



American
Urological
Association

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

UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR THE

2024 Rising Stars in Urology Research Award

IMPORTANT DATES

Letter of Intent Deadline 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, July 2, 2024

Proposal Submission Deadline: 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, July 30

Peer Review: August – September 2024

Funding Notification: October 2024

Award Period: Determined after awardee selection

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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 an independent 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

The Urology Care Foundation recognizes the need to enable physician-scientists with the training, tools, and resources to succeed as independent researchers in urology. Protected time to conduct research, which is typically difficult to establish when balancing urology practice needs, is a major need identified in the physician-scientist community. The Urology Care Foundation developed the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award program to encourage physician-scientists who have shown significant promise toward becoming independent investigators by successfully competing for career development awards from federal and other funding sources, and to promote their pursuit of additional urologic research education and training.

This Rising Stars in Urology Research Award program provides supplemental salary support to physician-scientist career development award recipients to ensure that their protected time for research remains stable and that their salary compensation is more competitive with their non-research urology faculty peers. **Salary supplements will be awarded for a period of up to five years**, commensurate with the time remaining on the existing career development award, with **escalating payments each year to total up to \$200,000**.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

1. APPLICANT

To be eligible to compete for a 2024 Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, the applicant must, **by October 1, 2024**:

- Be a board-certified or -eligible urologist or be participating in a training program to obtain board certification in urology.
- Hold an extramural, peer-reviewed career development award. Examples include K07, K08, or K23 awards from the National Institutes of Health, or career development-type grants from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, American Cancer Society, and others.
- Have at least two full years remaining on the period of performance for the career development award with not less than 50% protected time for research.

Unfunded applicants from previous Rising Stars in Urology Research Award competition cycles are eligible to reapply, provided they continue to meet the criteria described above.

If the research is being conducted in the United States, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens but must have valid Social Security numbers for Internal Revenue Service purposes.

2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Membership in the AUA is required for recipients of this award. All applicants who are not AUA members at the time of proposal must commit to applying for AUA membership if selected to receive a Rising Stars in Urology Research Award. Membership applications must be submitted within one week of accepting an award and proof of AUA membership must be provided to the AUA Office of Research prior to funds being dispersed. Additional information about AUA membership can be found at <https://www.aunet.org/membership/member-benefits-and-programs>.

3. MENTOR

Each applicant must have a primary mentor for the proposed research project. **The proposal must be prepared by the applicant under the supervision and guidance of, but with minimal assistance provided by, the mentor(s).**

More than one mentor per project is both permitted and recommended if the project is highly translational or multidisciplinary.

4. HOST INSTITUTION

To be eligible as a host institution, the institution must reside within the boundaries of the AUA Sections (<https://www.AUAnet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>) and support the applicant by guaranteeing adequacy of the environment, laboratory equipment, and supplies needed to conduct the research.

Upon acceptance of an offered Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, institutions acknowledge that salary and/or benefits reduction of the awardee is prohibited. Institutions found in violation of this policy risk being ineligible from receipt of future Urology Care Foundation funds.

D. FUNDING INFORMATION

1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

One award is available for the 2024 Rising Stars in Urology Research Award competition, sponsored by the Frank and Marion Hinman Urology Research Fund.

The Urology Care Foundation continuously seeks additional sponsors for Rising Stars in Urology Research Awards; thus, the portfolio of awards available is ever-evolving both within and between funding years. The entities listed above may not represent the complete list of sponsors that will support awards for this competition cycle, nor do these sponsors or the Urology Care Foundation make any guarantees that any/all awards will be filled. Rising Stars in Urology Research Awards are granted based on the objective evaluation of all aspects of eligibility criteria, scientific review, and the financial portfolio available at the time the awards are finalized by the Urology Care Foundation. The Urology Care Foundation reserves the right for final approval for any/all awards provided through the program.

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 the certain below 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.

Kidney Diseases and Conditions

- Medical Management of Kidney Stones: comparative effectiveness of dietary manipulation, preventative medications, genetic basis for disease development
- Surgical Management of Stones: enhanced imaging for optimization of treatment selection, outcomes research, improvements in stent morbidity
- Clinically Localized Renal Neoplasms: identification of well-defined diagnostic and prognostic indicators for follow-up care
- Renal Mass and Localized Renal Cancer: molecular analysis of biopsy specimens toward improved clinical management, active surveillance, survival-dependent outcomes research

Bladder Diseases and Conditions

- Asymptomatic Microhematuria: risk stratification
- Interstitial Cystitis: patient phenotyping and molecular correlates
- Overactive Bladder: pathophysiology and risk factors, patient phenotyping, outcomes research in vulnerable populations

- Surgical Management of Female Stress Urinary Incontinence: prevention, patient phenotyping and etiology, innovations in treatment
- Urinary Retention: understanding of the natural history and risk factors to support the development of biomarkers and new pharmacological and neurological interventions
- Male Urethral Strictures: prevention and non-trauma etiology
- Bladder Cancer: risk assessment to improve therapeutic targeting, personalization and optimization of combinatorial and sequential treatment
- Urothelial Cancer: improvements in risk stratification and targeted therapies to increase efficacy and minimize toxicity, large-scale outcomes research
- Upper Tract Urothelial Cancer: outcomes research to improve clinical management

Prostate Diseases and Conditions

- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH): comparative effectiveness of lifestyle changes on the clinical symptoms of BPH
- Early Detection of Prostate Cancer: comparative effectiveness of screening and risk assessment tools, improvements in biopsy and biopsy-driven prognostics
- Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer: molecular and phenotypic profiling, personalization and optimization of combinatorial and sequential treatment
- Radiation after Prostatectomy: improvements in imaging-guided RT, biomarkers of prognosis

Sexual Medicine

- Erectile Dysfunction: improvements in indicators for testosterone therapy
- Premature Ejaculation: disease etiology and comparative effectiveness of mono- and combinatorial therapeutic interventions
- Peyronie's Disease: pathophysiology and mechanistic basis of disease
- Priapism: pathogenesis and outcomes research
- Vasectomy: outcomes research to diminish complications

Developmental/Congenital Conditions

- Cryptorchidism: etiology and clinical correlates of disease, outcomes research
- Vesicoureteral Reflux: scientific basis for treatment selection

2. OVERLAP IN FUNDING

Applicants are permitted to hold simultaneous grants provided they do not result in less than 50% protected time for research on the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award project.

Applicants are not eligible to hold to a Rising Stars in Urology Research Award if they are awarded other grants supported by the AUA or its Urology Care Foundation for the same research project.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation funds will be paid directly to the awardee. 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 host institution and/or awardee to ensure that appropriate federal and local taxes are accounted for.

Though the award has a maximum duration of five years, the award period will be commensurate with the period of performance of the existing career development award. Funding starts at \$28,000 in year one and increases each award year based on the following schedule: \$34,000 in year two; \$40,000 in year three; \$46,000 in year four; and

\$52,000 in year five. Continued funding is contingent on the awardee maintaining the career development award and contingent on availability of funds.

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award funds are solely for the purpose of salary supplementation. It is prohibited to use these funds for fringe benefits, institutional indirect costs, or salary support for anyone other than the awardee.

Upon acceptance of an offered Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, institutions acknowledge that salary and/or benefits reduction of the awardee is prohibited. Institutions found in violation of this policy risk being ineligible from receipt of future Urology Care Foundation funds.

II. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Rising Stars in Urology Research Award application process consists of a **letter of intent** followed by a **full proposal**. Applicants should review this Program Announcement in its entirety to understand and begin preparing the required components.

Applicants are required to submit a letter of intent by July 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Information in the letter of intent is not peer reviewed but rather used by the AUA Office of Research to prepare for peer review of proposals. Applicants should assume that they have permission to submit a full proposal. Only one letter of intent can be submitted per applicant and applicants are not bound to complete a full proposal upon submitting a letter of intent.

Following administrative review of the letter of intent, the AUA Office of Research will open the full proposal submission portal. **The deadline to complete the full proposal is July 30, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time.** Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting a complete proposal. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the proposal submission system, including those requested from the mentor(s) and Urology Department Chair, prior to the proposal deadline.

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.

B. CONFIDENTIAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Confidential letters of support are required from the applicant's project mentor(s) and Department Chair (letter writers). **Applicants are responsible for assigning letter writers to their proposals immediately after access is granted to the full proposal. It is critical for applicants to assign their letter writers as soon as possible to allow them ample time to submit their required letters by the proposal deadline** (see *Section III, Subsection B: Full Proposal*).

Once the applicants assign a letter writer to their proposal, ProposalCentral will send an automated email to the letter writer with an upload link that will enable them to submit their letter confidentially. Applicants have the ability to log into their proposals at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support and may resend notification emails as needed. All required letters must be received by the proposal deadline in order for the proposal to be considered.

Applicants are highly encouraged to contact their respective letter writers prior to the letter of intent deadline, and should instruct them to add pcsupport@altum.com to their address books or safe sender lists.

1. MENTOR LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT

The proposal must contain one letter of support on institutional letterhead from each project mentor, **limited to two pages**. **If the primary mentor letter of support is not received by the proposal deadline, the proposal will not be reviewed.** The letter(s) should describe the applicant's career development program and the mentor's specific involvement in and commitment to providing career development support and mentorship in urologic research. Specifically, the letter(s) should address:

- The applicant's characteristics and accomplishments that support the potential for an independent career in urologic research, and estimated timeline for career development toward establishing a career as a urology surgeon-scientist.
- The mentor's history of developing early-career investigators and plan to support the research project and guide the applicant.
- The research environment, including ongoing urologic disease research and how it will promote the development of the applicant.

2. DEPARTMENT CHAIR LETTER OF SUPPORT

The proposal must contain a letter of support from the Department Chair. The letter is **limited to two pages** and should attest to the support for the applicant with emphasis on the amount of and commitment to protected time for research. If the Department Chair is also the primary mentor, then a combined letter of support may be submitted.

C. APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Applicants must submit an NIH-style biosketch, **limited to five pages**, with the letter of intent and full proposal. A template is provided in the Download Templates and Instructions section in ProposalCentral. **The NIH has updated the biosketch format effective May 25, 2021; however, applicants may use the previous format for this competition.** Applicants should visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for more information.

D. APPLICANT CAREER PLAN

The Applicant Career Plan is **limited to one page**. Applicants should describe their short- (3-5 years post-award) and long-term (10-15 years post-award) career goals. The career plan should further include descriptions of any intended coursework, conferences, seminars, teaching or clinical responsibilities, grant writing, mentoring, or other activities that applicants plan to participate in during their career development.

E. CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD COMPONENTS APPLICATION

1. APPLICATION

Applicants must submit a copy of their career development-type award application as originally submitted, including all components (e.g., project description, biosketches, budget, etc.).

2. PEER REVIEW SUMMARY STATEMENT

Applicants must submit a copy of the peer reviewer summary statement (including scores) that they received for the existing career development-type award.

3. AWARD NOTIFICATION LETTER

Applicants must submit a copy of the award notification letter for the existing career development-type award for both the letter of intent submission deadline and the full proposal deadline.

If award notification is pending, applicants should provide the peer review summary statement or other proof of submission.

H. MENTOR BIOSKETCH

An NIH-style biosketch is required for each mentor, **limited to five pages each**. They should be updated from those submitted for the original career development award.

I. PROPOSAL AGREEMENT FORM

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

J. RELEVANCE STATEMENT

The Relevance Statement is **limited to one page** and should describe the relevance of the proposed research project to the advancement of urologic research and improvements in patient care.

K. RESEARCH PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Research Project Abstract is **limited to one page** and should summarize the following elements of the proposed research project and training under the following headings:

- Problem to Be Addressed
- Specific Aims and Experimental Design
- Mentoring/Training Plan
- Potential Impact of the Project on Urologic Research and on the Applicant's Career Development

L. LETTERS FROM COLLABORATORS

Collaborator letters of support (e.g., for promised materials or other research support) **are not required** for this award; however, if applicable, they are permitted.

Collaborator letters are limited to one page each. All letters of support must be submitted on institutional letterhead and signed by the writer. Collaborator letters are not confidential. The applicant is responsible for uploading them into ProposalCentral by the proposal deadline.

M. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

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

- Applicant biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor biosketch not included in submission materials
- Primary mentor letter of support not included in submission materials
- Department chair letter not included in submission materials
- Proposal Agreement form not included in submission materials

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

N. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION STATEMENT

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.

III. LETTER OF INTENT AND FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. LETTER OF INTENT

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award program by clicking on the “Grant Opportunities” tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The letter of intent can be accessed by clicking the “Apply Now” button. **The letter of intent sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section.**

1. Title Page

2. Download Templates & Instructions

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

3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

- This section enables applicants to give other users access to the letter of intent, but it is not required.

4. Applicant/PI

- The applicant will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the letter of intent in order to reference and complete the required information.
- ORCID Identifier – In concurrence with the NIH policy requiring ORCID iDs from all applicants beginning October 2020 “to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes” (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-19-109.html>), all Urology Care Foundation award

mechanisms will also require applicants to provide ORCID iDs. Applicants can register for ORCID iDs at <https://orcid.org/>.

5. Eligibility

- AUA Section Information – Applicants should select the AUA Section in which the proposed research will be conducted. **Applicants who intend to conduct their research at an institution within the state of New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania should reference the institution’s zip code to select the appropriate Section** (see <https://www.AUAnet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>).
- Career Development Award Information – Applicants will need to provide information related to their current or pending career development-type award.

6. Institution & Contacts

- Applicants should confirm that the Lead Institution is correct and are required to indicate an Institutional Representative or Signing Official for their proposal.

7. Key Personnel

- Applicants are required to identify their mentor(s) and Department Chair for the proposed project. These individuals should be the same as those who will be writing letters of support; however, this section **does not** prompt them to submit their required letters of support (see *Section III, Subsection B: Full Proposal*).
- Applicants also have the option to identify any collaborators on the proposed project.

8. Project Information

- Applicants are required to provide a lay and technical abstract for the proposed project. This information is used to assist AUA Office of Research staff in peer review planning.

9. Upload Attachments Here

- Applicants are required to upload their biosketch.
- Applicants are required to upload a copy of the award notification letter for the existing career development-type award. If award notification is pending, applicants should provide the peer review summary statement or other proof of submission.

10. Validate

- This section will check for any required information or files missing from the letter of intent.

11. Preview Letter of Intent

- Signature of the title page by the PI/chairperson/signing official **is not** required.

12. Submit

B. FULL PROPOSAL

After administrative review of the letter of intent, the AUA Office of Research will grant applicants access to the full proposal submission portal. Much of the full proposal submission will be populated with information provided in the letter of intent. **The proposal sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section.**

1-6. Title Page, Download Templates, Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal, Applicant/PI, Eligibility, Institution & Contacts.

7. Key Personnel

- Applicants have the option of adding/removing key personnel who were previously included in the letter of intent.

8. Confidential Letters of Support

- This section enables the applicants to invite their mentor(s) and Department Chair (letter writers) to complete and submit their 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 required letters of support must be received before the proposal deadline for the proposal to be considered for funding.
- All letters of support must be submitted on institutional letterhead and signed by the writer.

9. Project Information

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

10. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement

- Applicants are required to provide a one-paragraph Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement.

11. Upload Attachments Here

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

12. Validate

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

13. Print Full Application with Uploads

- No action is required in this section.

14. Submit

IV. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

An independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers evaluate all proposals. Each proposal is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of proposals deemed fundable, the most highly meritorious proposals will be matched to the available awards. All funding decisions are approved by the AUA Research Council Chair, at the discretion of the AUA Office of Research, and pending availability of funds.

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.

B. REVIEW CRITERIA

All proposals will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

Applicant

- To what degree the applicant's achievements (e.g., awards, honors, publications, promotions, regional/national presentations) indicate the applicant's potential to make significant contributions to the chosen field of urologic research and build a successful career as a leading scientist in urologic research.
- To what degree the applicant's stated career goals and letters of support indicate a strong commitment to pursuing urologic research throughout the applicant's career.
- Whether the applicant's proposed level of effort is appropriate for successful career development, completion of the proposed work, and time to build the necessary aspects of an early independent research program.

Mentor(s)

- To what degree the mentor or mentoring team demonstrates a strong commitment to the applicant's career development, with a well-developed mentoring plan.
- To what degree the mentor or mentoring team has the required expertise and track record to provide sufficient scientific guidance and oversight for the research project and career development.
- To what degree the mentor or mentoring team has a training record that includes previous trainees who have successfully transitioned to research career independence.

Research Project

- To what degree the project is highly innovative, significant, and timely, as demonstrated by the career development award application and previous peer review critiques and scores.
- To what degree the proposed research will be driven by the applicant with minimal guidance only as needed from the mentor or mentoring team.
- To what degree the proposed research will help the applicant transition into an advanced academic position.
- To what degree the proposed project is likely to interface with different scientific disciplines and significantly influence and advance the field of urologic research.

Institution

- To what degree the institution provides a supportive, well-resourced environment with clear evidence of adequate protected time for research to promote the development of the applicant.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion 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.
- 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

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email; results will not be given over the phone. **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.** Summary statements of proposal reviews will not be provided for the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award program.

Applicants selected for funding must:

- Contact research@auanet.org, with the intention to accept or decline the award within **48 hours**.

- Submit a high-quality headshot (file size typically $\geq 1\text{MB}$) in professional dress or laboratory/white coat **within a week of award acceptance**. With the submission of this photo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in Urology Care Foundation or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- Provide documentation of current AUA membership in good standing **within a week of award acceptance**.

D. NOTICE OF AWARD

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

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 of findings.

2. INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS

Awardee Interim Report

Awardees are required to submit an interim progress report and personal statement by July 31 of each funding year via ProposalCentral. Continued funding is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory progress report. Please refer to the Notice of Award for reporting criteria.

Mentor Interim Report

The primary project mentor is required to submit an interim report by July 31 of each funding year via ProposalCentral, evaluating the awardee's performance and detailing career development progress. Please refer to the Notice of Award for additional reporting criteria.

3. FINAL REPORTS

Awardee Final Report

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

Mentor Final Report

Within 30 days after the end of the award period, the primary mentor must submit a report via ProposalCentral approximately one page in length evaluating the awardee's performance as well as detail the future career plan for the awardee.

4. ANNUAL INTERVIEW

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award recipients are required to participate in an annual interview and related survey with the AUA Research Chair and AUA Office of Research staff. Interviews typically occur in conjunction with the AUA Annual Meeting however advance notice of time and date will be given to ensure full participation.

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. INDEPENDENT FUNDING AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Award recipients are **required to develop a grant application for funding as an independent investigator** (e.g., NIH R01 or R21, DoD Idea Development Award), no later than the penultimate funding year of the Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, in order to be eligible for the final year of funding. Awardees are expected to submit this grant application no later than the first quarter of the final funding year.

Award recipients are also **required to remain in academic practice** following their Rising Stars in Urology Research Award for a minimum of two years. If this obligation is not met, repayment of the award may be required.

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

If the awardee is selected for any additional funding from organizations other than the Urology Care Foundation after being selected for a Rising Stars in Urology Research Award, the awardee MUST immediately contact the AUA Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, return of any used or unused funds may be required.

Any changes in the research project, mentor, personnel, or location/contact information that occur after the proposal is selected for funding or during the award period must be reported to and approved by the AUA Office of Research. Changes in the awardee will result in award termination.

E. PUBLICATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

“This work was supported in part by the 2024 Urology Care Foundation Rising Stars in Urology Research Award Program and Astellas Inc.”

F. AUA AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the Urology Care Foundation coordinate several educational 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. The AUA Office of Research also provides opportunities for Urology Care Foundation-funded investigators to present posters at some of these events, and travel awards may be available (see *Section VI: Urology Care Foundation Travel Support Program*).

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award recipients are **required to attend** the Urology Care Foundation Research Honors Program & Reception held at the AUA Annual Meeting, where they will present the 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.

Rising Stars in Urology Research Award recipients are **highly encouraged to attend** the following events and should refer to the Notice of Award for additional information:

AUA Annual Meeting

- Basic Sciences Symposium
- Challenges for Urologic Research Symposium

- Early-Career Investigators Showcase
- Funding Opportunities and Grant Writing Workshop
- Urologic Oncology Research Symposium

AUA Headquarters

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

VI. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION 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 Rising Stars in Urology Research Award 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 the 2024 Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUA Office of Research. The preferred method of communication is email at research@auanet.org. Phone calls, when necessary, may directed to 410-689-3806. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern time. Response times may vary depending upon the volume of inquiries.