAnet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>).
 6. **Institution & Contacts**
 - Applicants should confirm that the Lead Institution is correct and are required to indicate an Institution Representative or Signing Official to their proposal.
 7. **Key Personnel**
 - Applicants are required to identify their mentor(s), Residency Program Director, and Urology Department Chair for the proposed project. These individuals should be the same as those who will be writing letters of support; however, this section **does not** prompt them to submit their required letter of support (see *Section III, Subsection B: Full Proposal*).
 - Applicants also have the option to identify any collaborators on the proposed project.
 8. **Project Information**
 - Applicants are required to provide a brief description of the proposed project. This information is used to assist AUA Office of Research staff in peer review planning. It will not enter into the review of a subsequent full proposal.
 9. **Validate**
 - This section will check for any required information or files missing from the letter of intent.
 10. **Preview Letter of Intent**
 - Signature of the title page by the PI/chairman/signing official **is not** required. Please disregard this guidance.
 11. **Submit**

B. FULL PROPOSAL

After administrative review of the letter of intent, the AUA Office of Research will grant applicants access to the full proposal submission portal. Much of the full proposal submission will be populated with information provided in the letter of intent. **The proposal sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section.**

1-5. Title Page, Download Templates, Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal, Applicant/PI, Eligibility

6. Institution & Contacts

- Applicants are required to in add an Institutional Representative or Signing Official to their proposal.

7. Key Personnel

- Applicants have the option of adding/removing key personnel who were previously included in the letter of intent.

8. Confidential Letters of Support

- This section enables the applicants to invite their mentor(s), Residency Program Director, and Urology Department Chair (letter writers) to complete and submit their letters of support through ProposalCentral. **Applicants should complete this immediately upon gaining access to the full proposal.**
- Applicants may resend the invitation to individual letter writers and track whether the letters have been received. All letters of support must be received before the proposal deadline for the proposal to be considered for funding.

9. Project Information

- Applicants are required to provide a lay and technical abstract for the proposed project. By submitting the full proposal, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.

10. Budget Detail

- Applicants are required to provide an itemized budget for the research project period, not to exceed \$10,000, on allowable items (see *Section I, Subsection D, Parts 5&6: Allowable and Prohibited use of Funds*).

11. Budget Summary

- Applicants should confirm their budget information is correct and does not exceed \$10,000.

12. Other Research Support

- Applicants are required to report any other pending or awarded grants for the proposed research project and describe how those funds will be allocated differently than the funding provided by the Residency Research Award.

13. Upload Attachments Here

- The applicant must upload all proposal components as portable document files (PDFs) with each component adhering to its specific page limitations.

14. Validate

- This section will check for any required information or files missing from the full proposal.

15. Print Full Application with Uploads

- No action is required in this section.

16. Submit

IV. 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, the most highly meritorious proposals will be matched to the available awards. Given the complexity of this process and the various stipulations of each award, along with programmatic considerations, it must be understood that the highest scoring proposals may not be automatically funded; however, every effort is made to support all proposals with the 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. Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure statement that all 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

All proposals will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Applicant

- To what degree the applicant's achievements to date, as reflected by awards, honors, previous publications, etc., indicate the applicant's potential for a successful career that includes 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 the applicant's career.

Mentor(s)

- To what degree the mentor letter(s) of support demonstrates the applicant's potential to pursue career-long involvement in urologic research.
- To what degree the mentor letter(s) of support includes a realistic time frame and describes the availability of necessary resources for the applicant's research project.
- To what degree the mentor(s) can provide the necessary expertise and track record to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the research project and training.
- To what degree the mentor has outlined a solid training plan for the applicant.

Institution

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

Residency Program Director and Urology Department Chair

- To what degree the letters of support indicate the applicant's strong performance in residency thus far, the applicant's potential for career-long involvement in urologic research, and the appropriateness of the proposed length of the award performance period with at least 80% of protected research time.

Research Project

- To what degree the research project is appropriately designed and will provide the applicant with research experience and training to promote the development of long-term involvement 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.
- 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 the applicant's proposed studies.

C. NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL REVIEW RESULTS

Residency Research Award applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email in March 2022; 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.** Summary statements of proposal reviews are not provided for the Residency Research Award program.

Applicants selected for funding must:

- Send an email to grantsmanager@AUAnet.org to confirm or decline the award within **48 hours**.
- Submit a high-quality headshot (file size typically ≥ 1 MB) in professional dress or laboratory/white coat via ProposalCentral **within a week of accepting the award**. With the submission of this photo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- Confirm AUA membership **within a week of accepting the award** by submitting their AUA member IDs or proof of application via ProposalCentral.

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, mentor(s) and institutional representatives that an award has been made and to specify the terms and conditions of the award.

The Urology Care Foundation including the sponsors for their award programs does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities that the award supports, or for the acts of the award recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the award recipient's institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies.

V. AWARD REQUIREMENTS

A. REGULATORY APPROVALS AND EXEMPTIONS

1. INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

If activities involving human subjects are planned during the proposed research, the awardee must provide AUA Office of Research a letter of approval from the local IRB prior to the award performance period start date. Documentation, including any exemptions, must be submitted through the proposal submission system. If IRB documentation is not received, the Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

If activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the proposed research, the awardee must provide AUA Office of Research a letter of approval from the local IACUC prior to the award performance period start date. Documentation, including any exemptions, must be submitted through the proposal submission system. If IACUC documentation is not received, 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 of other awards to the institution or suspension of the awardee, mentor(s), or institution from eligibility for subsequent Urology Care Foundation funding opportunities. Unless approved by the institution and the Urology Care Foundation, failure to complete the duration of the research period may result in repayment of unspent funds to the Urology Care Foundation.

1. PUBLIC ACCESS PUBLISHING AND SHARING OF GRANT INFORMATION

All Urology Care Foundation awardees are subject to a public access policy. In addition, the AUA is a member of the Health Research Alliance (HRA)—a national consortium of non-governmental, nonprofit funders of biomedical research and training—and has agreed to deposit grant information in the HRA database of privately funded grants, HRA Reporter.

The AUA and its 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 the Urology Care Foundation. The following award information will be provided to the HRA Reporter database and **may be shared with the public**: investigator name, degrees, clinical specialty if applicable, institution, project title, abstract, grant start date and duration, grant amount and ORCID iD of the investigator if applicable. HRA aggregates these data for its member organizations and for periodic publication of findings (see <https://www.healthra.org/hra-platforms/hra-reporter-public/> for more information).

2. AWARDEE FINAL REPORTS

Awardees are required to submit a final report via ProposalCentral within 30 days following the end of the research project period or by July 31, 2023, whichever comes first. Awardees should refer to the Notice of Award for reporting criteria.

NOTE: Awardees funded by The Kahlert Foundation award may be subject to additional reporting requirements.

3. MENTOR FINAL REPORT

The primary mentor is required to submit a final report via ProposalCentral within 30 days following the end of the research project period or by July 31, 2023, whichever comes first. Mentors should refer to the Notice of Award for reporting criteria.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Institutional Accountability Report (IAR) is a form that re-affirms that the institution is adhering to all terms of the Program Announcement and Proposal Agreement Form, especially the provisions of institutional support and level of effort requirements. **Institutions' continued eligibility to Urology Care Foundation funding for existing and future awards is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory report.**

A final IAR must be submitted by an institutional grant administrator or Office of Sponsored Research representative via ProposalCentral within 30 days following the end of the project period, or by July 31, 2023, whichever comes first.

5. OUTCOMES REPORTING

Following the completion of the project period, the AUA Office of Research may 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.

C. REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation coordinate several educational events designed to advance urologic research, especially for early-career investigators. These events are held during the AUA Annual Meeting and at AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The AUA Office of Research also provides opportunities for Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators to present posters at some of these events, and travel awards may be available (see *Section VI: Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program*).

Residency Research Award recipients are **required to attend and present** the outcomes of their Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program & Reception held in conjunction with the 2023 AUA Annual Meeting. The event provides opportunities to network with AUA and Urology Care Foundation leadership, other Foundation-supported research teams, and leaders in the field of urologic research.

Residency Research Award recipients are **highly encouraged to attend** the following events and should refer to the Notice of Award for additional information:

AUA Annual Meeting

- Basic Sciences Symposium
- Challenges of Urologic Research Symposium
- Early-Career Investigators Showcase
- Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing Workshop
- Urologic Oncology Research Symposium

AUA Headquarters

- Early-Career Investigators Workshop
- Co-sponsored Research Symposia

VI. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION SCHOLAR TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program is administered by the AUA Office of Research and is intended to provide opportunities for Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators to attend scientific or professional meetings relevant to urologic research. This program provides up to \$1,500 of travel support to Residency Research Award recipients. Awardees should refer to the Notice of Award for information regarding travel support applications and limitations.

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to the 2021 Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Office of Research. The preferred method of communication is email at grantsmanager@auanet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, may be directed to 410-689-3762. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.