



American
Urological
Association

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

Advancing Urology
through Research

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

2023 Boston Scientific Medical Student Innovation Fellowship

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, December 1, 2022

Peer Review: February – March 2023

Funding Notification: April 2023

Award Period: July 2023 - June 2024

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I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION MENTORED RESEARCH AWARDS

The mission of the Urology Care Foundation, the official foundation of the American Urological Association (AUA), is to support the improvement of urological care by funding research, developing patient education, advancing humanitarian initiatives and pursuing philanthropic support. Having recognized a major need to support the future of the urologic research workforce, the Urology Care Foundation offers a portfolio of mentored research training awards designed to recruit promising young physicians and investigators into urologic research and foster their career success.

These awards are administered by the AUA Office of Research, with funding provided by the Urology Care Foundation and partner organizations and sponsors. The AUA Office of Research was created in 2001 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 merit of each project as well as the applicant's potential to become a future research leader.

The AUA and its Urology Care Foundation are committed to promoting diversity within the urologic research workforce. Information related to the applicant's race/ethnicity and sex is collected during the proposal process to assess these efforts but is de-identified for all reporting purposes. In the event that an available research award is restricted to applicants of a particular race/ethnicity or sex, this information may be taken into consideration during the award selection process. Neither the Urology Care Foundation nor the AUA Office of Research discriminate as to age, race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, citizenship or national origin in the selection of participants in Urology Care Foundation grant programs.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

Established in 2022, the Boston Scientific Medical Student Innovation Fellowship program supports current or matriculating medical students interested in translating urology research into innovation by engaging them in a fellowship mentored by world-class urologic scientists.

The fellowship provides the recipient a \$20,000 stipend for a 12-month mentored research experience. Further, the fellowship provides recipients the unique opportunity to interact with the research and development operations of the award sponsor via an organized site visit and continuing education sessions specific to the awardee project.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT

To be eligible to compete for a 2023 fellowship, applicants must be either a current or matriculating medical student at an accredited institution within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Information about AUA Sections can be found at <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>. Applicants who are not AUA members at the time of submission must commit to applying for membership in the event of receiving an award offer.

Applicants must be able to dedicate **100%** of their efforts to the fellowship (i.e., may not hold other concurrent academic or clinical commitments), which must last 12 months during the anticipated award period of July 1,

2023, to June 30, 2024. Applicants unable to dedicate 100% time or less than the required months for the fellowship duration will not be considered eligible.

Applicants from groups underrepresented in the scientific and medical workforce including women and racial/ethnic minorities¹ will receive priority consideration for available fellowships.

Applicants who have completed or are enrolled in a dual-degree MD/PhD program in a biomedical research-related field are ineligible. Applicants who have completed all training and coursework for a MD degree are ineligible. Applicants who are enrolled in medical school and holding a PhD unrelated to biomedical research are eligible to apply.

Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens but must have valid Social Security numbers for Internal Revenue Service purposes. Applicants that previously received and completed a Urology Care Foundation Summer Medical Fellowship in good standing, and meet all remaining eligibility criteria are permitted to apply

2. MENTOR

Applicants must have at least one mentor supervising the proposed research project.

Mentor(s) must possess a strong track record of achievement in urologic research and must be a currently funded, established physician-scientist or other researcher with a strong track record of achievement in urologic research. Mentors must also demonstrate experience in mentoring of research trainees. The Mentor must be able to expose the Fellow to basic, translational, or clinical research in an area of urology research.

3. INSTITUTION

Unless otherwise stated, the fellowship may occur at any institution, provided the host institution is accredited and resides within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Information about AUA Sections can be found at <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>.

Host institutions must sponsor the candidate by guaranteeing adequate support, including a suitable research environment, laboratory equipment, and supplies needed to conduct the research. Further, host institutions must demonstrate support of the candidate by matching \$20,000 in funding toward the candidate's research project, living expenses, or other costs directly necessary to facilitate the 12-month fellowship. Institutional indirect costs are not allowed.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

One award is available for the 2023 Boston Scientific Medical Student Innovation Fellowship competition.

Funding is available for projects conducting innovative research in all urologic disease areas and organ systems. Projects addressing issues related to healthcare disparities among minority populations will receive priority consideration.

¹ The following racial and ethnic groups are considered underrepresented in biomedical research: Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Pacific Islanders. *National Institutes of Health, Office of the Director, Scientific Workforce Diversity Populations Underrepresented in the Extramural Scientific Workforce*
<https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>

2. CONCURRENT FUNDING

Applicants may not simultaneously hold other grants, awards, or obligations requiring a time commitment during the proposed fellowship period. Recipients are required to maintain 100% effort devoted to the fellowship during the award period.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation funds will be paid to the host institution via wire transfer in one installment in July 2023 or within 30 days of a fully executed Notice of Award agreement. The Urology Care Foundation does not withhold taxes from awards (i.e., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes). It is the awardee's responsibility to ensure appropriate accounting for federal and local taxes.

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting a complete proposal. Applicants should review this Program Announcement in its entirety to understand and begin preparing the required components.

Applicants are required to submit the full proposal by Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the proposal submission system, including those requested from the mentor(s), additional letters of support, and letters from collaborators if applicable, prior to the proposal deadline. Applicants should allow ample time for compiling and submitting materials.

Electronic Registration

Applicants must submit all required documents electronically via ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. **To prevent emails from ProposalCentral from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that applicants, individuals providing letters of support for the proposal, 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.

B. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applications violating any of the following conditions are deemed noncompliant and thus will not be advanced for review and are ineligible for award consideration. Attempts to appeal noncompliance decisions will not be considered and final determination is at the sole discretion of the AUA Office of Research.

- Research Project Descriptions over the prescribed page limits
- Applicant biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor letter of support not included in submission materials

Further, any items in excess of the prescribed page limits will be reduced to the appropriate limit without other edits (e.g., not rewritten or copy edited), and the shortened file will be added into the submission.

C. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the 2023 Boston Science Medical Student Innovation Fellowship by clicking on the "Grant Opportunities" tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The proposal can be accessed by clicking the "Apply Now" button. **The proposal sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section.**

D. PROPOSAL SECTIONS

1. Title Page

- Provide a title for your proposal and list the year you anticipate graduating medical school.

2. Download Templates

- Proposal Agreement Form – This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information, and submitted with the full proposal. It is provided here to give the applicant ample time to complete.
- Biosketch Template – This is a reference document to assist applicants in completing a biosketch. Applicants may also visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for current NIH biosketch guidelines.

3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

- This section allows the applicant to give other users access to the grant proposal, but it is not required.

4. Applicant/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.
- ORCID Identifier- In concurrence with the National Institutes of Health policy requiring ORCID iDs from all applicants beginning October 2020 “to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes” (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-109.html>), all Urology Care Foundation award mechanisms will also require applicants to provide ORCID iDs. Applicants may register for ORCID iDs at <https://orcid.org/>.

5. Eligibility

- AUA Section Information: Applicants should select the AUA Section in which the proposed research will be conducted. **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** (see <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>).

6. Institution & Contacts

- This information is automatically populated from the applicant’s institution selected in the Professional Profile. Applicants should confirm that the Lead Institution is correct.

7. Key Personnel

- Each applicant must have a primary mentor. More than one mentor is permitted and recommended if the project is highly translational or multidisciplinary.
- Applicants are required to identify their mentor(s) and any additional letter of support writers for the proposed project. These individuals should be the same as those who will be writing the required confidential letters of support described below; however, this section does not prompt them to submit their required letters of support.
- Each mentor must complete the required mentor sections within the Proposal Agreement Form.

8. Confidential Letters of Support

- This section enables the applicants to invite their mentor(s) to complete and submit their required letters of support through ProposalCentral. **Applicants should complete this immediately upon gaining access to the full proposal.**
- Once the applicant assigns a letter writer to their proposal, 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 proposals 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 proposal deadline for the proposal to be considered for funding.

9. Project Information

- Applicants are required to provide a lay and technical abstract for the proposed project. By submitting the full proposal, the applicant gives consent for the use of the abstracts in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.

10. Budget Detail

- Please provide project start and stop date in this section. Fellowships must be 12-months long to be considered eligible.

11. Budget Summary

- No action is required in this section.

12. Upload Proposal Attachments Here

The components detailed below must be uploaded as PDF files and adhere to the specific page limitations indicated. Pages in excess of the limitation for any component and/or any missing section may result in the proposal being removed from consideration.

Formatting Guidance: Times New Roman font in 12-point format is recommended, although other fonts will be accepted. Proposals that use less than a 10-point font and less than half inch margins, or include illegible figure legends, may not be forwarded to peer review. Paragraphs should be single-spaced. Each document and section(s) should be clearly indicated with a header. Legibility can influence proposal evaluation.

▪ **Proposal Agreement Form**

This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information. Primary mentors are required to describe their involvement in the development of the proposal. All information should be typed into the Proposal Agreement Form (illegible information will not be accepted). The Proposal Agreement Form may be downloaded from the Download Templates.

▪ **Applicant Biosketch / Resume** (two pages)

Applicants must include a NIH style biosketch including descriptions of any research experience as well as research interests and career goals. A template is provided in the Download Templates section.

If an applicant does not have a biosketch, a resume or curriculum vitae including the same information and abiding the same page limits will be accepted.

▪ **Mentor Biosketch(es)** (five pages per biosketch)

An NIH-style biosketch is required for each mentor.

▪ **Mentor Letter(s) of Support** (two pages per letter)

- The proposal must contain **one letter of support from each project mentor** on institutional letterhead. Per section II, subsection C, item 8, mentors will upload letters anonymously via link that is auto generated and distributed after the mentor e-mail is added to ProposalCentral. If the primary mentor letter of support is not received by the proposal deadline, the proposal will not be reviewed.
- The letter(s) should clearly demonstrate the mentor's support of both the applicant and research project. Letters should demonstrate the mentor has the expertise required to provide sufficient

scientific guidance and oversight for the respective portions of the research project and training. Descriptions of the research project and plans for student development (e.g., participation in seminars, courses, grant writing, manuscript preparation, or other research-related activities) must be included.

- **Research Facilities and Environment Description** (one page)

Describe the facilities, faculty, technical assistance, and relationship to mentor's ongoing research program.

- **Research Project Description** (two pages)

All figures and tables must be included within the two-page limit for the Research Project Description. **It is recommended that no more than three to four figures be used.**

- Section 1: Specific Aims

State the project's aims/objectives and the approach(es) to be used to accomplish the objectives. A brief timeline for the project is recommended.

- Section 2: Background

Describe the background of the problem the project will address, citing the appropriate literature as needed. Introduce the subject area of the research, including sufficient background to place the project in perspective.

- Section 3: Impact

Describe the project's potential impact on urologic research and/or patient care. Also, detail how the project will encourage the applicant to ultimately pursue a career in academic urology.

- Note: The description should clearly state how the applicant will allocate their time (indicate 100% level of effort, plus individual activities to be conducted) for the duration of the award period.

- Section 4: References

A bibliography, references cited, and/or abbreviations page may be included at the end of the Research Project Description. Reference pages do not count towards the two-page limit.

- **Innovation Statement**

Describe the nature of the innovation gained from the proposed research project, specifically outlining how the project stands to forward the current standards of research, clinical practice, and/or patient outcomes.

- **Applicant Career Plan**

The Applicant Career Plan is limited to one page. The applicant will also be expected to address how this award has helped further his or her educational and career goals, which may include presentation or publication opportunities related to their research.

13. Validate

- This section will check for any required information or files missing from the proposal.

14. Print Full Proposal with Uploads

- This enables the applicant to download the entire proposal package for their records.

15. Submit

- Please note that once submitted, additional changes cannot be made to the proposal unless released by the Office of Research. To contact the AUA Office of Research regarding your proposal please refer to section V.

III. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals are evaluated by a peer review panel of established physician-scientists and researchers. The review panel will be diverse in terms of gender, race/ethnicity, and scientific expertise. Each proposal is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of proposals deemed fundable, the most highly meritorious proposals will be matched to available awards. All funding decisions must be approved by the AUA Director of Research and AUA Chair of Research.

All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process. Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure policy that proposal and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the peer review panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the voiding of peer review results and other corrective actions. In addition, the applicant, mentor(s), and other individuals involved in or otherwise standing to benefit from the proposal's funding are prohibited from contacting persons involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the disqualification of the proposal.

B. REVIEW CRITERIA

All proposals will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Applicant

- To what degree the applicant's achievements to date, stated career goals, and mentor Letter(s) of Support indicate his or her potential for a successful career in academic urology.
- Applicants from groups underrepresented in the scientific and medical workforce including women and racial/ethnic minorities will receive priority consideration for available fellowships.

Mentor(s)

- To what degree the mentor(s) has/have demonstrated strong support for both the research project and the applicant as evidenced by a strong mentor Letter(s) of Support, apparent guidance in preparation of the proposal, and design (appropriate objectives, methods, timeframe) of the proposed research project.
- To what degree the mentor(s) has the required expertise and track record, especially in relation to urologic research, to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the research project and training.

Institution

- To what degree the institution provides a training environment with ongoing urologic disease research that will promote the development of the applicant.

Research Project

- To what degree the proposed project is focused on a significant problem in urologic research.
- To what degree is the project innovative.
- To what degree the research project and training are appropriately designed and will provide the applicant with an experience to promote the development of a successful career in urologic research.

- To what degree the proposal is well organized, clearly presented, and suggests the applicant's ability to think clearly and to present an argument in a logical, compelling way.
- Proposals addressing issues related to healthcare disparities among minority populations will receive priority consideration.

C. NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL REVIEW RESULTS

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email. **To prevent e-mails 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.

Applicants selected for funding must:

- Confirm or decline the funding within **48 hours**.
- Submit a high-quality headshot (file size typically ≥ 1 MB) in professional dress or laboratory/white coat via ProposalCentral within a week of accepting the award. With the submission of this photo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- Confirm AUA membership **within a week** of being notified of funding:
 - Submit your AUA membership ID number into ProposalCentral.
 - If you are not already an AUA member, apply for membership and submit proof of application via ProposalCentral (screenshots of submitted/confirmed applications are acceptable).
- Ensure that the correct individuals (e.g., mentors) are listed to have access to the award in ProposalCentral, if applicable.

D. NOTICE OF AWARD

For applicants selected for funding, a Notice of Award letter will be issued prior to the first payment to notify the awardee that an award has been made and to specify the terms and conditions of the award.

IV. 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 proposed research. IRB letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of proposal submission. Should the proposal be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IRB approval or exemption letter by the AUA Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the proposal submission system. **IRB approval or exemption documentation must be obtained prior, to the award performance period start date. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award if the above terms are not met.**

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 research. IACUC letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of proposal submission. Should the proposal be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IACUC approval or exemption letter by the AUA Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the proposal submission system. **IACUC approval or exemption documentation must be**

obtained prior, to the award performance period start date. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award, if the above terms are not met.

B. 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, mentor(s), or institution from eligibility for subsequent Urology Care Foundation funding opportunities. Unless approved by the Urology Care Foundation, failure to complete the duration of the research period will result in repayment of unspent funds to the Urology Care Foundation.

1. PUBLIC ACCESS PUBLISHING AND SHARING OF GRANT INFORMATION

All Urology Care Foundation awardees are subject to a public access policy. In addition, the AUA is a member of the Health Research Alliance (HRA)—a national consortium of non-governmental, nonprofit funders of biomedical research and training—and has agreed to deposit grant information in the HRA database of privately funded grants, HRA Reporter.

The AUA and its Urology Care Foundation reserve the right to include information relating to the grant (such as the grantee name and project title) in materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and Urology Care Foundation, including periodic reports, newsletters or news releases, the website, or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation. The following award information will be provided to the HRA Reporter database and **may be shared with the public**: investigator name, degrees, clinical specialty if applicable, institution, project title, abstract, grant start date and duration, grant amount and ORCID iD of the investigator if applicable. HRA aggregates these data for its member organizations and for periodic publication of findings (see <https://www.healthra.org/hra-platforms/hra-reporter-public/> for more information).

2. PROGRESS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Interim Progress Reports

Awardee

The awardee interim report is due via ProposalCentral by December 31, 2023, and include all information outlined in the Notice of Award.

Mentor

The mentor interim report should be approximately one page and evaluate the awardee's performance, progress on the funded research, and any other information outlined in the Notice of Award. The mentor should also note how the awardee will maintain the required 100% effort through the remaining six months of the award period. Report materials are due via ProposalCentral by December 31, 2023, and include all information outlined in the Notice of Award.

Institution

Institutions must submit an Accountability Report by January 31, 2024, detailing expenses attributed to the award from July to December 2023 as part of the Interim Progress Report package. This report re-affirms the institution is adhering to all terms of the award, especially the provisions of institutional support and level of effort requirements. Reports must detail all expenses attributed to the award and detail any unspent Urology Care Foundations funds.

Closeout Progress Reports

Awardee

Within 30 days of the completion of the funded project, but no later than July 31, 2024, the awardee must submit a final report via the ProposalCentral which must include the following information:

- Summarize the main focus of the research, clearly state the findings, and specify how the research results met the objectives established in the proposal (two-page maximum).
- Include a personal statement detailing the awardee's experience during the award period, how the funding provided by Urology Care Foundation helped the awardee's overall professional growth (i.e., research experience, potential research focus), and whether the awardee plans to continue within the field of urologic research (one-page maximum).
- List and describe any outcomes that were supported in whole or in part by the Urology Care Foundation funds, such as conference abstracts, presentations, and journal manuscripts published or in press.

Mentor

Within 30 days of the completion of the funded project, but no later than July 31, 2024, the primary mentor must submit a final report via the ProposalCentral which must include a confidential statement (one-page maximum) evaluating the awardee's performance during the research project and promise as a future physician scientist.

Institution

Within 30 days of the completion of the funded project, but no later than July 31, 2024, institutions must submit a final Accountability Report in the Closeout Progress Report package. This report re-affirms the institution is adhering to all terms of the award, especially the provisions of institutional support and level of effort requirements. Reports must detail all expenses attributed to the award and detail any unspent Urology Care Foundations funds.

3. OUTCOMES REPORTING

Following the completion of the project period, the AUA Office of Research may contact previous awardees to collect additional award outcomes information including, but not limited to, publications, funding, invited speakerships and presentations, mentorship, and leadership positions within the AUA or affiliated organizations.

C. AUA AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation coordinate several events designed to advance urologic research and provide educational venues, especially for early-career investigators. These events are held during the AUA Annual Meeting and at AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. Award recipients are highly encouraged to attend the following events and should refer to the Notice of Award for additional information.

AUA Annual Meeting

- Basic Sciences Symposium
- Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium
- Early-Career Investigators Showcase
- Early-Career Scientists Exchange
- Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing Workshop
- Urologic Oncology Research Symposium

AUA Headquarters

- Early-Career Investigators Workshop
- Co-Sponsored Research Symposia

V. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement and proposal content, or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Office of Research at research@AUAnet.org. Assistance is available 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time Monday through Friday from. Please allow for a 48-hour response time.