



2024 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop
Call for Applications
Due Thursday, May 30th, 2024

The American Urological Association (AUA) Office of Research is now accepting applications for early-career investigators seeking success in research funding to attend the 2024 AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop (ECIW). The workshop will be held on November 8-9, 2024, at the AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland. The goal of the workshop is to provide surgeon-scientists and urologic researchers (MD and PhD or equivalents) with insights into the scientific review process, information about independent funding sources, and individualized grant writing guidance. This 1.5-day workshop and pre-workshop webinar are designed for individuals planning to submit competitive research proposals to the National Institutes of Health or other major funders of urologic research.

CURRICULUM

The workshop agenda is designed to foster career success and skills for successful grant writing. The program consists of five major components:

- Pre-Workshop Funding Speaker Webinar
- Didactic Instruction
- Individual and Small Group Proposal Review and Critiques with Senior Scientific Advisors
- Grant Review/Revision
- Mock Study Section

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria by the application submission deadline:

- Active in urologic research as evidenced by involvement in lab- or clinic-based urologic research projects.
- Have not previously received extramural R01 or independent investigator funding as a Principal Investigator.

EARLY VS. ADVANCED

This workshop's dual-track training program will provide the most relevant training experience to participants. All applicants will be reviewed and, if selected to attend the Early-Career Investigators Workshop, will be assigned to one of the following participant groups:

- *Early Grant Development Group*: Postdoctoral fellows, trainees currently enrolled in fellowship programs (e.g., K12, T32), and faculty who require intensive training in grant development but will not submit a career development or independent research grant application within 12 months after the workshop.
- *Advanced Grant Development Group*: Investigators in the process of preparing applications for K- or R-type research grants with submission deadlines in Spring or Summer 2025. Applicants 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.
 - Submit (or resubmit) their grant applications to the NIH or other federal agency no later than the applicable deadline in Spring or Summer 2025. Workshop participants must also provide a copy of the application package and grant review summary sheets and scores to the AUA Office of Research no later than December 31, 2025, to assist the AUA with tracking outcomes of the



workshops and provide continuing mentorship. Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared externally.

COST

Workshop participants will pay the registration fee by **Thursday, August 1, 2024**:

- \$445 registration fee for AUA members
- \$580 registration fee for non-AUA members

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 and will not be covered by the AUA.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

- ✓ Applications must be submitted by the applicant.
- ✓ This application must be submitted in the “Letter of Intent” or “LOI Sections” in Proposal Central. Once you have submitted all required documents and completed the application fully, you will submit your application for consideration using the “LOI Section”..
 - Note: If you are selected for acceptance and attendance following the review period, you will be notified via email from Genevieve Hood / Proposal Central, inviting you to complete the second stage of the application process, called the “Proposal Sections”. In the second stage of the application process called the “Proposal Sections”, you will submit the appropriate documentation requested.
- ✓ Each department or institution may submit a Letter of Support for a maximum of two individuals.
- ✓ Late submissions will not be considered.
- ✓ All applicants must submit the following application documents as prompted in Proposal Central “Letter of Intent” or “LOI Sections”:
 1. Participant Agreement Form with all necessary signatures (document can be downloaded from the application in Proposal Central)
 2. NIH-formatted biosketch or equivalent (*five-page maximum*) of the applicant including a list and status of all extramural grant submissions for the past two years. For guidance, see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
 3. A draft Specific Aims Page (*one-page maximum*) for the research project intended for a future grant application. **Charts, photos, and/or figures are included in this one-page limit, please ensure it is not a crowded format.** For guidance, see <http://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>
 4. Applicant personal statement (*one-page maximum*) that states the career goals of the applicant.
 5. Letter of Support (*two-page maximum*) from the applicant’s mentor detailing the research environment, institutional support, commitment to the applicant’s research and career development, and reasons why the applicant should be selected.
 6. The applicant Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Statement is limited to *one paragraph*. 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. What are some of the ways you have considered or worked toward greater diversity, equity, inclusion as it relates to your research? If you have not had direct experience in this area, please share your aspirations. If applicable to your proposed research



plan, describe how your project addresses issues related to DEI in urology or inequity in urologic healthcare delivery.

7. *(Advanced Grant Development Group only)* A preliminary Research Proposal that contains, at minimum, a hypothesis and experimental plan outline. Other sections may include additional background information and supporting data. The Research Proposal must be *at least four pages, not* including references cited.
8. *(Advanced Grant Development Group only)* A copy of grant review summary sheets and scores, if the proposed research has been previously submitted for funding and was scored but not funded. *Grants, summary sheets, and scores are treated as confidential documents and will not be shared external to the Office of Research.*

CRITERIA FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS

- Applicant
 - The degree to which the applicant's achievements (as reflected by awards, honors, publications, etc.) indicate high potential for success as a urology researcher.
 - The degree to which the applicant's stated career goals indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic disease research throughout their career.
- Letter of Support
 - The degree to which the letter of support indicates the high potential of the applicant for a career in urologic research as an independent investigator.
- Proposed Research
 - **(All applicants):** The degree to which the project addresses, or can be revised to address, an important problem, or a critical barrier to progress in urologic research.
 - **(Advanced Grant Development Group applicants only)**
 - The degree to which the PI is well suited to the project, or the project can be modified to better suit the experience and training of the PI.
 - The degree to which 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.
 - The degree to which the scientific environment in which the work will be conducted contributes to the probability of success.
- **DEI Statement**
 - Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the extent to which the applicant's DEI statement adequately reflects the intent of the AUA's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
 - **Note:** *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 Urology Care Foundation*

SELECTION PROCEDURES

Applications will be evaluated by the program faculty to determine program acceptance, group assignment, and wait list selections. All accepted ECIV 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. Applicants will be notified of the selection decisions and group assignments via email no later than **Friday, June 28th, 2024**.

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP: EARLY DEVELOPMENT GROUP By **Friday, October 11th, 2024**, each selected *Early Grant Development* Group participant must submit a complete Specific Aims draft that incorporates the first round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor in Proposal Central “Award Sections”. *Please note: this will be the last opportunity for edits before the in-person 1.5 day workshop.*

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP: ADVANCED DEVELOPMENT GROUP

By **Monday, August 12th, 2024**, each selected *Advanced Grant Development* Group participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that incorporates the first round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor in Proposal Central “Proposal Sections” that includes the following elements *in the following order*:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Specific Aims | 4. Experimental Plan |
| 2. Background | 5. References |
| 3. Supporting Data | 6. Career Development & Training Plan |

By **Friday, October 11th, 2024**, each selected *Advanced Grant Development* Group participant must submit a complete research proposal draft that incorporates the second round of edits from their assigned faculty mentor in Proposal Central “Award Sections” that includes the following elements in the order as seen below. *Please note: this will be the last opportunity for edits before the in-person 1.5 day workshop.*

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Specific Aims | 4. Experimental Plan |
| 2. Background | 5. References |
| 3. Supporting Data | 6. Career Development & Training Plan |

PREPARING FOR THE WORKSHOP: GENERAL

The workshop faculty will review the proposal and provide an initial critique that will be shared prior to the beginning of the workshop. Advanced Group participants are expected to review and address the first round of faculty comments prior to workshop arrival. 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 2025.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- ✓ All questions regarding the AUA Early-Career Investigators Workshop should be directed to:
Diana Tsuji
AUA Research Education Manager
Email: Dtsuji@auanet.org
Office Telephone: (410) 689-3806

FACULTY



Recruitment of faculty and speakers for 2024 is underway; 2023 Faculty Mentors and Speakers included:

FACULTY MENTORS:

- Rosalyn Adam, PhD – Boston Children’s Hospital
- Chris Barbieri, MD, PhD – Weill Cornell Medicine
- Margot Damaser, PhD – The Cleveland Clinic Center
- Ryan Flannigan, MD – Vancouver Prostate Centre
- Michael Gorin, MD – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
- Monty Hughes, PhD – Duke University Medical Center
- Andrew Hung, MD – University of Southern California Health Sciences Campus
- LaMonica Stewart, PhD – Meharry Medical College
- Steve Zderic, MD – The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia

SPEAKERS:

- Corinne Boulanger-Espeut, PhD, MBA – National Cancer Institute
- Joanne Elena, PhD, MPH – American Cancer Society
- Kristina L. Penniston, PhD, RDN, FAND – University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
- Nora McGhee, PhD – Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute
- Theresa Miller, PhD – DoD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs
- Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH – NIDDK, NIH – National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
- Marcel Salive, MD, MPH – NIA, NIH – National Institute on Aging
- Eric Schwinder – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Susan Taymans, Ph.D. – National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- W. Taylor Monson – American Urological Association and Urology Care Foundation

EARLY-CAREER INVESTIGATORS WORKSHOP TIMELINE

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

<u>2024 TIMELINE</u>	<u>DUE</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Thursday, May 30, 2024	Applications must be submitted in Proposal Central. Questions can be directed to Genevieve Hood, Ghood@auanet.org	To be considered for the Advanced Grant Development Group, submit additional materials as outlined above.
Monday, June 24 th – Friday, June 28 th , 2024	Applicants will be notified of the selection decisions via email	Advanced and Early Grant Development Group assignments will be announced at this time.



Monday, July 15 th , 2024 – Friday, October 11 th , 2024	Early & Advanced Grant Development Group participant and assigned mentor communicate by email and phone	Participants will be assigned faculty mentors. When a match is made, email introductions will be sent to the participant and their mentor. Faculty mentors will review the proposal and provide an initial critique to participants. Faculty mentors will be available to answer participants' questions. Phone conversations are encouraged, whenever possible.
Thursday, August 1, 2024	Participants Must Register for the 2024 Early-Career Investigators Workshop	Workshop participants will pay the <u>registration fee</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$445 registration fee for AUA members• \$580 registration fee for non-AUA members
Monday, August 12 th , 2024	Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit a complete draft research proposal into Proposal Central	Participants will submit a draft proposal that fulfills the requirements of their specific grant's program announcement. The ECIW program does not have additional requirements.
Friday, October 11 th , 2024	Early Grant Development Group participant must submit updated Specific Aims page into Proposal Central	Participants will be assigned faculty mentors for small group mentoring sessions at the workshop.
Friday, October 11 th , 2024	Advanced Grant Development Group participant must submit updated research proposal in Proposal Central. Questions can be directed to Genevieve Hood, Ghood@auanet.org	Advanced Grant Development Group participant will utilize feedback from mentor and make edits to grant proposal.
Friday, October 18 th , 2024 – Friday, November 8 th , 2024	Faculty will review updated grants prior to meeting in person at the workshop.	
Wednesday, October 23 rd , 2024	All participants will participate in the Pre-Workshop Funding Speaker Webinar	Please come prepared to ask questions of our Funding Speakers from NIH, ACS, CAIRIBU, AUA and more.



Friday, November 8 th , 2024 – Saturday, November 9 th , 2024	Early-Career Investigators Workshop	Held at American Urological Association Headquarters— Linthicum, Maryland
Spring or Summer 2025	Advanced Grant Development Group participants submit grant proposals to NIH or other funding agencies	
December 31, 2025	Advanced Grant Development Group participants provide copy of grant application package and review summary sheets and scores to the Office of Research	