



2026 AUA Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Program Call for Applications

Deadline: December 15, 2025

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting applications for the 2026/27 cohort of the Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) program. This cornerstone mentorship program is designed for the entire spectrum of urology researchers: from early-career clinical urologists seeking to incorporate impactful research into their career trajectory to basic and translational research scientists focused on exploring urological disease pathologies.

The USMART program emphasizes individualized mentor-to-mentee placement and relationship building, fostering facilitating to enhance career development of emerging urologic investigators.

ELIGIBILITY

Each applicant must...

- Be an AUA-member in good standing.
- **MD (or equivalent) Degree Candidate Eligibility:**
Applicants must be within eight (8) years of completing ACGME (or equivalent) residency training. Thus, current ACGME residents are not eligible, while current ACGME and non-ACGME clinical fellows *are eligible*.
- **PhD (or equivalent) Degree Candidate Eligibility:**
Applicants must be within ten (10) years of completing terminal degree.
- **Other Important Eligibility Criteria:**
For candidates holding dual MD and PhD degrees, the above eligibility criteria most applicable to the nominee is permissible for consideration.

AUA MEMBERSHIP

- All individuals who are not AUA members at the time of application must secure and maintain AUA membership if selected to receive a USMART Academy mentee position. Proof of AUA membership must be provided to the AUA Office of Research. Additional information about AUA membership can be found at: <https://www.auanet.org/membership>
- Applicants must be affiliated with an institution located within the boundaries of the [AUA Sections](#). Before applying to the USMART Academy, ensure that your institution meets this criterion. To see if your institution falls within the approved sections, more information can be found here: <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applicants must fill out a brief online application describing their urologic research interests and work to date, mentorship expectations, and their career plans. Applicants must also submit an electronic version of their NIH-style biosketch, in accordance with current NIH biosketch guidelines (five-page maximum) located at:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biosketch>



APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

An independent peer review panel will evaluate the USMART applications. Each application is considered according to the criteria for review of applications.

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, mentor(s), and other individuals involved 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 application.

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF APPLICANTS

All applications will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

- The degree to which the applicant articulated how the addition of an external mentor would increase their potential for a successful career in urologic research.
- The degree to which the applicant's current research and five-year plan support the applicant's potential for a successful career in urologic research.
- The degree to which the applicant's commitment to continue striving for success in academic or community-based urologic research is demonstrated.

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Fifteen (15) mentee positions are anticipated to be available for the 2026 USMART program. Availability of mentee positions may subject to change, and is contingent upon mentor availability. Final determinations regarding mentee positions will be made at the time of mentee selection. Applicants with research interests across all urologic disease areas and research types (basic, translational, clinical, and health services/outcomes) will be considered for this program.

Applicants will be notified of the selection decisions by: **Friday, February 13, 2026.**

Please note: Participation in the USMART program does not include financial compensation of any kind. Participation in virtual and/or in-person USMART Academy events is at the individual's expense.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE PROGRAM

Applicants selected to the USMART program will be notified of their mentor match by: **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**

Upon being matched with their mentor, both mentor and mentee will be provided with guidance for a successful mentoring relationship, including among the recommended areas of collaboration, frequency of communication, and more. Both parties will be expected to uphold these over the course of the USMART program.

AUA Staff will be sending touchpoint emails and check-in surveys. Please refer to the Program Timeline for more details about when these will be forthcoming. Failure to abide by the reporting requirements in a timely fashion and/or provide the requested documentation may result in removal from the USMART program.



SAVE THE DATES

TBD March 2026

May 15-18, 2025

USMART Onboarding Orientation Call

AUA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

FACULTY

The USMART Program Chair is LaMonica Stewart, PhD.

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

FACULTY MENTORS

Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD – University of Pennsylvania

Toby Chai, MD – Boston University

J. Quentin Clemens, MD – University of Michigan

Gabriel Haas, MD – Astellas

James Hotelling, MD – University of Utah

Danil Makarov, MD – New York University

Todd Morgan, MD - University of Michigan

Aria Olumi, MD – Harvard University

Nima Sharifi, MD – University of Miami

FOLLOWING PROGRAM COMPLETION

Following the completion of the USMART Program, the AUA Office of Research reserves the right to contact previous USMART mentees to collect additional information including, but not limited to grant funding, invited speakerships and presentations, mentorship, publications, and leadership positions within the AUA or affiliated organizations, to report on program outcomes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All questions regarding the 2026 USMART Program may be directed to Marielle Marktanner, Research Education Coordinator via email at mmarktanner@auanet.org or phone at (+1) 410-689-3771.



2026-27 USMART TIMELINE

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

<u>2025 TIMELINE</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>TIME ALOTTED</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
November 3, 2025	Mentee Applications open in AUAnet.	6 weeks for applicants to submit applications.	
December 15, 2025 (9 weeks)	Application deadline.	9 weeks until Mentees informed of program selection.	
February 13, 2026	Mentees informed of program selection.	3-4 weeks until the Onboarding Orientation.	
March 2-13, 2026	Mentee Onboarding Orientation Call.	2-3 weeks until Mentee-Mentor matches are confirmed and announced.	To be held via Zoom.
March 31, 2026	Mentee-Mentor Matching and Introduction	2 months until Annual Meeting.	Mentees and Mentors are to begin working together and meeting virtually.
May 15-18, 2026	Attend AUA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.	2-3 months until 1 st touchpoint with AUA staff to check-in on program.	Look out for USMART Meet-and-Greet information prior to AUA2026.
July 6-13, 2026	Mentor-Mentee Email Touchpoint #1	2-3 months until program halfway survey.	To be sent via email.
September 1-11, 2026	Mentee Program Evaluation Survey (#1) Period	2-3 months until 2 nd touchpoint with AUA staff to check-in on program.	To be sent via SurveyMonkey.
December 1-11, 2026	Mentor-Mentee Email Touchpoint #2	2-3 months until program evaluation survey.	To be sent via email.
February 8 - 19, 2027	Mentee Program Evaluation Survey (#2) Period	2 weeks until Mentee Program Evaluation Call.	To be sent via SurveyMonkey.
February/March 2027	Please expect to receive a USMART Meet-and-Greet Invitation.		Event to be held at AUA2027.
March 1-5, 2027	Mentee Program Evaluation Call	1-2 months until Annual Meeting.	To be held via Zoom.
April/May 2027	Attend AUA Annual Meeting.		