

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR THE

2024 Physician Scientist Residency Training Award: Program Site

Sponsored by:
Dornier MedTech

IMPORTANT DATES

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, February 29, 2024

Peer Review: March 2024

Program Site Selection Notification: April 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 and improve urological care by funding research, developing patient education, 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 a peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers who evaluate 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 in its many forms to promote excellence in research and leadership within the urologic research workforce. The AUA and its Urology Care Foundation are supportive of efforts to analyze and address the ways in which social and economic inequalities impact the urology community, and the ability to achieve health equity for patients with urologic conditions. Information related to the applicant's race/ethnicity and gender 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 gender, this information may be taken into consideration during the award selection process.

B. AWARD INFORMATION

1. OVERVIEW

The Urology Care Foundation Physician Scientist Residency Training Award (PSRTA) was initiated in 2017 to provide early-career, intensive research training that will develop the skills necessary to enable ambitious and talented urology residents to ultimately succeed as independently funded surgeon scientists. The PSRTA enables a focused and well-defined urology residency research track that will appropriately train carefully selected individuals. Training will be conducted at urologic research centers of excellence with strong infrastructure, mentoring, didactics, and career development elements to best prepare residents for successful and impactful research careers.

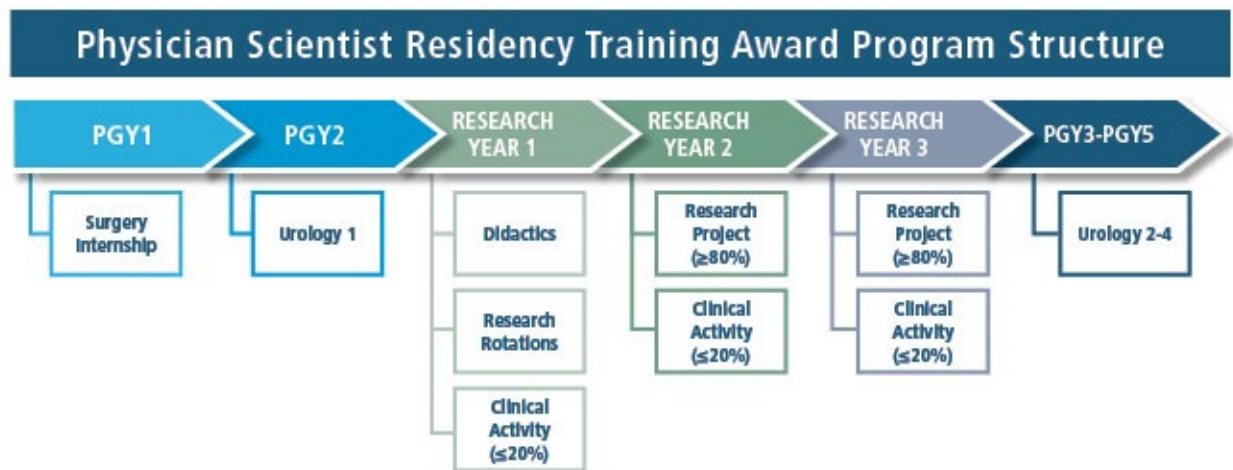
The PSRTA has two competition phases over a two-year period. First, academic institutions compete to determine which urology residency programs could provide the necessary training and support to serve as a PSRTA Program Site. Multiple institutions can be selected as PSRTA sites. No funding is provided to program sites at the time sites are selected.

The second phase is the recipient phase, which welcomes medical students participating in the urology match process to apply for an available residency slot at one of the selected institutions. One \$225,000 PSRTA Trainee position is available each recipient competition cycle. Receiving a PSRTA provides \$75,000 in funding for the recipient per year during the recipient's three-year research phase.

2. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The PSRTA recipient will complete all requirements from post-graduate year (PGY)-1 to PGY-5 of clinical training, as well as research training as described in the progression chart and corresponding descriptions below. Should a site

visit be requested by either the institution or the Office of Research at any time while the institution hosts an active PSRTA recipient, the institution will be required to accommodate the visit. Costs associated for AUA staff to visit the site will be covered by the AUA Office of Research.



PGY-1 and PGY-2: Internship & Uro-1 Years (Clinical Training)

The Trainee will spend the first two post-graduate years (PGY-1 and PGY-2) in surgical training to gain a thorough grounding in general surgical and urological principles. In addition, participation in research-related activities (e.g., seminars) as can be accommodated by clinical training responsibilities is highly encouraged.

Year 1 and Year 2 progress reports detailing performance in clinical training, and specific engagement in AUA Office of Research activities will be required twice a year.

Research Year 1

Clinical responsibilities must not exceed 20% of the Trainee’s full-time professional effort.

After acquiring a solid background in clinical urology, the first year of research training will include research-related courses, seminars, and other didactic training, as well as research rotations with established scientists in laboratories that may be selected as the location for the Trainee’s full research project. It is expected that Research Year 1 will provide the Trainee with knowledge of, and some experience in, the basic investigative techniques being used to advance our understanding of diseases and conditions of the genitourinary tract. Research rotations and subsequent selection of the research project should focus on areas and/or disciplines of research relatively understudied by urology physician-scientists. It is the responsibility of the PI to justify how the research areas and/or disciplines proposed for the training program can be considered understudied by urology physician-scientists; however, examples include but are not limited to basic science, bio/tissue engineering, bioinformatics, or other under-represented areas.

Graduate degree-granting research programs (master’s or doctoral level) are expected to ensure that didactic and other training is commensurate with degree requirements, should the Trainee be anticipating a research degree upon completion.

Research Year 1 biannual progress reports and attendance at specified AUA research events will be required. Additionally, at the onset of award payments, Institution Accountability Reports detailing the expenditure of Urology Care Foundation funds will be required once a year by December 31st.

Research Years 2 and 3 (Research Project)

Clinical responsibilities must not exceed 20% of the Trainee’s full-time professional effort.

Research Years 2 and 3 will focus on immersion into the research project with a carefully selected primary mentor and mentoring team. The Trainee is expected to submit a research project proposal to the AUA Office of Research within the first two months of Research Year 2, with AUA Office of Research peer review and approval of the proposal to be completed within thirty calendar days following submission. Research Years 2 and 3 are expected to provide the Trainee with in-depth experiences that establish:

- A strong foundation in study design, methods, and analytic techniques appropriate for the proposed research area.
- Enhancement of the trainee's ability to conceptualize and think through research problems with increasing independence.
- Experience in conducting research using state-of-the-art methods as well as presenting and publishing research findings.
- Interactions with members of the scientific community at appropriate scientific meetings and workshops.
- Knowledge and early development of the spectrum of modern scientific skills needed to succeed as an independent investigator.

After completion of the research program, and if possible, at the research institution, preferred by the trainee, and all degree requirements are met, the trainee will be awarded a master's or doctoral level research degree.

Research Year 2 and Year 3 biannual progress reports detailing research project and research training progress, as well as specific engagement in AUA Office of Research activities will be required. Institution Accountability Reports detailing the expenditure of Urology Care Foundation funds will be required once a year by December 31st.

PGY-3 to PGY-5: Uro-2 to Uro-4 Years (Clinical Training)

Following Research Years 1-3, the Trainee will return to clinical training for completion of urology residency PGY-3 through PGY-5. During this time, it is expected that most of the Trainee's efforts will focus on exceptional performance in, and completion of clinical training. Participation in research-related activities as can be accommodated by clinical training responsibilities is encouraged.

3. 2024 PROGRAM TIMELINE

The Physician Scientist Residency Training Award program will select approved Program Sites in April 2024. Subsequently, applications from potential trainees will be received in 2024 from applicants either enrolled in year 4 of their medical school degree programs or medical school graduates not more than two years beyond graduation by July 1, 2024. Trainee applicants must be completing, or must have completed, medical school at an institution within the boundaries of the AUA Sections¹. Candidate trainees will be evaluated in Fall 2024 (to be fully described in the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award: Physician Scientist Trainee Program Announcement, which will be released Summer 2024) and placement of the selected trainee at one of the approved Program Sites will be determined by the AUA Office of Research. Importantly, candidates for this program are expected to also register for the American Urological Association's Urology Residency Match Program². To ensure that the selection process for the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award will in no way hinder a candidate trainee's eligibility for the regular

¹ More information on the boundaries of the AUA sections can be found at the following website:

<https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>

² More information on the Urology Residency Match Program can be found at the following website:

<https://www.auanet.org/meetings-and-education/for-residents/urology-residency-and-fellowship-programs/accredited-us-urology-programs>

Urology Residency Match Program, notification of the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award recipient will be completed no later than December 31, 2024.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. PROGRAM SITE

To be eligible to compete as a Program Site, the applicant institution must be accredited by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME), registered with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®), and project that availability of a residency slot for use by the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award trainee. In most cases, institutions approved for this program will need to immediately apply for approval of an additional residency slot or restructuring of the residency program to accommodate the physician scientist resident candidate. Approval for any change in residency will require review by the AAMC Urology Residency Review Committee (RRC). Because this approval will require a thorough review by the RRC, institutions should be in good standing with the RRC prior to application to the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award program.

Institutions must be part of the Urology Residency Match Program and allow student applications through the Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®). In addition, applicant institutions must be located within the boundaries of the AUA sections.

While not included in the eligibility criteria per se, additional institutional characteristics that prospective applicant institutions may use to determine appropriateness for this award program include the ability to:

- Commit adequate on-site faculty and staff, facilities, and educational resources for successful research training of the candidate;
- Allow for flexibility in resident rotation schedules, typically provided by virtue of high clinical volume; and
- Graduate an additional chief resident who has participated in the urology residency research track.

FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

One trainee position is currently available to begin residency training in July 2025. The duration of the training program is eight years, although funding is only provided during the research training years at \$75,000 per year for three years.

While applicants may propose any type of research on any urologic disease or condition, the Urology Care Foundation encourages consideration of key gaps in research that have been identified in the AUA clinical guidelines and, if addressed, could have a significant impact on improving urology patient care. While these areas of research are encouraged, they will not automatically confer competitive advantage in the peer review of proposals.

Additionally, research projects addressing factors relevant to the understanding and promotion of minority health and to the understanding and reduction of health disparities are encouraged to apply.

2. OVERLAP IN FUNDING

No other government-, non-government-, or industry-sponsored projects may fund the same scope of work as the grant application to the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award. However, an award from this program may be related to other funding from foundations, government agencies, or other funding organizations, provided there is no direct overlap. It is the responsibility of the institution to justify the novelty of the proposed project and provide evidence that the application does not overlap with any current or pending funding.

Trainees supported through this program are not eligible to concurrently apply for any other Urology Care Foundation research training awards while actively receiving support from this mechanism (e.g., ineligible for Residency Research Awards and/or the Leadership in Education, Achievement, and Diversity [LEAD] Program). Upon completion of the active award period, PSRTA recipients may apply to other Urology Care Foundation research grant programs as eligible (e.g., Research Scholar Award, Rising Stars in Urology Research Award).

3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AND INSTITUTIONAL COST-SHARING

Urology Care Foundation funds will be paid directly to the Program Site. The Urology Care Foundation does not withhold taxes from awards (federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes, etc.). It is the responsibility of the Program Site and/or Trainee to ensure that appropriate federal and local taxes are accounted for. Pending timely receipt of all required onboarding and reporting items, funding will be distributed twice annually in \$37,500 installments within February and October of each year during the three-year research period of the award.

Allowable Use of Funding

It is permissible and encouraged that Urology Care Foundation funds be used to provide salary support for the PSRTA Trainee. In addition, the Program Site is obligated to cost-share funds for the trainee, which may consist of additional salary (not beyond peer parity) and/or funding for research supplies or other direct costs for research training, including course registration fees and travel costs for scientific meetings.

Prohibited Use of Funding

It is prohibited to use Urology Care Foundation funds for institutional indirect costs or for salary support for anyone other than the PSRTA Trainee. Misappropriation of funds may result in an institution's disqualification from eligibility for future Urology Care Foundation funding opportunities.

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The PSRTA Institution application process consists of a full proposal. Institutions should review this Program Announcement in its entirety to understand and begin preparing the required components. Only one application can be submitted per institution. Institutions are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting a complete proposal by the proposal deadline of **5pm ET Thursday, February 29, 2024**. It is the responsibility of the institution to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the proposal submission system.

Formatting Guidelines:

The following guidelines are applicable to all documents submitted for the letter of intent and proposal. Applications that do not abide the formatting guidelines will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Documents should use Times New Roman font in 12-point format with 1 to ½ inch margins. Paragraphs should be single-spaced, and figure/image legends/axes must be present and clearly visible. Documents from letter of reference writers, institution administrators, etc. must be submitted on official institution letterhead, include full credential lines, signed and dated.

Electronic Registration

Applicants must submit a letter of intent, proposal, and 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.

A. PROPOSAL AGREEMENT FORM

This form must be completed in its entirety and include the signature from an authorized representative of the institution. 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 & Instructions section in ProposalCentral and/or found at the following AUA research website:

<https://www.auanet.org/research-and-data/research-awards/aua-funding/physician-scientist-residency-training-awards>

B. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR STATEMENT AND BIOSKETCH

The PI of the training program should be an individual with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research training program. The PI should be an established investigator and capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the program. The PI will be expected to monitor and assess the program and submit all documents and reporting items. Applicants should include the Principal Investigator materials outlined and submit as one, combined PDF file. Materials that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. Failure to include materials for the indicated Principal Investigator will result in automatic noncompliant status and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Support Statement

The Principal Investigator Statement is limited to three pages. Provide a narrative that describes the PI's qualifications, credentials, and track records in the areas above. Importantly, the PI should describe their interest in and commitment to leading this training program.

Biosketch

An NIH-style biosketch is required for the Principal Investigator, limited to five pages.

C. TRAINING PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Training Program Description is limited to ten pages inclusive of figures and tables. References cited page(s) and abbreviation/acronyms lists do not count against the page limit and are uploaded as a separate document in ProposalCentral. Program Descriptions should include the elements outlined below using the headers indicated, preferably within the sequence provided. Applications in excess of page limitations and/or omitting required sections will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration.

Section 1: Urology Residency Program

Provide an overview of the urology residency program including facilities involved (i.e., medical schools, hospitals, and/or clinics), number of urology residents per year and typical clinical volumes, results from the most recent AAMC Urology RRC review, how residency clinical loads will be managed between regular and research trainee residents, and whether an additional residency slot will need to be requested if the institution is selected as a Program Site for this award.

Section 2: Residency Research

Describe typical residency research exposure/engagement during clinical training (PGY1-5) and the program's record of training previous urology residents in research. Provide a detailed description of the planned research training for a Physician Scientist Residency Trainee including coursework, seminars, travel to scientific meetings, and research experience that will provide the following:

- A strong foundation in study design, methods, and analytic techniques appropriate for the proposed research area;

- Enhancement of the trainee’s ability to conceptualize and think through research problems with increasing independence;
- Experience in conducting research using state-of-the-art methods as well as presenting and publishing research findings;
- Interactions with members of the scientific community at appropriate scientific meetings and workshops; and
- Knowledge and early development of the spectrum of modern scientific skills needed to succeed as an independent investigator.
- The description of coursework should include the program’s plan for monitoring, supporting, and evaluating the trainee’s commitment to the course work.
- Describe how time for research training (80% level of effort) will be protected and balanced with clinical and teaching responsibilities in the context of current work hour regulations.
- Describe any career development components (whether research or clinical) that will be included in the training program.
- While it is not required, indicate whether there is possibility the trainee could earn a master’s or doctoral level research degree as a result of the training and how this would be achieved.

Section 3: Research Faculty Mentors

Describe each faculty mentor that is ready to train and guide the PSRTA recipient. Available mentors must include in part but not in entirety those with expertise and experience in disciplines typically understudied by surgeon-scientists (including but not limited to basic science, bio/tissue engineering, and bioinformatics). Include the diversity of research training opportunities that will be available to the trainee through the mentor group, as well as opportunities that are available in conducting highly translational and/or multidisciplinary research. Potential mentors should have strong records as researchers, including:

- Recent (e.g., within last two years maximum) original research publications in highly regarded journals;
- Successful competition for research support from major funding agencies or organizations (e.g., National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, National Science Foundation, Veterans’ Affairs, etc.) in their areas of research mentorship for the training program; and
- Record of research training, including former trainees that have established productive urologic research careers.

Section 4: Research Resources

Describe the laboratories, equipment, core facilities, techniques, seminars, etc., whether internal or external to the department of urology, which will be available to the trainee.

D. MENTOR MATERIALS

All indicated potential research mentors must provide the materials packet outlined, uploaded to the application system as a confidential letter of support. Each mentor must submit materials as one, combined PDF file (i.e., one file corresponding to each indicated mentor). Materials that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. Failure to include materials for research mentors will result in automatic noncompliant status and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Support Statement

The mentor support statement is limited to one page and must describe the mentor’s interest in and commitment to participating in the program. Should they be selected by the recipient, mentors should outline how they are uniquely equipped to provide outstanding guidance and mentorship. Letters should include descriptions of their lab’s ongoing urologic disease research and how projects in the mentor’s lab would promote the development of the trainee.

Previous Trainees

The list of the mentors' previous trainees is limited to one page. This document must include a record of each mentor's previous trainees and the mentees' current positions (please indicate if there are none). Ideally, all trainees should be included; however, for mentors that have extensive records of previous trainees that may exceed one page in length, it is acceptable to list only the most notable trainees by name and position, and then annotate the remaining trainees numerically.

Mentor Biosketch

An NIH-style biosketch is required for each mentor, limited to five pages each. Biosketches that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. Failure to include a biosketch for the indicated primary mentor(s) will result in automatic noncompliant status, and s will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

E. LETTER OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Letters of support from key institution individuals other than the Principal Investigator and potential research mentor(s) are required and are limited to one page each. Proposals that do not include the additional letters, and/or letters that exceed the page limitations will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

In instances where the Principal Investigator is the Chair or Residency Director, the information noted below should be incorporated into the Principal Investigator Statement.

Urology Department Chair

Provide a letter from the Urology Department Chair confirming that all resources (financial and otherwise) outlined within the proposal will be made available toward the enactment of this training program, should the institution be selected as an approved Program Site.

Residency Program Director

Provide a letter from the Residency Program Director confirming that all resources (financial, time, or otherwise) outlined within the proposal will be made available toward the enactment of this training program, should the institution be selected as an approved Program Site. Residency Program Director letters must detail how the recipient will maintain the required percent effort toward research throughout the three-year research period and note how any overage in clinical needs will be managed to ensure the recipient remains committed to the proposed research project.

E. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

The Budget Justification is limited to eight pages and must be on institution letterhead, signed by the Department Chair at the institution where the proposed research will occur. Documents that exceed the page limitation, are not on letterhead, are not signed, or otherwise deviate from these guidelines without prior approval from the AUA Office of Research will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

The Budget Justification of Other Funding should describe all cost sharing, matching funds, and/or other resources with monetary implications (direct and indirect) that will be made available to the awardee during the entire eight-year program. This information should include:

- Resident salary costs (direct) and fringe benefits (indirect)
- Estimated/average costs for research supplies, equipment, and other items needed to conduct the research (understanding that exact costs cannot be known until the specific research training project is selected)
- Costs for seminars and coursework (in general and in support of a research degree program, if available)

- Costs for travel to scientific meetings (in tandem with the AUA Scholar Travel Support Program described in Section VI).
- Other costs as deemed necessary by the institution, department, or training program.

Within the corresponding Budget section of the application form, applicants will indicate which costs will be supported by the \$75,000 per year from the Urology Care Foundation during the research years of the resident trainee versus the costs that will be supported by the institution.

F. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION STATEMENT

The applicant Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Statement is limited to one page. Please briefly share your views on diversifying the field of urologic research, and the field of urology more broadly. Describe your interests in contributing to this effort. Outline how your institution’s participation in the PSRTA program stands to bolster the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation commitment to forwarding DEI in urology research and clinical care. Detailing specific course offerings, trainings, policies, etc. embedded at the host institution that may increase the PSRTA recipient’s engagement in DEI work are encouraged.

III. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award Site Competition program by clicking on the “Grant Opportunities” tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The application can be accessed by clicking the “Apply Now” button. The application sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of all materials, and that materials are received in full before the application deadline.

1. Title Page

- Indicate all participating institution(s) including medical schools, hospitals and/or clinics.
- Each institution indicated requires an accompanying representative listed in the subsequent Key Personnel section.

2. Download Templates & Instructions

- Proposal Agreement Form – This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information. Submitting a fully executed form with the full proposal is required by the application deadline.
- Biosketch Template – This is a reference document to assist mentors in completing a biosketch.

3. Primary Investigator

- Indicate the intended Primary Investigator or Training Program Director in this section.
- Applicants will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the letter of intent to reference and complete the required information.
- ORCID Identifier – In accordance with the NIH policy requiring ORCID iDs from all applicants beginning October 2020 “to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes”, all Urology Care Foundation award mechanisms will also require applicants to provide ORCID iDs. Applicants can register for ORCID iDs at <https://orcid.org/>.

4. Eligibility

- AUA Section Information – Applicants should select the AUA Section in which the proposed program site is based.

i. Applicants 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>).

- Applicants must affirm the institution's urology residency program as being in good standing with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Urology Residency Review Committee including the most recent date of accreditation certification and corresponding rate of resident positions available (excluding the potential PSRTA spot).
- Applicants must affirm the institution's good standing with the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) and indicate the most recent date of accreditation certification.
- Applicants must affirm the institution's good standing with the AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®) and indicate the most recent date of registration.

5. Institution & Contacts

- Applicants should confirm that the Lead Institution is correct as is the indicate Institutional Representative or Signing Official for their proposal. This individual should correlate to the signing official on the Proposal Agreement Form.

6. Key Personnel

- Identify key contacts at all participating organizations listed on the title page.
- Identify the Urology Department Chairperson, Residency Program Director, and (if applicable) Urology Research Program Director.
- Identify all participating potential research mentors.
- Identify any other personnel such as Sponsored Programs Office representative, department finance coordinator, etc. who would reasonably be involved with the training, mentorship, or administrative support of the subsequent awardee and/or award management.

7. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

- This section enables applicants to give other users access (e.g., view only, edit, etc.) to the proposal: it is not required to do so. Please note that personnel given access will be able to access any provided peer review summary critiques.

8. Confidential Letters of Support

- This section enables the Principal Investigator to invite the Urology Department Chair, Residency Program Director, and all research mentor(s) to submit their required letters of support through ProposalCentral. Applicants should complete this immediately upon gaining access to the full proposal.
- 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. Proposal Overview

- Applicants are required to provide a brief, high-level justification as to why their program is best suited to host a forthcoming PSRTA recipient.
- Indicate the predominate research areas of focus available at the host institution. This information should directly correspond to the primary lines of research conducted within research mentors' labs and should not include general educational and/or clinical topics covered in residency training.

10. Budget Detail

- Applicants are required to provide an annual, itemized budget for the cost sharing / matching funds plans to be enacted during the three research years of the award.
- The Budget Justification of Other Funding document is added from this section of the application.

11. Budget Summary

- Applicants are required to provide a budget justification narrative for each line-item added during the three-year research period.

12. Upload Attachments Here

- The applicant must upload all proposal components as portable document files (PDFs) with each component adhering to its specific page limitation.

13. Validate

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

14. Print Full Application with Uploads

- No action is required in this section.

15. Submit

IV. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals are evaluated by an independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers. Each proposal is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process. Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure statement that all 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.

Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of applications deemed eligible and compliant, the most highly meritorious institutions will be selected as program sites. Determinations are approved by the AUA Office of Research and AUA Chair of Research: all decisions are final.

The results of the PSRTA program site and awardee selection process are binding for both the selected Program Site and the Awardee. The Awardee must accept the grant and complete the program, and the selected Program Site must accept the Awardee for the full residency research training.

B. REVIEW CRITERIA

All Program Site applications will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Institution(s) and Resources

- To what degree the participating institution(s) will provide a strong environment for both clinical and research training and assures appropriate institutional support.
- Whether the residency program and plan to incorporate the Physician Scientist Residency Trainee is appropriate to support participation in this award program.

- Whether the research resources available are appropriate to provide experience in conducting research using state-of-the-art methods and development of the spectrum of modern scientific skills needed to succeed as an independent investigator.

Principal Investigator

- To what degree the PI possesses the skills, knowledge, experience, and resources necessary to successfully carry out the proposed research training program.
- To what degree the PI has expressed an appropriate level of commitment to the program.

Faculty Research Mentor(s)

- To what degree the potential mentors possess robust track records of success in funding from major agencies or organizations (e.g., National Institutes of Health) that would support appropriate preparation of the trainee for similar success.
- To what degree the potential mentors have established track records of previous trainees that have established successful careers as independently funded investigators.
- To what degree the potential mentors have strong records of original research publications in highly regarded journals.
- To what degree each mentor has expressed an appropriate level of commitment to the program and to the potential trainee and described potential projects in ongoing areas of research that would support the trainee's development as a future independently supported surgeon-scientist.

Training Program

- To what degree the program has demonstrated its ability to provide for an appropriate level of research engagement (e.g., seminars, opportunities for presentation, participation in scientific conferences) throughout both clinical and research training, while establishing the appropriate balance of clinical and teaching responsibilities against protected time for research during the research years.
- To what degree the program incorporates a strong and appropriate curriculum of didactic training and appropriate plans to monitor, support, and evaluate the trainee's commitment to the required coursework.
- To what degree the program incorporates appropriate career development components.
- To what degree the program provides for exposure to and training in a diversity of scientific disciplines with emphasis on areas under-represented in the surgeon-scientist community.
- Although not required, whether the program provides opportunities for the trainee to earn a master's or doctoral level research degree.

Budget

- Does the budget appropriately provide for all costs necessary to adequately prepare the trainee for a career as an independent investigator?

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement

- Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the extent to which the institution's DEI statement adequately reflects the intent of the AUA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- This review criterion will not affect the overall impact score of an application but may be considered when determining appropriate alignment of the grant portfolio with DEI goals as outlined by the AUA and UCF.

C. NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSAL REVIEW RESULTS

Program site applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email. To prevent emails 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.

Institutions selected as program sites must:

- Send a written response to grantsmanager@AUAnet.org to confirm or decline the award within 48 hours.
- Submit a high-quality organization logo (file size typically ≥ 1 MB) within five business days of accepting the award. With the submission of this logo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- Confirm AUA membership and provide proof of membership in good standing for all potential research mentor(s) within one business week of accepting the award.

D. NOTICE OF AWARD

For institutions selected as program sites, a Notice of Award letter will be issued to notify the institution, principal investigator, primary mentor, and associated institution representative(s) that a selection has been made and to specify the terms and conditions.

The Urology Care Foundation and the sponsors for their award programs do not assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities that the award supports, or for the acts of the award recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the award recipient's institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies.

V. 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. If IRB approval or exemption for the project is not obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date, the Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award.

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. If IACUC approval or exemption for the project is not obtained within 90 days of the award performance period start date, the Urology Care Foundation reserves the right to terminate the award.

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.

2. AWARDEE PROGRESS REPORTS

Award recipients are required to submit regular progress reports to the AUA Office of Research. Reporting should commence the year of award receipt. Required information during the clinical training years must include reporting of progress on clinical training and engagement with research. Required information during the research training years must include reporting on progress in didactic training and research rotations, presentations at intramural, regional, or national meetings, progress on applications submitted for other funding, progress on the proposed research project, and manuscripts in preparation or submitted for publication.

Interim Report

Two-year awardees are required to submit an interim progress report and personal statement by June 1 of the first funding year to the AUA Office of Research via ProposalCentral. The second year of funding is contingent upon the receipt of a satisfactory progress report.

Final Report

Within 30 days after the end of the funding period awardees must submit a final report via ProposalCentral and include all information outlined in the Notice of Award.

3. PRIMARY MENTOR(S) REPORTS

The primary research mentor(s) of Physician Scientist Residency Training Award recipients must submit brief, confidential annual reports to the AUA Office of Research detailing the progress of the trainee, his or her career development, and information on the success and challenges of the research training overall. Reports should commence the year prior to the research focus period of the program.

Interim Report

Interim mentor reports are applicable to awardees with multiple years of funding. The primary mentor interim report should be approximately one page and evaluate the scholar's performance, progress on the funded research, and any other information outlined in the Notice of Award. For MD awardees only, the mentor should describe how the awardee will allocate the research and clinical time for the remainder of the award period to maintain the required 50% level of effort. The mentor is responsible for uploading this report to ProposalCentral by June 1.

Final Report

The primary mentor final report should be approximately one page and evaluate the awardee's performance as well as detail the future career plan for the awardee. The mentor is responsible for uploading this report to ProposalCentral within 30 days after the funding period.

4. INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS

Institutional Accountability Reporting will be required during the active research years to document expenditure of institutional and/or Urology Care Foundation funds in support of the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award recipient. These reports affirm that the institution is adhering to all terms of the Notice of Award with particular attention to provisions regarding institutional support, use of Urology Care Foundation funds, and level of effort requirements.

Interim Report

Interim IAR requirements are applicable to awardees with multiple years of funding. An interim IAR must be submitted by institutional grant administrators no later than December 31 of each funding year via ProposalCentral. This report re-affirms that the institution is adhering to all terms of the award, especially the provisions of institutional support and level of effort requirements. Continued funding is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory report.

Final Report

A final IAR must be submitted by institutional grant administrators via ProposalCentral no later 30 days of the end of the award funding period.

5. 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. CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION, PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION, OR FUNDING

Any significant changes that occur in the institutional or trainee components of the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award after selection or at any time during the award period must be reported in a timely manner to the AUA Office of Research.

Urology Care Foundation mentored research awards are intended to support individual early-career urologic researchers showing significant promise. Requests to change the award applicant will result in automatic application withdrawal and/or award ineligibility. Requests for exemption will not be considered. All decisions made by the AUA Office of Research are final.

If the trainee or residency program is selected for any additional funding that may be considered to potentially overlap with Urology Care Foundation funding, the Program Site and/or trainee must contact the AUA Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action.

Failure to provide the AUA Office of Research timely reporting of any significant changes impact any components of the Physician Scientist Residency Training Award site and/or applicant, including receipt of external funding, may result in delay of payments, termination of the award, and/or withdrawal of institutional eligibility for any subsequent Urology Care Foundation support.

D. PUBLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Awardees are required to send electronic copies of articles published based on Research Scholar Award-funded research to the AUA Office of Research at grantsmanager@AUAnet.org. Any publication or presentation arising from work supported in whole or in part by this award must include the following acknowledgment:

“This work was supported in part by the Urology Care Foundation Physician Scientist Residency Training Award program and Dornier MedTech.”

E. AUA AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation host events designed to advance urologic research, especially for early-career investigators. These events are held during the AUA Annual Meeting and at AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland.

Required Activities

During the active research years, recipients are required to attend the annual Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program & Reception held at the AUA Annual Meeting, where they will present the ongoing results of their research projects. The event will also provide opportunities to network with AUA and Urology Care Foundation leadership, other Foundation-supported research teams, and leaders in the field of urologic research. To off-set costs associated with attending this required event, PSRTA recipients can apply for travel awards (see *Section VI: Scholar Travel Support Program*).

Each fall the AUA Office of Research hosts a grantsmanship bootcamp known as the Early-Career Investigators Workshop. At least once during the research years, award recipients are required to submit specific aims and accompanying proposal materials to apply toward either the early- or advanced-stage tracks. If selected to participate, inclusion in the workshop provides an offset of travel and lodging costs.

Encouraged Activities

Recipients are highly encouraged to attend the following events and should refer to the Notice of Award and/or contact the Office of Research at grantsmanager@auanet.org for additional information.

AUA Annual Meeting

- Basic Sciences Symposium
- Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium
- Urologic Oncology Research Symposium
- Private Practice Research Symposium
- Early-Career Investigators Showcase

AUA Headquarters

- Urology Scientific Mentoring and Research Training (USMART) Academy Program
- Co-sponsored Research Symposia

VI. SCHOLAR TRAVEL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Urology Care Foundation Scholar Travel Support Program is administered by the AUA Office of Research and is intended to provide opportunities for Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators to attend scientific or professional meetings relevant to urologic research. This program provides up to \$1,500 of travel support per award year for grant recipients to help cover costs associated with travel, food, lodging, registration fees, and childcare. Awardees should refer to the Notice of Award for information regarding travel support applications and limitations.

VII. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Office of Research. The preferred method of communication is email at grantsmanager@auanet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, may directed to 410-689-3762. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Please allow two business days for response time.