2017 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop Call for Nominations

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting nominations for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2017 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held September 22–24, 2017 at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. Approximately 30 nominees will be selected to participate in the workshop, which includes activities prior to and following the meeting, to maximize potential for funding success. **Nominations must be received no later than Friday, March 31, 2017.**

**BACKGROUND**
Nurturing the success of early-career investigators in urologic research is a major goal of the AUA Office of Research and the AUA Research Council. The collaborative Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW) provides an opportunity for promising junior investigators in urologic research (MD and PhD or equivalents) to receive individualized mentoring, insights into the scientific review process, information about independent funding sources, and grant writing guidance. The goal of the workshop is to motivate and support surgeon-scientists and researchers in the early stages of their careers by providing an outstanding career development program led by established, well-funded investigators in urologic research. 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 provide participants with a solid foundation for successful grant writing. The workshop and activities include interaction with senior scientific advisors in small group and individual sessions. The program consists of four major components (full agenda provided in Appendix 1):
- Didactic
- Individual Proposal Review and Critique
- Grant Review/ Revision
- Mock Study Section

**COST**
A $400 registration fee is required for participation in the workshop and its activities. 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.

**ELIGIBILITY**
All nominees must meet the following eligibility criteria by the application submission deadline:
- Be active in urologic research as evidenced by involvement in laboratory- or clinic-based urologic research projects.
- Not have previously received extramural R01 or independent investigator funding as a Principal Investigator.
ELIGIBILITY (continued)

Advanced vs. Early: A dual-track training program has been incorporated into the workshop to provide the best possible training experience. 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 for 12-24 months after the workshop.

- **Advanced Grant Development Group**: investigators in the process of preparing applications for K- or R-type research grants no later than submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2018.
  - 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 2018 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, 2018. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared externally.

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 research@auanet.org no later than Friday, March 31, 2017. 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_2017ECIW.pdf” (For example: Doe.J_2017ECIW.pdf):

1. Nominee Information Form (can be downloaded on the ECIW webpage at http://www.auanet.org/research/early-career-investigators-workshop.cfm)
2. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures
3. Curriculum vitae or NIH-format biosketch of the nominee (five-page maximum)
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 they are considering 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
   - Explains the relevance of his/her research to the National Urology Research Agenda (http://www.auanet.org/research/national-urology-research-agenda.cfm).
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.

➢ To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, nominees must also submit:

8. 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. 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
  o To what degree the nominee’s achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
  o To what degree the nominee’s stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout his or her career.

• Letter of Support
  o To what degree the letter indicates the high potential of the nominee for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.

• Proposed Research
  o (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.
  o (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 assist in determination of program acceptance 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, April 28, 2017.
PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP

By **Friday, June 16, 2017**, each selected *Advanced Grant Development Group* participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that includes the following elements:

- Specific Aims
- Background
- Supporting Data
- Experimental Plan
- References
- 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. 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 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION

All nomination packages should be emailed, as per the above-mentioned guidelines, to: research@auanet.org

All questions regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:

Julia Gumminger, MA, MSEd
Research Education and Events Manager, Office of Research
American Urological Association
Office Telephone: (410) 689-3806
Email: jgumminger@auanet.org
**EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE**

Applicants that fail to meet the following deadlines will be dropped from the workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017 Timelines:</th>
<th>Due:</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, March 31</td>
<td>Nomination Packages Submitted</td>
<td>To be considered for the <em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em>, submit additional materials as outlined above.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 28</td>
<td>Nominees will be notified of the selection decisions via email.</td>
<td>Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, June 16</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participant must submit a complete draft research proposal.</td>
<td>The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, August 11</td>
<td><em>Early Grant Development Group</em> participant must submit updated Specific Aims</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, September 22-Sunday, September 24</td>
<td>Early-Career Investigators Workshop</td>
<td>Held at American Urological Association Headquarters—Linthicum, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring or Summer 2018</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31, 2018</td>
<td><em>Advanced Grant Development Group</em> participants provide copy of grant application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research</td>
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FACULTY
Recruitment of faculty advisors and speakers for 2017 is underway. 2016 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:
  Rosalyn Adam, PhD, Children’s Hospital Boston  
  Wade Bushman, MD, PhD, University of Wisconsin  
  Peter Clark, MD, Vanderbilt University  
  Brent Hollenbeck, MD, University of Michigan  
  Ross P. Holmes, PhD, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
  Dolores Lamb, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine  
  Aria F. Olumi, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School  
  Sunil Sudarshan, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
  Siobhan Sutcliffe, PhD, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis  
  John T. Wei, MD, University of Michigan  
  Erika Wolff, PhD, University of Washington  
  William Wright, PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
  Li Xin, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine  
  Stephen Zderic, MD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

ADDITIONAL TALKS BY:
  Tamara Bavendam, MD, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)  
  Trinity Bivalacqua, MD, PhD, Johns Hopkins University  
  Krystal Brinson, PhD, AUA Office of Research, Research Grants Project Manager  
  Melissa Cunningham, PhD, DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP)  
  Ellie Daniels, MD, MPH, American Cancer Society (ACS)  
  Francesca Macchiarini, PhD, MS, National Institute on Aging (NIA)  
  Kenute Myrie, PhD, Veteran’s Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development  
  Sergei Radaev, PhD, National Cancer Institute (NCI)  
  Tracy Rankin, PhD, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
Appendix 1 – 2017 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop Program Agenda (subject to change)

2017 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
September 22-24, 2017
AUA Headquarters, Linthicum, Maryland

TIME

Day One — Friday, September 22, 2017

1:20 PM Research Careers from the NIH Perspective
1:40 PM NIDDK Grant Mechanisms
2:00 PM NCI Career Development Grant Mechanisms
2:20 PM NIA Urologic Research Portfolio
2:40 PM Q&A
2:50 PM Break
3:00 PM DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs: Funding Opportunities and Application Review
3:20 PM VA Merit and Other Key Award Programs
3:40 PM American Cancer Society Research Programs
4:00 PM AUA, Urology Care Foundation, and Other Grant Mechanisms
4:20 PM Q&A
4:30 PM Break
4:40 PM AUA Data Department and Statistical Services
5:00 PM AUA Member Services
5:20 PM Networking Reception and Tour of the William P. Didusch Center for Urologic History Museum
6:20 PM Dinner

TIME

Day Two — Saturday, September 23, 2017

7:30 AM Attendee Arrival (continental breakfast available)
8:00 AM Welcome and Setting the Stage: An Overview of the State of Urology Research and Funding
8:20 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TBD
9:00 AM Identifying & Composing the Pieces of a Successful Research Grant Proposal
9:20 AM The Importance of Translating Research Into Clinical Impact
9:40 AM Lessons Learned from Fellow to Funded Investigator
10:00 AM Break
10:10 AM Mock Peer Review/Study Section
12:30 PM  Lunch (assigned seating by research interest with workshop presenters)
1:30 PM  Advanced Grant Development Group: Meetings with Faculty Advisors and Program Officers
         Early Grant Development Group: Didactic Presentations: (20 min. each with 10 min Q&A)
         1:30 PM  New Paradigms for Basic Research
         2:00 PM  Laboratory Management
         2:30 PM  Building Outcomes/Health Services Research
         3:00 PM  How to Integrate Academic Research into a Urology Practice
         3:30 PM  How to Write a Training Plan
         4:00 PM  How to Write a Biosketch with Bibliography

4:30 PM  Break
4:40 PM  Advanced Grant Development Group: Meetings with Faculty Advisors and Program Officers (continued)
         Early Grant Development Group: Discussions of Abstracts/Specific Aims with Advisors

6:00 PM  Networking Reception and Dinner
7:30 PM  Adjourn

TIME

Day Three — Sunday, September 24, 2017

7:30 AM  Attendee Arrival (continental breakfast available)
8:00 AM  Welcome
8:15 AM  Advanced Grant Development Group: Early-Career Investigator Introductions and Presentation of Research Proposals
10:45 AM  Break
11:00 AM  Tricks of the Trade: A Mentor’s Perspective
11:30 AM  Transitioning from a K to an R
12:00 PM  Lunch
12:30 PM  How to Establish, Initiate, and Maintain Successful Collaborations
1:00 PM  Work/Life Balance
1:30 PM  Negotiating Your Faculty Positions
2:15 PM  Lessons Learned – Full Proposals
2:30 PM  Lessons Learned – Abstracts/Specific Aims
3:00 PM  Meeting Wrap Up and Adjourn General Session
3:30 PM  Faculty/Steering Committee Meeting