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UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2027 Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award

Supported by:

The Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Endowment Fund

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Opening Date:	5:00 pm ET, Friday, November 13, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline:	11:59 pm ET, Monday, January 11, 2027
Peer Review:	January 2027 – February 2027
Funding Notification:	March 2027
Award Period:	July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Funding Opportunity Description 3
- A. Urology Care Foundation Research Awards 3
- B. Award Information 4
- C. Eligibility Information 4
  - 1. Applicant 4
  - 2. Membership Requirements 5
  - 3. Mentor 5
  - 4. Performing/Host Institution 5
  - 5. Ineligibility Criteria 6
- D. Funding Information 6
  - 1. Awards Available 6
  - 2. Other Funding 6
  - 3. Acceptable Use of Funds 6
  - 4. Unacceptable Use of Funds 7
  - 5. Distribution of Funds 7

II. Application Requirements 8
- A. General Information 8
- B. Application Exclusion Criteria 8
- C. Award Agreement Form 9
- D. Applicant Biosketches 9
- E. Collaborator Biosketch (if applicable) 9
- F. Confidential Letter(s) of Support 9
  - 1. Departmental Letter of Support 10
  - 2. Additional Letters of Support 10
- G. Project Information 10
  - Research 11
- H. Project Description 11
- I. Budget Detail 11
- J. Budget Justification 12
- K. Interdisciplinary Statement 12
- L. Research Facilities and Environment Description 12
- M. Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) 12

III. Application Submission Instructions 12
- A. Application Sections 13

IV. Application Review Information 15
- A. Application Review and Selection Process 15
- B. Review Criteria 16
- C. Notification of Application Review Results 16

D. Notice of Award 17

V. Award Requirements 17
A. Regulatory Approvals and Exemptions 17
1. Institutional Review Board (IRB) 17
2. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) 17
B. Reporting 18
1. Public Access Publishing and Sharing of Grant Information 18
2. Awardee Reporting 18
3. Institutional Accountability Report (IAR) 18
4. Outcomes Reporting 19
5. Changes to Contact Information, Project, Personnel, Institution, or Funding 19
C. Sponsor Acknowledgement 20
D. AUAER and Urology Care Foundation Research-Related Activities 20

VI. Scholar Travel Program 20

VII. Contact Information 20

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARDS

The mission of the Urology Care Foundation (UCF), 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 urologic research workforce, the UCF offers a portfolio of research awards supporting the full career spectrum, from medical students to independent investigators.

These awards are administered by the American Urological Association Education and Research, Inc. (AUAER) Office of Research, with funding provided by the UCF, partner organizations and sponsors. The AUAER Office of Research was created in 2001 with 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 an independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers who assess the scientific merits of each project as well as the applicant's current or potential future contributions to urology research.

The AUA and the UCF are committed to promoting diversity in its many forms to promote excellence in research and leadership within the urologic research workforce. The AUA and the UCF are supportive of efforts to analyze and address the ways in which social and economic inequalities impact the urology community, and the ability to achieve health equity for patients with urologic conditions. Information related to the applicant's race/ethnicity and gender is collected during the proposal process to assess these efforts but is de-identified for all reporting purposes. Neither the Urology Care Foundation nor the AUAER Office of Research discriminate as to age, race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, citizenship or national origin in the selection of participants in grant programs.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

Established in 2026, the Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award (TRA) was created to foster collaboration between established urologic researchers and experts from other disciplines with relevance to urology. The award aims to encourage innovative, cross-disciplinary research by motivating investigators outside the field of urology to apply their expertise to urologic challenges.

The TRA supports projects that challenge existing paradigms, examine longstanding problems from new perspectives, or introduce novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, technologies, or interventions, including the application of artificial intelligence (AI).

To support this goal, each TRA application must include **two Principal Investigators (PIs)**: an Initiating PI and a Partnering PI. One PI must have expertise in urology, and the other PI must have expertise in another discipline. The two investigators are required to submit a jointly developed application, as outlined in the following sections.

Studies supported through this award may be in basic, foundational, translational, clinical, or health services research in any area of urology. Investigators needing mentorship are **NOT** eligible to apply for these funds.

***Note: No industry-sponsored clinical trials will be eligible for the Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award.*

Funding Details: The Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award will provide $120,000 in research funding over 2-years. One award is available this year.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT

To be eligible to compete for a 2027 Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award, applicants must be conducting independent research within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. The TRA requires the participation of two Principal Investigators (PIs): an **Initiating PI** and a **Partnering PI**. The two PIs may be located at the same institution or at different institutions. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens, but projects must be located at an accredited performing/host institution within the boundaries of the AUA Sections.

Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must:

- Hold an advanced degree (e.g., MD, PhD, or equivalent) in a biomedical research-related field
- Have a record of conducting prior independent research on a national level from a major funding source. Examples may include (not an all-encompassing list):
    - National Institutes of Health;
    - Department of War Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs;
    - Department of Veterans Affairs Research Programs.

- One PI must have urologic expertise and the other must have expertise in another discipline. There is no requirement for the Initiating PI to be the individual with urologic expertise.

The individual who starts the application is known as the Initiating PI. Once started, the Initiating PI will add the Partnering PI via the Key Personnel section in ProposalCentral. If the PIs are at two different institutions, funds may be sent to both institutions if awarded. For more information on funds disbursal, see Section I.D.5.. For information on completing the application in ProposalCentral, see Section III..

A minimum level of effort is not required, however both PIs must indicate their proposed level of effort dedicated to the project in the application. All usage of funds must be noted in the budget justification.

The applicant may include collaborators in their application, but there must be two, and only two, PIs listed on the application. Any identified collaborators must provide a Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) document and biosketch in the application submission.

Please be mindful that sitting members of the AUA Research Council and Research Committees may not apply for any AUA Office of Research Grant Opportunity as a PI.

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

AUA Membership

Membership in the AUA is required for recipients of this award. In order to accept an award offer, both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must be a current AUA member. The AUAER Office of Research will confirm membership before funds are distributed. When applying, select the AUA section where the performing/host institution is located. The membership must become active prior to the start of the award and be maintained throughout the entire period of performance.

Should the applicant have difficulty determining their membership category, the applicant should contact the AUA Office of Research at grantsmanager@auanet.org for assistance.

3. MENTOR

Applicants must be independent investigators who do not require a mentor and must provide evidence of prior independent funding on a national level from a major funding source.

Investigators needing mentorship are NOT eligible to apply for these funds.

4. PERFORMING/HOST INSTITUTION

For an application to be eligible, the research must be conducted at an accredited institution(s) that resides within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Applicants are not limited to the institution at which they are enrolled; however, the primary project must be associated with the institution where the research is taking

place. An example of this is an independent investigator who conducts a clinical study at a different location than their home institution.

Host institutions must sponsor the candidate by guaranteeing adequate support, such as providing a suitable research environment and laboratory equipment, in order to conduct the research. Additionally, **as a requirement of application submission,** institutions must agree, via signature on the Award Agreement Form (AAF), that they will continue to provide strong institutional support during the award period. Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must submit separate Award Agreement Forms.

Institutional indirect costs and/or costs not associated with the project are not allowed. Please see Section I.D.4. for further information on funding restrictions.

There is **no institutional match requirement** for this award mechanism.

5. INELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following criteria will deem an applicant ineligible to apply for this funding opportunity.

- Either or both PIs do not hold an advanced degree (e.g., MD, PhD or equivalent).
- Either or both PIs do not have a record of conducting prior independent research on a national level from a major funding source (see Section I.C.1.).
- Neither PI has a record of conducting prior independent **urologic** research on a national level from a major funding source.

This is a non-exhaustive list. Please contact the AUAER Office of Research for questions regarding eligibility. The AUAER Office of Research, in collaboration with the AUAER Office of Research Council Chair, make all eligibility decisions, which are final.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

One (1) award is available for the 2027 Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award competition. The availability of all UCF awards is contingent on market conditions at the time of funding and subject to change. Final determinations regarding award funding will be made at the time of awardee selection.

The award will support research in the **broad therapeutic areas of prostate or bladder malignant disease.**

The UCF reserves the right for final approval for any/all awards provided through the program.

2. OTHER FUNDING

Applicants should disclose any past, current or pending support via the required PCPS Document upload in ProposalCentral. The PCPS Document will be evaluated in peer review. Recipients of the TRA are permitted to hold other independent investigator awards should the effort not conflict with the effort on the TRA.

3. ACCEPTABLE USE OF FUNDS

There is significant flexibility in the use of TRA funds. Supported usage may include:

- Salary support (PI, co-PI, key personnel, lab members);

- Consumables and/or reagents;
- Animals or cell lines (acquisition, husbandry, veterinarian costs, etc.);
- Core facility fees;
- Other research related activities to be determined acceptable by the peer review committee.

4. UNACCEPTABLE USE OF FUNDS

TRA funds are intended to directly support the project described. Therefore, funds may **NOT** be used to support:

- Capital equipment purchases;
- Projects outside of the one(s) proposed;
- Institutional indirect costs;
- Travel expenses;
- Registration/membership fees.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

The TRA requires the participation of two Principal Investigators (PIs): an Initiating PI and a Partnering PI. The two PIs may be located at the same institution or at different institutions.

Applicants must clearly indicate in the Budget Detail which PI is responsible for each requested line-item expense. **It is the responsibility of the Initiating PI, the Partnering PI, and their respective institution(s) to determine the appropriate allocation of funds between the two investigators.**

The award provides up to $120,000 total over a two (2) year period of performance, distributed as up to $60,000 per year. The combined annual budget request for both PIs must not exceed $60,000 in any given year.

Award funds will be distributed to the institution(s) identified in the approved Budget Detail. If the PIs are at different institutions, the amount designated for each PI will be totaled and paid directly to that PI's institution. Each institution will receive only the amount allocated to its investigator as outlined in the submitted and approved application.

Funds will be paid in two installments, anticipated in July 2027 and July 2028, contingent upon receipt of all required onboarding information and the continued availability of funds. See Section II.I. for additional information.

The financial contact(s) listed in the application must be the authorized institutional representative(s) at the PI's institution responsible for receiving award funds.

An institutional W-9 must be maintained and on file within the past 12 months at time of payment for funds disbursal. International awardees should utilize form W-8BEN. In addition, electronic banking information must be submitted. **The UCF and the AUA will not provide funds via check.** All W-9 and banking information, inclusive of addresses, must exactly match for funds disbursal. The UCF does not withhold taxes from awards (i.e., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes). It is the awardee's/institution's responsibility to ensure appropriate accounting for federal and local taxes.

II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting complete materials. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the application submission system, including those requested from the department and letters from collaborators (if applicable), prior to the application deadline. The TRA application has one application submission via ProposalCentral; it does **not** require a letter of intent. Applicants assume all responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of materials, and that materials are received in full in advance of submission deadlines.

The deadline to complete and submit the full application is **Monday, January 11, 2027, at 11:59 pm ET**. Partial applications and/or applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Requests for exemptions to this policy will not be considered.

All eligible and highly qualified independent researchers and physician scientists conducting urology-related research are encouraged to apply. Within any given funding year, however, the UCF prefers to provide support to as many institutions as possible, provided the applicant has submitted a highly meritorious application. Therefore, funding decisions will be impacted by not only the merit of the applications but also may be impacted by the intent to distribute UCF funds to qualified applications from as many institutions as possible.

B. APPLICATION EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Please note that any application violating **any** of the following conditions will be deemed noncompliant and thus will not advance to review and will become ineligible for grant consideration. Requests for exemption will not be considered. All decisions made by the AUAER Office of Research are final.

- Noncompliance with formatting guidelines
- Any materials in excess of the prescribed page limits
- Any application with the following missing or incomplete:
    - Initiating PI Award Agreement Form
    - Initiating PI Biosketch not
    - Initiating PI Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS)
    - Initiating PI Departmental Letter of Support
    - Initiating PI Research Facilities and Environment Description
    - Partnering PI Award Agreement Form
    - Partnering PI Biosketch
    - Partnering PI Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) document
    - Partnering PI Departmental Letter of Support
    - Partnering PI Research Facilities and Environment Description not included in submission materials (applicable if any work is being performed at the Partnering PI's institution)
    - Collaborator Biosketch(es) (if applicable)
    - Research Project Description
    - Interdisciplinary Statement

C. AWARD AGREEMENT FORM

The Award Agreement Form may be downloaded from the Download Templates & Instructions section in ProposalCentral. All information should be typed into the Award Agreement Form: illegible information will not be accepted. **Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must complete their own Award Agreement Form**. This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures from the following:

Initiating PI Award Agreement Form

- The Initiating PI
- The Initiating PI department chair
- Each identified collaborator (if applicable)
- A representative from the performing/host institution who has the authority to sign award agreements

Partnering PI Award Agreement Form

- The Partnering PI
- The Partnering PI department chair
- Each identified collaborator (if applicable)
- A representative from the performing/host institution who has the authority to sign award agreements

Applications omitting the Award Agreement Form and/or forms not fully executed will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

D. APPLICANT BIOSKETCHES

Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must submit a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-style biosketch (five-page limit), including descriptions of their contributions to research. A template is provided and may be downloaded from the Download Templates & Instructions section in ProposalCentral. Submissions that do not include the applicant's biosketch and/or exceed the page limitations will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

E. COLLABORATOR BIOSKETCH (IF APPLICABLE)

An NIH-style biosketch (five-page limit) is required for all collaborators. Applications that exceed the page limitation and/or do not include the collaborator's biosketch will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

F. CONFIDENTIAL LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT

Confidential Letters of Support are required from the following:

1. The Initiating PI's department chair
2. The Partnering PI's department chair

Additional letters from other research collaborators, and/or relevant professional sources should only be included when relevant.

Applicants are responsible for assigning letter writers to their applications as soon as possible to allow them ample time to submit their required letters by the application deadline. Once the applicant assigns a letter writer to their application, ProposalCentral will send an automated email to the letter writer with an upload link that will enable them to submit their letter confidentially. Applicants can log into their applications at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support and may resend notification emails as needed. Applicants are highly encouraged to add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists. Letters must be received by the application submission deadline.

1. DEPARTMENTAL LETTER OF SUPPORT

The application must contain two letters of support (two-page limit) on institutional letterhead: One from the department in which the Initiating PI will conduct the research and one from the department in which the Partnering PI will conduct the research. Missing departmental letters or letters that exceed the page limitations will deem the application noncompliant, and it will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Departmental letters should clearly demonstrate the department's support for both the applicant and the intended use of funds. The letter should demonstrate the applicant has the expertise required to conduct their research independently. Descriptions of the intended use of funds (e.g., salary support [PI, co-PI, key personnel, lab members], consumables, animals or cell lines, core facility fees, or other research related activities) must be included. Additionally, departmental letters of support must outline the department's resources (financial support, space, equipment, etc.) available to support the applicant's research project.

2. ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Additional letters from other research collaborators, and/or relevant professional sources should only be included when relevant. If included, additional letters of support should be on an institutional letterhead and limited to one page each. Applications that include additional letters that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Additional letters of support should include the writer's contribution to the project. Letters must be received by the application submission deadline for consideration.

G. PROJECT INFORMATION

Applicants are required to provide a lay (1,500-character limit) and technical (4,000-character limit) abstract for the project and indicate the organ, disease, research classification and research model most representative of the research project.

The technical abstract 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
- Potential Impact of Project on Urologic Research

H. RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A Research Project Description (eight-page limit), inclusive of figures and tables, briefly describing the research the funding is intended to support must use the section headers in sequence as ordered below. Applications that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. It is recommended that no more than four figures be used.

Section 1: Specific Aims (suggested length: one page)
Briefly introduce the problem to be addressed, providing the major reasons why the proposed research is an important question to study. Define the major hypothesis to be tested and list the specific aims proposed to test the hypothesis. Summarize the experiments proposed and explain how they will address the aims of the proposal.

Section 2: Background (suggested length: two pages)
Describe the background of the problem to be addressed, citing the appropriate literature. Introduce the subject area of the research, including sufficient background material to place the project in scientific perspective. Ensure that the significance of the scientific problem to be addressed and the potential impact of the research are clearly described.

Section 3: Supporting Data (suggested length: two and a half pages)
Provide any preliminary data pertinent to the proposed experiments. Present research data that the applicant has generated that is related to the proposal. Unpublished data or published data (with references) may be included. It is recommended that no more than three to four figures be used. The data in this section should support the major hypothesis of the proposed work.

Section 4: Experimental Plan (suggested length: two and a half pages)
Describe each proposed experiment in enough detail that reviewers can determine the feasibility of the methods and how they will address the hypothesis. For each experiment, outline the rationale for doing the experiment, possible 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.

References for the Project Description should be uploaded as a separate document as attachment type "References & List of Abbreviations/Acronyms" under the Attachments section in ProposalCentral.

I. BUDGET DETAIL

Please provide an itemized budget. Applicants must clearly indicate in the which PI is responsible for each requested line-item expense using the "Principal Investigator" dropdown in the application. The TRA provides $60,000 per year over two years (7/1/2027 - 6/30/2029). **These funds may be utilized at either the Initiating PI's institution or both the Initiating PI's and Partnering PI's institutions**. The total funds for Period 1 (7/1/2027 - 6/30/2028) must not exceed $60,000 split between the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI. The total funds for Period 2 (7/1/2028 - 6/30/2029) must not exceed $60,000 split between

the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI. The total funding amount to be disbursed for this award is $120,000 split between the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI.

It is the responsibility of the Initiating PI, the Partnering PI, and their respective institution(s) to determine the appropriate allocation of funds between the two investigators.

See Section I.D. for more information on allowable use of funds, prohibited use of funds and distribution of funding.

J. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Please review budget expense entries to ensure accuracy and provide brief descriptions of the purpose of the requested expenses in relation to the current research project needs.

K. INTERDISCIPLINARY STATEMENT

The Interdisciplinary Statement (7500-character limit) should describe the expertise of both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI. Clearly outline the role, contribution, and level of effort of each PI in the proposed research project. Explain how their complementary expertise strengthens the study design and enhances the ability to address the research question. Demonstrate how the interdisciplinary partnership will generate innovative insights, approaches, or solutions that would be difficult to achieve through a single-discipline effort, and justify why the proposed work is best conducted through this collaborative model.

L. RESEARCH FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

The Research Facilities and Environment Description should describe the laboratory facilities, faculty, and technical assistance available to conduct the proposed project, as well as its relation to the applicant's ongoing research program.

A Research Facilities and Environment Description is required for each institution in which the work will be conducted. Should the work only be conducted at the Initiating PI's institution, enter "N/A" in the second textbox in ProposalCentral.

M. PAST, CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT (PCPS)

Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI are required to submit a Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) document (three-page limit) for the past 3 years. In addition, if collaborators are included on the application, a PCPS for each collaborator must be submitted.

III. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Formatting Guidelines:

The following guidelines are applicable to all documents submitted for the application. Applications that do not abide by the formatting guidelines will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review.

Documents should use Times New Roman font in 12-point format with 1 to 1.5 inch margins. Paragraphs should be **single-spaced**, and figure/image legends/axes must be present and clearly visible. Letters from

collaborators (if applicable) and institution administrators, etc. must be submitted on official institution letterhead, include full credential lines, be signed, and dated.

Electronic Registration
Applicants must submit the application and all required documents electronically via ProposalCentral at https://proposalcentral.com/. Submission of materials via email, fax, or postal mail will **not** be accepted.

To prevent emails from ProposalCentral from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that applicants, individuals providing letters of support for the application, 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.

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the TRA application by clicking on the "Grant Opportunities" tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The application can be accessed by clicking the "Apply Now" button. The application sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of all materials, and that materials are received in full before the application deadline.

A. APPLICATION SECTIONS

1. **Title Page**
   - Provide a title for your application (do not use all capital letters).
2. **Download Templates**
   - **Award Agreement Form** – This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information, and submitted with the full proposal. An Award Agreement Form is required of both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI.
   - **Biosketch Template** – This is a reference document to assist applicants in completing a maximum **five (5)-page** biosketch. Please see current NIH biosketch guidelines for addition information.
   - **Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) Template** – This is a reference document to assist applicants and collaborator(s) (if applicable) in completing a maximum **three (3)-page** PCPS. Please see current NSF guidelines as a resource as needed.
3. **Enable Other Users to Access this Application** (optional)
   - This section allows the applicant to give other users access to the application (such as an administrator or collaborator), but it is not required.
4. **Applicant/ Initiating PI**
   - Applicants will need to toggle between their "Professional Profile" in ProposalCentral and sections of the application in order to reference and complete the required information.
   - This section will automatically fill with information associated with the Initiating PI's profile.
   - ORCID Identifier – In accordance with the NIH policy requiring ORCID identifiers from all applicants beginning October 2020 "to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes", all Urology Care Foundation award mechanisms will also require applicants to provide their ORCID.
   - NPI (National Provider Identifier), if applicable.

5. **Eligibility**
   - Enter AUA membership information if applicable. Membership is not required to apply but is required to accept any UCF research award.
   - Identify the performing/host institution and the AUA section it resides within. The performing/host institution is the primary location where the proposed research will be conducted. Applicants are not restricted to their home institution but must provide a letter of support from the location of the project.
     - 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.
6. **Institution & Contacts**
   - This information is automatically populated from the Initiating PI's institution selected in the Professional Profile and is where the funding will be sent by the AUA.
7. **Key Personnel**
   - Applicants must invite the Partnering PI to the application via the Key Personnel section. Add the email address of the Partnering PI and select "Partnering PI" for the role.
   - Applicants are required to identify additional key personnel. At minimum, the applicant is required to add the Partnering PI and Department Chair of both the Initiating PI and Partnering PI institutions. The applicant should add all collaborators, if relevant.
8. **Confidential Letters of Support**
   - This section enables the applicants to invite their Department Chairs and any additional letter writers (if applicable) to complete and submit their anonymous letters of support through ProposalCentral.
   - Letters of support must be on institutional letterhead and are required from both the Initiating PI's and the Partnering PI's Department Chair. See Section II.F.1. for additional information.
   - Once the applicant assigns a letter writer to their application, ProposalCentral will send an automated e-mail 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 applications at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support.
   - 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 application deadline for the application to be considered for funding**.**
9. **Project Information**
   - Applicants are required to provide a lay and technical abstract for the project requiring support and indicate the organ(s), disease(s), and proposal type most representative of the research project.
   - *By submitting the full application, the applicant gives consent for the use of the abstracts in UCF or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, and/or other media activities.*
10. **Interdisciplinary Statement**
    - Applicants are required to submit answers via text-form response questions in ProposalCentral.

11. **Budget Detail**
    - Please provide estimated costs for the requested support categories. Do not exceed $60,000 per year for two years.
    - *UCF funds cannot be used for institutional indirect costs, travel or registration/membership fees. For additional restrictions on funding usage, please see Section I.D.4.*

12. **Budget Justification**
    - Please review budget expense entries to ensure accuracy and provide brief descriptions of the purpose of the requested expenses in relation to the current research project needs. Note that total expenses across all categories and all years should not exceed the $120,000 provided by the UCF.
13. **Research Facilities and Environment Description**
    - Applicants are required to submit answers via text-form response questions in ProposalCentral. If both the Initiating PI's and Partnering PI's institution will be performing work, two descriptions are required. Should work only be performed at one institution, input "N/A" in the second textbox.

14. **Attachments**
    - *The application components previously detailed in Section II. and summarized below are available as attachment types and must be uploaded as PDF files adhering to the page limitations indicated in this program announcement. Pages in excess of the limitation for any component and/or any missing section may result in the application being removed from consideration.*
    - **Initiating PI Award Agreement Form**
    - **Initiating PI Biosketch**
    - **Initiating PI Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) Document**
    - **Partnering PI Award Agreement Form**
    - **Partnering PI Biosketch**
    - **Partnering PI PCPS Document**
    - **Collaborator Biosketch (if applicable)**
    - **Collaborator PCPS Document (if applicable)**
    - **Research Project Description**
    - **References & List of Abbreviations/Acronyms**
15. **Assurances & Certifications**
    - If applicable, provide required IRB and IACUC information.
16. **Validate**
    - This section will check for any required information or files missing from the application.
17. **Signature & Application Download**
    - Both the Initiating PI and Partnering PI are required to sign the application. Following signature, entire application package can be downloaded if desired.
18. **Submit**
    - Once submitted, additional changes cannot be made to the application unless released by the AUAER Office of Research. To contact the AUAER Office of Research regarding your application please refer to Section VII.

IV. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

An independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers will evaluate eligible applications. Each application is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process. Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure statement that all application 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, collaborator(s), and other individuals involved in or otherwise standing to benefit from the proposal's funding are **prohibited** from contacting individuals 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 application.

Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of applications deemed fundable, the most highly meritorious applications will be offered a TRA grant. Given the complexity of this process, 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 applications with the highest merit. All funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the AUAER Office of Research and approved by the AUAER Director of Research and the AUAER Research Council Chair.

B. REVIEW CRITERIA

All applications will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Applicant

- To what degree the applicant's achievements to date, stated career goals, and departmental letters of support indicate their potential for continued success in urology research.
- Whether the applicant's proposed level of effort is appropriate for the completion of the proposed work.

Institution

- To what degree the institution(s) provide a supportive environment with ongoing urologic disease research that will promote the advancement of urologic research.

Research Project Description

- To what degree the project will challenge existing paradigms, examine longstanding problems from new perspectives, or introduce novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, technologies, or interventions.
- To what degree the application is well organized and clearly presented.

Interdisciplinary Statement

- To what degree the complementary expertise strengthens the study design and enhances the ability to address the research question.
- To what degree does the statement demonstrate how the interdisciplinary partnership will generate innovative insights, approaches, or solutions that would be difficult to achieve through a single-discipline effort.

Past Current and Pending Support (PCPS)

- To what degree the PI with urologic expertise has been previously funded in the urology research space.
- To what degree the PI with the collaborating discipline expertise has been previously funded in the discipline's research space.

C. NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION REVIEW RESULTS

TRA applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email. 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. Please note that results will **not** be given over the phone.

Once selected for funding, both the Initiating PI and Partnering PI must:

- Send an email to grantsmanager@AUAnet.org to **confirm or decline the award within 48 hours**.
- Submit an updated PCPS to confirm that other funding has not been accepted for this project.
- Submit a **high-quality headshot** (file size typically ≥1MB) 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 UCF or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- **Confirm AUA membership** within a week of accepting the award.
- **Ensure that the correct individuals** (e.g., collaborators and/or administrators) are listed to have access to the award in ProposalCentral, if applicable.
- Attend the AUA Annual Meeting in San Diego, California (May 21-24, 2027), including the President's Reception and the Research Honors Reception. Recipients are responsible for all travel, registration, lodging, and other meeting-related expenses.

D. NOTICE OF AWARD

For applicants selected for funding, a Notice of Award letter will be issued prior to the payment to notify the awardee and institution(s) that an award has been made and to specify the terms and conditions of the award. The UCF and AUAER do not assume responsibility for activities that the TRA grant 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)

Awardees must provide a letter of approval or exemption from the local IRB if activities involving human subjects are planned during the period of performance. IRB letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of application submission. Should the application be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IRB approval or exemption letter by the AUAER Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the application submission system. **IRB approval or exemption documentation must be obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date**. The UCF and AUAER reserve the right to terminate the award if the above terms are not met. If payment is made before IRB approval is received, funds will be required to be returned.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Awardees must submit a letter of approval or exemption by the IACUC if activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the period of performance. IACUC letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of application submission. Should the application be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IACUC approval or exemption letter by the AUAER Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the application submission system. **IACUC**

approval or exemption documentation must be obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date. The UCF and AUAER reserve the right to terminate the award, if the above terms are not met. If payment is made before IACUC approval is received, funds will be required to be returned.

B. REPORTING

Failure to adhere to reporting requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation as requested by the AUAER Office of Research may result in a delay in payments of other awards to the institution or suspension of the awardee or institution from eligibility for subsequent UCF funding opportunities. Unless approved by the UCF and/or the AUAER Office of Research, failure to complete the duration of the research period will result in repayment of unspent funds to the UCF.

1. PUBLIC ACCESS PUBLISHING AND SHARING OF GRANT INFORMATION

All UCF awardees are subject to a public access policy.

The AUA and the UCF reserve the right to include information relating to the grant (such as the awardee name, project title and project abstract) in materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and the UCF, including periodic reports, newsletters or news releases, the website, or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and the UCF.

2. AWARDEE 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 or institution from eligibility for subsequent UCF funding opportunities. Unless approved by the UCF and/or the AUAER Office of Research, failure to complete the duration of the research period will result in repayment of unspent funds to the UCF.

Interim Report

Both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must submit an interim progress report by July 1 of the first funding year to the AUAER Office of Research via ProposalCentral. The second year of funding is contingent upon the receipt of a satisfactory progress report.

Final Report

Within 30 days of the end of the period of performance, both the Initiating PI and the Partnering PI must submit a final report via ProposalCentral.

3. INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT (IAR)

All financial and effort requirements as outlined in this Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award program announcement must be maintained throughout the award funding period. The Institutional Accountability Report (IAR) report re-affirms that the institution is adhering to all items of the Terms and Conditions. Further, institutions must attribute Urology Care Foundation funds as detailed in the submitted, and subsequently approved, Budget. Urology Care Foundation funds cannot be used for indirect costs or any prohibited items as outlined in Section I.D.4.. Failure to provide a timely and sufficient IAR and/or evidence of failure to support the awardee as approved can result in suspension of the institution from eligibility for subsequent Urology Care Foundation funding opportunities.

An IAR is required from any institution in which funds are distributed. If the application requires the funds to be sent to both the Initiating PI's and the Partnering PI's institutions, an IAR will be required from both institutions.

A final IAR must be submitted by the institution's Sponsored Programs Office via the application submission system either 30 days after the completion of the project or by the end date of the performance period, whichever occurs first.

4. OUTCOMES REPORTING

Following the completion of the period of performance, the AUAER 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.

5. CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION, PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION, OR FUNDING

Any changes impacting the research project (i.e., collaborator[s], key personnel, performing/host institution, available facilities, applicant contact information, etc.) that occur after the application submission deadline **MUST** be reported to the AUAER Office of Research. The AUAER Office of Research will review the situation and determine whether the submitted application may continue to peer review or must be withdrawn.

Requests to change the award applicant will result in automatic application withdrawal and/or award ineligibility. Requests for exemption will not be considered. All decisions made by the AUAER Office of Research are final.

If the applicant accepts pending funding after applying for the award (but before funding decisions have been made) that would cover the intended use of the TRA funds, the awardee **MUST** contact the AUAER Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. The AUAER Office of Research will review the competing funding and determine whether the submitted application may continue to peer review or must be withdrawn. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, applicants may be ineligible to apply for future UCF funding opportunities.

If the awardee is selected for any additional funding that would cover the intended use of the TRA funds from organizations other than the UCF after being selected, the awardee **MUST** immediately contact the AUAER Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, return of any used or unused funds may be required. **Please be aware that the AUAER Office of Research will be monitoring publicly available funding sources to help identify the receipt of new funding that may be in conflict with the TRA funds. If such funds are found and were not disclosed to the AUAER Office of Research within 30 days of receipt by the institution, the AUAER Office of Research reserves the right to request return of remaining funds and/or exclude the awardee and/or institution from consideration for future UCF research funding.**

C. SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Awardees are required to send electronic copies of articles published based on UCF funded research to the AUAER Office of Research at grantsmanager@AUAnet.org. Applicants submitting any publications or presentations arising from work supported in whole or in part by this award must include the following funder acknowledgment:

> "This work was supported in part by the Urology Care Foundation and the 2027 Johnson & Johnson Transformative Research Award."

D. AUAER AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the UCF coordinate several events designed to advance urologic research. These events are subject to change year after year and may be held during the AUA Annual Meeting and/or at AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland.

Awardees are required to attend the Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Reception held at the AUA Annual Meeting during the year of award completion, where they will present the results of their research project. The event will also provide opportunities to network with AUA and Urology Care Foundation leadership, other Foundation-supported research teams, and leaders in the field of urologic research.

VI. SCHOLAR TRAVEL PROGRAM

If institutions offer travel costs as part of their support, awardees should exhaust those funds before inquiring about availability of Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program.

The Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program is intended to provide opportunities for Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators to attend the AUA Annual Meeting. This program provides funds to awardees on a first come, first served basis each year.

Awardees are allowed to request up to **$1,000.00 USD** to attend the AUA Annual Meeting during the funding period. Contact AUAER Office of Research grants program staff at grantsmanager@auanet.org for more information on the program.

VII.CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUAER Office of Research. The preferred method of communication is email at grantsmanager@auanet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, may be directed to 410-689-4045. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Please allow two business days for response time.