2023 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop Call for Nominations Due Wednesday, May 31, 2023

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2023 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 19-21, 2023, at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The goal of the workshop is to provide surgeon-scientists and urologic researchers (MD and PhD or equivalents) with insights into the scientific review process, information about independent funding sources, and individualized grant writing guidance. This 2.5-day workshop and its activities are designed for individuals planning to submit competitive research proposals to the National Institutes of Health or other major funders of urologic research.

CURRICULUM
The workshop agenda is designed to foster career success and skills for successful grant writing. The program consists of four major components:

- Didactic Instruction
- Individual and Small Group Proposal Review and Critiques with Senior Scientific Advisors
- Grant Review/Revision
- Mock Study Section

ELIGIBILITY
All nominees must meet the following eligibility criteria by the application submission deadline:

- Active in urologic research as evidenced by involvement in lab- or clinic-based urologic research projects.
- Have not previously received extramural R01 or independent investigator funding as a Principal Investigator.

EARLY VS. ADVANCED
This workshop’s dual-track training program will provide the most relevant training experience to participants. All nominees will be reviewed and, if selected to attend the Early-Career Investigators Workshop, will be assigned to one of the following participant groups:

- Early Grant Development Group: Postdoctoral fellows, trainees currently enrolled in fellowship programs (e.g., K12, T32), and faculty who require intensive training in grant development but will not submit a career development or independent research grant application within 12 months after the workshop.
- Advanced Grant Development Group: Investigators in the process of preparing applications for K- or R-type research grants with submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2024. Nominees who wish to be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group must:
  - Be listed as the Principal Investigator on an unfunded R or K award, or equivalent grant application (new or planning to resubmit). The proposed research must be focused on urologic diseases or conditions.
  - Submit (or resubmit) their grant applications to the NIH or other federal agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2024. Workshop participants must also provide a copy of the application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the AUA Office of Research no later than December 31, 2024 to assist the AUA with tracking outcomes of the workshops and provide continuing mentorship. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared externally.
COST
Workshop participants will pay the registration fee after nominee reviews have been completed and the participants have been selected:

- $425 registration fee for AUA members
- $550 registration fee for non-AUA members

The AUA will cover travel costs to/from the workshop within AUA guidelines, lodging, and meals on location during the workshop. Incidental costs and meals outside of those provided during the workshop will be the responsibility of the workshop participant.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

✓ All nominations must be submitted by the urology department of any institution, independent urology practice, or community urology practice.
✓ Each department may nominate a maximum of two individuals.
✓ Nomination packages must be submitted through the application system, Proposal Central.
✓ Late submissions will not be considered.
✓ All nominees must submit the following application documents as prompted in Proposal Central:
  1. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures (document can be downloaded from the application in Proposal Central)
  2. NIH-formatted biosketch of the nominee including a list and status of all extramural grant submissions for the past two years. For guidance, see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm
  3. A draft Specific Aims Page (one-page maximum) for the research project intended for a future grant application. For guidance, see http://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx
  4. Nominee letter (one-page maximum) that states the career goals of the nominee.
  5. Letter of Support (two-page maximum) from the nominee’s mentor detailing the research environment, institutional support, commitment to the nominee’s research and career development, and reasons why the nominee should be selected.
  6. (Advanced Grant Development Group only) A preliminary Research Proposal that contains, at minimum, a hypothesis and experimental plan outline. Other sections may include additional background information and supporting data. The Research Proposal must be at least four pages, not including references cited.
  7. (Advanced Grant Development Group only) A copy of grant review summary sheets and scores, if the proposed research has been previously submitted for funding and was scored but not funded. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared external to the Office of Research.
CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF NOMINATIONS

- **Nominee**
  - The degree to which the nominee’s achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
  - The degree to which the nominee’s stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout their career.

- **Letter of Support**
  - The degree to which the letter of support indicates the high potential of the nominee for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.

- **Proposed Research**
  - (All nominees): The degree to which the project addresses, or can be revised to address, an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in urologic research.
  - (Advanced Grant Development Group nominees only)
    - The degree to which the PI is well suited to the project, or the project can be modified to better suit the experience and training of the PI.
    - The degree to which the project as written, or with revision, will challenge current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - The degree to which the scientific environment in which the work will be conducted contributes to the probability of success.

SELECTION PROCEDURES
Nomination packages will be evaluated by the program faculty to determine program acceptance, group assignment, and wait list selections. All accepted ECIW participants will be assigned to either the Early Grant Development or Advanced Grant Development group. Group assignments are intended to ensure the participants’ current grant status aligns with programmatic content and intent of the workshop. Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions and group assignments via email no later than Monday, June 26, 2023.

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP
By Monday, July 24, 2023, each selected Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that includes the following elements in the following order:

1. Specific Aims
2. Background
3. Supporting Data
4. Experimental Plan
5. References
6. Career Development & Training Plan

The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop. Advanced Group participants are expected to review and address the first round of faculty comments prior to workshop arrival. Participants will meet with faculty advisors at the workshop during one-on-one and small group sessions for additional revision and improvement to the proposal. A key outcome of the workshop is that each participant will have a research proposal in “near submission” condition. All Advanced Grant Development Group participants will be expected to submit the proposal to the NIH or other major funding agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2024.
CONTACT INFORMATION

✓ All questions regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:
  Diana Tsuji
  AUA Research Education Manager
  Email: Dtsuji@auanet.org
  Office Telephone: (410) 689-3806

FACULTY

Recruitment of faculty and speakers for 2023 is underway; 2022 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

FACULTY MENTORS:
- Rosalyn Adam, PhD – Boston Children’s Hospital
- John Gore, MD, MS – University of Washington Medical Center
- Michael Hsieh, MD, PhD – George Washington University, Children’s National Hospital
- Andrew Hung, MD – University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus
- Steven Kaplan, MD – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Dolores Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB) – Weill Cornell Medical College
- Ranjith Ramasamy, MD – University of Miami Miller School of Medicine
- Larissa Rodriguez, MD – Weill Cornell Medical College
- Steve Zderic, MD – The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

SPEAKERS:
- Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH – American Cancer Society
- Steven Kaplan, MD – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Susan Lim, PhD – NCI, NIH
- Theresa Miller, PhD – DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
- Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH – NIDDK, NIH
- Larissa Rodriguez, MD – Weill Cornell Medical College
- Marcel Salive, MD, MPH – NIA, NIH
- Eric Schwinder – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- W. Taylor Monson – American Urological Association and Urology Care Foundation
# EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE

The following due dates should be considered when submitting your nomination package. Failure to meet confirmed deadlines may result in removal from the workshop.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2023 TIMELINE</th>
<th>DUE</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 31</td>
<td>Nominations must be submitted in Proposal Central. Questions can be</td>
<td>To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, submit additional materials as outlined above.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>directed to Genevieve Hood,</td>
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<td>Monday, June 26</td>
<td>Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email</td>
<td>Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time.</td>
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<td>Monday, July 24</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete</td>
<td>Participants will submit a draft proposal that fulfills the requirements of their specific grant’s program announcement. The ECIW program does not have additional requirements.</td>
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<td>draft research proposal into Proposal Central</td>
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<td>Wednesday, July 26 – Friday,</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant and assigned mentor</td>
<td>Participants will be assigned faculty mentors. When a match is made, email introductions will be sent to the participant and their mentor. Faculty mentors will review the proposal and provide an initial critique to participants. Faculty mentors will be available to answer participants’ questions. Phone conversations are encouraged, whenever possible.</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>communicate by email and phone</td>
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<td>Friday, September 29</td>
<td>Early Grant Development Group participant must submit updated</td>
<td>Participants will be assigned faculty mentors for small group mentoring sessions at the workshop.</td>
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<td>Specific Aims page into Proposal Central</td>
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<td>Friday, September 29</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit updated</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant will utilize feedback from mentor and make edits to grant proposal.</td>
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<td>research proposal in Proposal Central</td>
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<td>Friday, September 29</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participant can be directed to</td>
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<td>Friday, September 29</td>
<td>Faculty will review updated grants prior to meeting in person at</td>
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<td>the workshop.</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 19 –</td>
<td>Early-Career Investigators Workshop</td>
<td>Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland</td>
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<td>Saturday, October 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring or Summer 2024</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 2024</td>
<td>Advanced Grant Development Group participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research</td>
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