



American
Urological
Association

Advancing Urology
through Research

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

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2022 Leadership in Education, Achievement and Diversity (LEAD) Program

Sponsored by:
Urovant Sciences, Inc.

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent Deadline 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, December 2, 2021

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, January 13, 2021

Peer Review: February 2022

Selection Notification: March 2022

Award Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024 (two years)

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I. PROGRAM 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.

B. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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. The Urology Care Foundation is also focused on developing resources that make urologic research training more compelling to urologists from communities underrepresented in science, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that urologic research is strengthened through diversity and inclusion, and appropriately addresses disparities in urologic care through research.

The **Leadership in Education, Achievement and Diversity (LEAD) Program** is a new and high-impact initiative designed to support the development of successful research careers by urology residents from racial and ethnic backgrounds underrepresented in urologic research. The LEAD Program, inaugurated in 2021, provides comprehensive research support to young urologists by creating a development pathway through existing AUA research programs, beginning with the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award. Program participants will conduct mentored research training, engage in AUA research education opportunities, and be championed through networking events as they develop successful research careers and improve urology patient care. In the event an applicant is selected during their final year of residency, the LEAD Program award may be retained as they transfer into a fellowship program.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for the LEAD Program, **applicants must be eligible and are required to apply for a Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award**. Eligibility criteria include:

- having at least three months of protected research time at a minimum of 80% level of effort;
- being enrolled in an accredited urology residency program within the geographical boundaries of the AUA Sections;
- proposing to conduct research in the fields of men's health or bladder dysfunction, and
- identifying as a member of an underrepresented minority group in urologic research (Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino/a, or American Indian, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, or other indigenous community).

Please refer to the 2022 Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award Program Announcement for full eligibility information. It can be found at: <https://www.auanet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/residency-research-awards>.

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 LEAD Award. Membership applications must be submitted within one week of accepting the LEAD 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. INSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS

Institutions must meet and abide all requirements outlined in the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award Program Announcement.

Additionally, institutions (e.g., Residency Program Directors, Department Chairs, etc.) must agree to provide time protection for LEAD awardees to attend and participate in research conferences, workshops, courses, etc. during the two-year award performance period. Failure to do so will result in withholding of funds for this and/or other Urology Care Foundation research awards associated with the institution, and potentially render the institution ineligible for receipt of future Urology Care Foundation award funds.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. RESEARCH AWARD

Three \$10,000 awards are available per year in the LEAD Program. Awardees will be selected through the annual Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award competition.

2. REGISTRATION SUPPORT

Awardees will receive complimentary registration to AUA online research education coursework and complimentary registration to attend the AUA Early Career Investigator Workshop during the award performance period.

Participation in these programs is **required** of all LEAD awardees during the award performance period. Failure to register and/or attend without prior approval from the AUA Office of Research may result in the forfeiture of the award and potential ineligibility for future Urology Care Foundation award funds.

3. TRAVEL SUPPORT

During the award performance period awardees will receive travel support to offset travel, lodging, and other costs associated with attending the AUA Annual Meeting and attending other relevant research conferences. Travel support is available at up to \$1,500 per calendar year, with a per-meeting cap of \$1,000.

All 2022 awardees will be **required** to attend the 2022 and 2023 AUA Annual Meeting and participation in the affiliated Office of Research / Urology Care Foundation events (e.g., research symposia, grant writing workshops,

Urology Care Foundation Honors Program & Reception, Early-Career Investigator Showcase and Scientists Exchange, etc.). Failure to do so without prior approval from the AUA Office of Research may result in the forfeiture of the award and potential ineligibility for future Urology Care Foundation award funds.

4. PROGRAM SPONSOR

This endowed program is made possible by a generous grant from Urovant Sciences.

II. APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

LEAD Program awardees will be selected through the annual Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award competition. For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.auanet.org/research/research-funding/aua-funding/residency-research-awards>.

1. APPLICATION

In addition to all materials involved in the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Awards application, LEAD applicants must provide a personal statement with a maximum of two pages, detailing at minimum:

- How the programs involved in the LEAD award would contribute to their immediate professional development during residency;
- The potential impact of the program on their overall research acumen; and,
- How acceptance of the award would enhance their ability to actualize a long-term career plan to becoming a physician-scientist in urology.

Personal statements and a fully executed LEAD Program Proposal Agreement form must be submitted to the AUA Office of Research as a PDF file to grantsmanager@auanet.org by the 2022 Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award **deadline of 5pm ET Thursday, January 13, 2022**.

2. REVIEW

Residency Research Award proposals are evaluated by a panel of experts who assess the quality of the proposed project as well as the applicant's potential to become a future leader in the field. Following the completion of peer review, the most highly meritorious proposals will be matched to available awards. Please note that LEAD Program consideration will not disqualify the applicant for a Residency Research Award nor impact the overall review process. 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. NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL REVIEW RESULTS

LEAD Program applicants will be notified of award decisions through the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award review process in March 2022; results will not be given over the phone. Summary statements of proposal reviews are not provided for the LEAD Program.

Applicants selected for the LEAD Program 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.

C. NOTICE OF AWARD

For applicants selected to participate in the LEAD Program, a Notice of Award letter will be issued prior to the first Residency Research Award 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. This Notice of Award will be separate from the Residency Research Award Notice of 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.

III. PROGRAM ELEMENTS

A. RESIDENCY RESEARCH AWARD

The LEAD Program begins with research funding support for urology residents with the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award program. Three residents per year are selected to conduct mentored research training and are provided with a \$10,000 stipend for direct costs to conduct a 3-12 month project.

The 2022 LEAD Program proposal **must** focus on bladder dysfunction or men's health research. However, a broader scope of research areas is anticipated to be available in subsequent award years.

B. 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 and present their research findings at scientific or professional meetings relevant to urologic research.

This program provides up to \$1,500 of travel support to LEAD Program awardees during their award performance period to help cover costs associated with travel, food, lodging, registration fees, and childcare. Awardees should refer to the Notice of Award for information regarding travel support applications and limitations.

C. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION HONORS PROGRAM & RECEPTION

This event is held every year during the AUA Annual Meeting to recognize the achievements of Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators who are completing their research projects, acknowledge the newest research awardees, and present special “Awards of Distinction” to individuals who have made major contributions to the field of urologic research.

It is the vision of the LEAD Program to build a community of LEAD Program alumni, all of whom will regularly interact during each year’s Urology Care Foundation Honors Program and Reception. To that end, LEAD Program participants are required to attend the Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program and Reception for two consecutive years, beginning with the selection year, to present their work as well as network with the AUA and Urology Care Foundation Boards of Directors and other urologic research leaders. After their award performance period LEAD Program alumni will have a standing invitation to attend the reception.

D. UROLOGY SCIENTIFIC MENTORING AND RESEARCH TRAINING (USMART) ACADEMY

The Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy fosters creative and impactful mentorship by pairing experienced, highly-accomplished physician-scientists and researchers with early-career investigators to provide scientific and career guidance. Now entering its fourth year, this program has already seen measurable success by way of career advancement and successful conflict management, scientific accomplishments, and new research funding.

Beginning with the award year LEAD Program awardees will have access to two years of structured external mentorship as part of the USMART Academy. This mentorship is meant to complement, not supersede, existing institution-based mentors, particularly during the research project period in award year one.

E. EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP

The Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW) is held annually to support career development in urologic research by providing participants with a solid foundation for successful grant writing. Activities include one-on-one and small-group mentoring sessions with scientific advisors, learning how to navigate federally-funded grant programs, opportunities to directly interact with funding agency representatives, mock peer review, and guidance on developing a fundable research project.

The LEAD Program requires awardees to participate in the highly-successful ECIW once during their award performance period. Awardees also have access to one additional complimentary registration to ECIW up to three years after the end of the award performance period to enable awardees to attend once during the research year of their clinical fellowship or first year of faculty appointment.

F. ONLINE RESEARCH EDUCATION COURSES

The AUA Office of Research produces online education courses relevant to the urologic research community. Current courses include “Big Data and ‘Omics’ Analysis in Urology,” “Writing a Successful Career Development Award Application,” and “Establishing Your Independent Urologic Research Lab.”

LEAD Program awardees will have complimentary access to these courses during the award performance period.

IV. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. 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).

B. AWARDEE REPORTS

Concerning the proposed research project, LEAD Program awardees, their primary mentors, and host institution are required to abide by all reporting requirements set forth in the Urology Care Foundation Residency Research Award Program Announcement.

1. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTING

Further, LEAD Program awardees are **required to submit a personal statement with updates on any research activity annually on July 1, until the completion of residency training or the award performance period**. Awardees should refer to the Notice of Award for more information.

2. 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.

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to the 2022 LEAD 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 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.