



## 2026 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop Call for Applications

**Deadline: Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting applications for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2026 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 2-3, 2026, at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The workshop provides early career physician-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 program is designed for individuals planning to submit competitive research proposals to major federal and independent agencies funding urologic research.

Please direct any questions to Marielle Marktanner, Research Education Coordinator at [mmarktanner@auanet.org](mailto:mmarktanner@auanet.org).

### CURRICULUM

The program is designed to foster career success and hone successful grant writing skills. The program consists of the following elements:

- Mentorship
- Didactic Instruction (Virtual and Live)
- Specific Aims Workshop (Live Virtual)
- Grant Funding Mechanisms Webinar
- Individual and Small Group Proposal Review and Critiques with Senior Scientific Advisors
- Mock Study Section
- Grant Review/Revision

### ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be 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 CAREER MENTEE GROUP

This workshop's dual-track training program will provide the most relevant training experience to participants. All applicants will be reviewed and, if selected to attend the Early-Career Investigators Workshop, will be assigned to one of the following grant development groups:

- *Early-Career Mentee Group*: ACGME Residents, postdoctoral fellows, trainees currently enrolled in fellowship programs (e.g., K12, T32, U2C/TL1), and faculty seeking intensive training in grant development, who will not submit a career development or independent research grant application within 12-months after the workshop.
- *Advanced-Career Mentee Group*: Investigators in the process of preparing applications for K- or R-type research grants with submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2027. Applicants who wish to be considered for the *Advanced-Career Mentee Group* must:
  1. 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.
  2. Submit (or resubmit) their grant applications to the funding agency no later than the applicable



deadline in Spring or Summer 2027. Workshop participants must also provide a copy of their Aims page, Research Strategy, and Summary Statement (if the grant is revised) to the AUA Office of Research no later than December 31, 2027 to assist the AUA with tracking outcomes of the workshops and provide continuing mentorship. These documents are treated as confidential and will not be shared externally.

### COST

Workshop participants must pay the registration fee by **Friday, August 14, 2026**:

- \$480 registration fee for AUA members
- \$625 registration fee for non-AUA members

### TRAVEL

In 2026, the AUA will cover two (2) nights of lodging and provide meals on location during the workshop. Funding from the AUA for one roundtrip coach flight to/from the workshop may be covered pending external funding for the program, in compliance within AUA guidelines. The AUA will not support international travel beyond the geographic boundaries of its Sections.

All other expenses and meals outside of those provided during the workshop will be the responsibility of the workshop participant and will not be covered by the AUA.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be submitted by the applicant.
- Applications must be submitted in the “Letter of Intent” section in Proposal Central.
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- All applicants must submit the following application documents as prompted in the Proposal Central “Letter of Intent” section:
  1. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures (document can be downloaded from the application in Proposal Central)
  2. NIH-formatted biosketch or equivalent (*five-page maximum*) of the applicant 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. **Charts, photos, and/or figures are included in this one-page limit, please ensure it is not a crowded format.** For guidance, see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/advice-on-application-sections#specific-aims>
  4. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  5. Applicant personal statement (*one-page maximum*) that states the career goals of the applicant.
  6. Letter of Support (*two-page maximum*) from the applicant’s mentor detailing the research environment, institutional support, commitment to the applicant’s research and career development, and reasons why the applicant should be selected.
  7. (*Advanced-Career Mentee 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.
  8. (*Advanced-Career Mentee 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 APPLICATIONS

- APPLICANT
  1. The degree to which the applicant's achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
  2. The degree to which the applicant's stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout their career.
- LETTER OF SUPPORT
  1. The degree to which the letter of support indicates the high potential of the applicant for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.
- PROPOSED RESEARCH
  1. All Applicants: 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.
  2. Advanced-Career Mentee Group 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

Applications will be evaluated by the program faculty to determine candidate's acceptance, group assignment, and wait-list selections. Approximately 30 participants will be accepted into the program and all ECIW participants will be assigned to either the *Early-Career Mentee* or *Advanced-Career Mentee* group and will then be assigned their own faculty mentor. Group assignments are intended to ensure the participants' current grant status aligns with programmatic content and intent of the workshop.

Applicants will be notified of the selection decisions and group assignments via email by **Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP

The workshop faculty will review each candidate's proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop. *Advanced-Career Mentee* participants are expected to review and address the first round of faculty comments prior to the live workshop. 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-Career Mentee* participants will be expected to submit the proposal to the federal or independent funding agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2026.

- EARLY-CAREER MENTEE GROUP  
By **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, each *Early-Career Mentee* must submit a complete Specific Aims draft that incorporates the first round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor to AUA Staff. This will be utilized during the live ECIW Workshop on **October 2-3, 2026**.



- **ADVANCED-CAREER MENTEE GROUP**

By **August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**, each *Advanced-Career Mentee* must submit a complete Specific Aims draft that incorporates the first round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor to AUA Staff. This will be utilized during the Virtual Specific Aims Workshop on Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

By **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026** each *Advanced-Career Mentee* must submit a complete research proposal draft that incorporates the first round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor to AUA Staff 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

On **October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**, each *Advanced-Career Mentee* will present a 5-minutes pitch of their research proposals to the entire group and receive 2-minutes of faculty feedback. Additional instruction will be provided.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

The following due dates should be considered when submitting your application to the 2026 Early-Career Investigators Workshop. Failure to participate in workshop activities may result in removal from the program.

- **Virtual Specific Aims Workshop** on Friday, September 4, 2026 from 9:00am – 12:00pm ET
- **Grant Funding Mechanisms Webinar** on Thursday, September 24, 2026 from 4:00 – 6:30pm ET
- **Early-Career Investigators Workshop** (In-person) on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 ET

### **FACULTY**

Recruitment of faculty and speakers for 2026 is underway; 2025 Faculty Mentors included:

#### **FACULTY MENTORS:**

Rosalyn Adam, PhD – Boston Children's Hospital  
Christopher Barbieri, MD, PhD – Weill Cornell Medicine  
Tullika Garg, MD – Geisinger Health  
John Gore, MD, MS – University of Washington  
H. Henry Lai, MD – Washington University in St. Louis  
Dolores Lamb, PhD – Children's Mercy  
Erika Wolff, PhD – University of Washington  
Stephen Zderic, MD – The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

All questions regarding the 2026 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop may be directed to Marielle Marktanner, Research Education Coordinator via email at [mmarktanner@auanet.org](mailto:mmarktanner@auanet.org) or phone at (+1) 410-689-3771.



## 2026 EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE

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

<u>2026 TIMELINE</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Monday, March 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (63 days)	Application opens in Proposal Central.	
Monday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026 (4 weeks) <b>**14 days after AUA Annual Meeting</b>	Applications must be submitted in Proposal Central. Questions can be directed to Marielle Marktanner, Research Education Coordinator at <a href="mailto:mmarktanner@auanet.org">mmarktanner@auanet.org</a>	To be considered for the Advanced Career Mentee Group, submit additional materials as outlined above.
Monday, June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (2 weeks)	Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email.	Early and Advanced Career Mentee assignments will be announced at this time.
Monday, July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Advanced Career Mentees must submit a complete draft research proposal to AUA Staff.	Participants will submit a draft proposal that fulfills the requirements of their specific grant's program announcement.
Monday, July 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (7 weeks)	Early and Advanced Career Mentees and assigned mentors communicate by email and phone.	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.
Monday, August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2026 By 12pm ET (5 days)	Advanced Career Mentees must submit updated Specific Aims page to AUA Staff.	The Advanced Career Mentees' Specific Aims will be critiqued and reviewed by the Faculty and Moderators of the Virtual Specific Aims Workshop.
Friday, September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (20 days)	Virtual Specific Aims Workshop	Following the Virtual Specific Aims Workshop, Early Career Mentees must revise their Specific Aims and submit to AUA Staff by Friday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2026.
Thursday, September 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (8 days)	Grant Funding Mechanisms Webinar	



Friday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Advanced-Career Mentees must submit updated research proposals to AUA Staff.	Advanced Career Mentees will utilize feedback from their mentor and make edits to their grant proposals.
Friday, September 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 (3 days)	Early-Career Mentees must submit updated Specific Aims to AUA Staff.	Early Career Mentees will utilize feedback from their mentor and make edits to their Specific Aims page.
Monday, September 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 – Friday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2026	Faculty will review updated Early and Advanced-Career Mentees' materials prior to meeting in person at the workshop.	
Friday, October 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Saturday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2026	Early-Career Investigators Workshop	Held at American Urological Association Headquarters— Linthicum, MD.
Saturday, October 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2026	Advanced-Career Mentees will present a 5-minutes pitch of their research proposals and receive 2-minutes of faculty feedback.	
October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Early and Advanced Career Mentees are to submit their program evaluations in AUAU.	
Spring or Summer 2027	Advanced-Career Mentee Group participants submit grant proposals to funding agencies.	
December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2027	Advanced-Career Mentee Group participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research.	