



**2021 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
Call for Nominations
Due Monday, May 24, 2021**

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for **early-career investigators seeking success in research funding** to attend the 2021 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on October 7-9, 2021 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 geared 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.
- Not have 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 2022. 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.
 - ✓ In order for the AUA Office of Research to track outcomes of the workshops and provide continuing mentorship, Advanced Grant Development Group applicants are expected to submit (or resubmit) their grant applications to the NIH or other federal agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2022 and provide a copy of the application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research no later than December 31, 2022. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared externally.



COST

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. The **registration fee** will be paid after nominee reviews have been completed and the participants have been selected:

- **\$400** registration fee for AUA members
- **\$500** registration fee for non-AUA members

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

- ✓ All nominations must be submitted by the urology department of any institution within the boundaries of the eight sections of the AUA.
- ✓ Each department may nominate a maximum of two individuals.
- ✓ Nomination packages must be emailed to AKemp@auanet.org no later than **Monday, May 24, 2021**.
- ✓ Late submissions will not be considered.
- ✓ **All nominees must submit application documents in the following order**, combined into a single PDF file saved as: "Lastname.FirstInitial_2021ECIW.pdf" (For example: **Doe.J_2021ECIW.pdf**):
 1. Nominee Information Form (can be downloaded on the ECIW webpage) at <https://www.auanet.org/research/research-education-and-events/early-career-investigator-workshop>
 2. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures.
 3. NIH-formatted biosketch or curriculum vitae of the nominee.
 4. List and status of all extramural grant submissions for the past two years (if not included in the biosketch).
 5. 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>
 6. Nominee letter (one-page maximum) that:
 - States the career goals of the nominee, and
 - Explains the relevance of his/her research to the National Urology Research Agenda [https://www.auanet.org/research/research-publications/national-urology-research-agenda-\(nura\)](https://www.auanet.org/research/research-publications/national-urology-research-agenda-(nura))
 7. Letter of Support (two-page maximum) from the nominee's urology department chair or mentor detailing the research environment, institutional support, commitment to the nominee's research and career development, and reasons why the nominee should be selected.
 8. **(ADVANCED group only)** A preliminary Research Proposal that contains, at minimum, a hypothesis and experimental plan outline. Other sections may include background and experimental plan. **The Research Proposal must be at least four pages, not including references cited.**
 9. **(ADVANCED 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
 - To what degree the nominee's achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
 - To what degree the nominee's stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout their career.
- Letter of Support
 - To what degree the letter indicates the high potential of the nominee for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.
- Proposed Research
 - (*All nominees*): To what degree 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**)
 - To what degree the PI is well suited to the project or the project can be modified to better suit the experience and training of the PI.
 - To what degree 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.
 - To what degree the scientific environment in which the work will be conducted contribute 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 **Friday, June 18, 2021**.

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP

By **Monday, July 12, 2021** 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 coming to the 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 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 2021.



CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✓ All **nomination packages** should be emailed, as per the above-mentioned guidelines, to:
AKemp@auanet.org
- ✓ All **questions** regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:
Alicia Kemp
AUA Research, Quality, and Scientific Affairs Division Project Coordinator
Email: AKemp@auanet.org
Office Telephone: (410) 689-4016

FACULTY

Recruitment of faculty and speakers for 2021 is underway. 2020 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

FACULTY MENTORS:

Rosalyn M. Adam, PhD, *Boston Children's Hospital*
Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD, *Johns Hopkins University*
Toby Chai, MD, *Boston University School of Medicine, Boston Medical Center*
John Gore, MD, MS, *University of Washington*
John Hollingsworth, MD, *University of Michigan*
David Jarrard, MD, *University of Wisconsin*
Steven Kaplan, MD, *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai*
Dolores J. Lamb, PhD, HCLD (ABB), *Weill Cornell Medical College*
Dirk Lange, PhD, *University of British Columbia; Stone Centre at Vancouver General Hospital*
John Leppert, MD, MS, *Stanford University*
Aria F. Olumi, MD, *Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School*
David Penson, MD, MPH, MMHC, *Vanderbilt University Medical Center*
Gail Prins, PhD, *University of Illinois, Chicago*
Chris Saigal, MD, MPH, *University of California, Los Angeles*
Erika Wolff, PhD, *University of Washington*
Stephen Zderic, MD, *Children's Hospital of Philadelphia*

SPEAKERS:

Theresa Miller, PhD, *DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)*
Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH, *American Cancer Society (ACS)*
Candace L. Kerr, PhD, *National Institute on Aging (NIA)*
Susan Lim, PhD, *National Cancer Institute (NCI)*
Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH, *National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)*
Susan Taymans, PhD *National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)*



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.

2021 timeline	Due	Notes
Monday, May 24	Nomination Packages Submitted to AKemp@auanet.org	To be considered for the <i>Advanced Grant Development</i> Group, submit additional materials as outlined above
Friday, June 18	Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email	Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time
Monday, July 12	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participant must submit a complete draft research proposal to AKemp@auanet.org	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.
July 15- September 12	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participant and assigned mentor communicate by email and phone and/or in person at the AUA Annual Meeting in Las Vegas (September 10-12)	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.
Monday, September 20	Early Grant Development Group participant must submit updated Specific Aims page to AKemp@auanet.org	Participants will be assigned faculty mentors for small group mentoring sessions at the workshop
Monday, September 20	Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit updated research proposal to AKemp@auanet.org and assigned faculty mentor	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participant will utilize feedback from mentor and make edits to grant proposal. Faculty will review updated grants prior to meeting in person at the workshop.
October 7-9	Early-Career Investigators Workshop	Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland
Spring or Summer 2022	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies	
December 31, 2022	<i>Advanced Grant Development Group</i> participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research	