

Introduction

To encourage young urology faculty to enter and remain in research careers, the American Urological Association Foundation (AUA Foundation), in partnership with Astellas Pharma US, Inc., has developed the “Rising Star in Urology Award.” This program provides supplemental salary support to career development awardees to ensure that their research salary compensation is competitive with other academic urology faculty.

These salary supplements will be awarded for a period of up to five years, with an escalating payment each year.

General Application Instructions

Eligibility

Applicants must be Board-certified or -eligible urologists, or participating in a training program to obtain Board Certification in Urology; who have successfully competed for a new externally-funded, peer-reviewed career development award (i.e., K07/K08/K23 awards from NIH, or career development type grants from the Department of Defense, American Cancer Society or others) within the 2009 federal fiscal year.

These awards are on a contract basis. Each awardee is required to develop an “NIH R01 type” application no later than the fourth or penultimate funding year to be submitted to the NIH, VA, or other external funding agency no later than the first quarter of the fifth or final funding year. Each awardee is required to meet with the AUA Foundation Research Director and/or the AUA Foundation Research Council Chair twice each year for a review of progress and the research environment. One of these meetings will take place at the American Urological Association Annual Meeting. Additionally, participation at AUA Foundation-designated scientific meetings will be expected. Some meetings may occur at Astellas Pharma US, Inc. Headquarters. Awardees are also expected to provide annual progress reports and a final report to the AUA Foundation. Failure to provide appropriate documentation may result in a delay in the next scheduled payment. If an awardee relinquishes his or her award, repayment to the AUA Foundation in full will be required. Furthermore, awardees must remain in academic practice for a minimum amount of time equal to the number of years of support provided. If this obligation is not met, repayment to the AUA Foundation will be required.

Distribution of Funds

The award will be for a period of up to five years and is contingent on the awardee maintaining an externally-funded career development award. In each award year, AUA Foundation/Astellas Rising Star in Urology Research Awards funds will be paid directly to the awardee’s sponsoring institution for distribution to the awardee. The AUA Foundation does not withhold taxes from awards (i.e., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes, etc.). Awards are solely for the purpose of salary supplementation and cannot be used for fringe benefits. Currently, the salary supplementation starts at \$28,000 and increases each award year based on the following schedule: year 2, \$33,000; year 3, \$40,000; year 4, \$46,000; and year 5, \$52,000.

Project Termination and Change of Institution

Any personnel, location, or project status changes that occur after the award announcement or during the award period must be reported to and approved by the AUA Foundation.

Nondiscrimination

Neither Astellas nor the AUA Foundation discriminates as to age, race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability, citizenship or national origin in the employment and promotion of staff or in the selection of participants in the AUA Foundation/Astellas Rising Star in Urology Research Awards program.

General Application Instructions (cont'd)

Electronic Registration

The AUA Foundation requires applicants to register online at the AUA Foundation/Astellas Rising Star in Urology Research Awards's URL – <http://www.UrologyHealth.org/astellas>. Applicants must link to this URL to:

- complete their applicant, mentor and project information;
- print the Registration Summary Form for use in the application package;
- download an Application Agreement Form to be signed by the applicant, mentor and sponsoring institution representative.
- upload all materials and submit the complete application package

Incomplete Applications

Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. All materials listed on the checklist found on page 10 must be included in order to be reviewed and considered for funding.

Certification of Human Subjects

If activities involving human subjects are planned during the proposed research, you must provide a letter of approval from your Institutional Review Board (IRB). You are not required to submit this letter of approval with your application. If you receive an AUA Foundation/Astellas award, your award is contingent upon receipt by the AUA Foundation of a copy of the current IRB approval letter.

Certification of Vertebrate Animals

If activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the research, you must submit a letter of approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Letters of approval are not required at the time of application. If you receive an AUA Foundation/Astellas award, your award is contingent upon receipt by the AUA Foundation of a copy of the current IACUC approval letter.

Contact Information

All communication regarding the AUA Foundation/Astellas Rising Star in Urology Research Awards program, including the application process should be directed to:

Rodney Cotten
Research Programs Manager
American Urological Association Foundation
1000 Corporate Boulevard
Linthicum, MD 21090
(866) 746-4282 x3750
(410) 689-3750
(410) 689-3850 (fax)
grants@auafoundation.org

Preparation of the Application Materials

- Complete these online sections:
 - Applicant information
 - Mentor(s) information
 - Project information
 - *Print the Registration Summary Form for use in the application package
 - Download the Application Agreement Form
- Prepare the application package. It should include all documents on the Application Checklist on page 10 **in the stated order**, including:
 - Registration Summary Form
 - Applicant *Curriculum vitae*
 - Application Agreement Form with all necessary signatures. You will download the Application Agreement Form during the application process.
 - Letter of Support from each mentor describing the mentoring program and commitment to applicant.
 - Letter from Urology Department Chair detailing research environment, institutional support, commitment to applicant and career development and documentation of protected research time.
 - A current NIH-style biosketch of each mentor
 - Copy of career development grant award letter*
 - Copy of career development grant*
 - Copy of career development grant review summary sheets and scores*

*Please note that career development grants, summary sheets, and scores are confidential documents which the applicant must choose to disclose. However, these items are required for this competition.
- Scan all materials into a single .pdf file.
- Go to the AUA Foundation/Astellas Rising Star in Urology Research Awards's URL – <http://www.UrologyHealth.org/astellas> and upload the .pdf file.
- Submit your application package

The application package must be SUBMITTED no later than Friday, November 20, 2009 at 5:00 pm LOCAL TIME. Applicants should allow ample time for compiling and submitting materials, including the electronic upload process. Late submissions will not be considered.

Review Criteria

Criteria for Review

Award applicants are evaluated by an independent review panel. Please note, however, that the AUA Foundation is a non-profit organization that is not federally funded. Priority scores will be given to each application based on the following criteria:

Proposal and Applicant

- Career development award grant, score and critique
- Commitment to applicant's career development by mentor(s) and Department Chair, including ensuring protected time for research
- Mentoring plan for the applicant
- Resources available to the applicant, including research start-up package, laboratory space, and other resources available
- The applicant's excellence in urology demonstrated by publication(s) and /or presentation(s) made at national or international meetings
- Balance in the AUA Foundation /Astellas Rising Stars in Urology Award grant portfolio

Selection Procedure

Selections are based on the results of the review panel. Applications will be reviewed following the application deadline and applicants will be notified by mail no later than December 18, 2009. All applicants will be advised of the results. Results will not be given over the phone. Please wait for notification by mail.

Reporting Requirements

All AUA Foundation / Astellas Rising Star in Urology Award recipients must adhere to the following reporting requirements:

Lay Language Statement for UrologyHealth.org

All awardees will be required to submit a 5-6 sentence lay language statement about their research project and a headshot to be posted under the current AUA Foundation-supported research at www.UrologyHealth.org. Statements and photos will be due within one month of notification of award.

Awardee's Progress Reports

By December 1st of each funding year, awardees must submit an interim progress report and personal statement. The report must be submitted to the AUA Foundation electronically (by e-mail or on a CD). The next year of funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress reports. A final progress report and personal statement are due two months after the project end date. The reports must include the following:

Technical Progress Report (Two pages)

Summarize the main focus of the research and clearly state the findings. Specify how the research results met the objectives established in the application. This report should include—but is not limited to—answering the following questions: Did the awardee meet all of the goals set out to achieve? If not, why not? What is the impact of the research on the current understanding of this research area? What further research remains?

Personal Statement (One page)

How has the funding provided by AUA Foundation helped the awardee's overall professional growth (i.e. journal submissions, career opportunities, new research focus)? Has this grant/fellowship led to other funding opportunities? Has the awardee had the opportunity to report the findings at professional meetings?

List of publications and presentations

A full list of publications and presentations during the award period (please highlight publications arising from any AUA Foundation funding with an asterisk*). Awardees also are required to send the AUA Foundation copies of articles published regarding AUA Foundation-funded research.

Reporting Requirements (cont'd)

Mentor's Report

Under separate cover, the mentor will also submit a *confidential* statement no later than December 1st of each funding year. This one-page report should evaluate the awardee's performance, progress on the funded research and detail how the applicant will allocate the research/clinical time in order to maintain the required percentage of effort. The mentor's report must be submitted to the AUA Foundation electronically (by e-mail or on a CD) and cannot be submitted with the awardee's report package.

Publications

Scholars are required to send the AUA Foundation copies of articles published regarding AUA Foundation-funded research. Any publication arising from work supported by the American Urological Association Foundation and Astellas Rising Star in Urology Award should include acknowledgment of the support. Such acknowledgement should read:

“This work was supported in part by the AUA Foundation and Astellas Pharma US, Inc.”

Institutional Accountability Report

Each year the Institutional Grant Administrator must submit an Institutional Accountability Report to the AUA Foundation Office of Research. This report re-affirms that the institution is adhering to all terms of the Program Announcement and Institution Agreement Form, especially level of effort requirements and guaranteeing that this supplemental salary award is being provided directly to the investigator in addition to their normal salary and benefits. No direct or indirect costs or fringe benefits are allowed. Continued funding is contingent upon receipt of a satisfactory report. A final Institutional Accountability Report should be included in the Final Progress Report package, which is due two months after the project end date.

Failure to adhere to all requirements of the Rising Stars in Urology Program may result in loss of the award and/or repayment of any or all AUA Foundation funds previously paid to the institution/awardee. Furthermore, lack of compliance could be considered in the AUA Foundation's funding decisions in the future.

AUA Foundation Research-Related Activities

Each year, the AUA Foundation coordinates several events designed to advance urology research and provide educational venues, especially for young investigators. Attendance to the AUA Foundation Scholars Breakfast, AUA Foundation Research Forum, and the AUA Foundation/SBUR Summer Research Conference (depending on the topic) is required for all investigators funded by the AUA Foundation. Unless prior approval is given, failure to attend an event will disqualify the awardee from receiving a scholarship or future payments. Travel awards or other means of travel support may be available.

- **AUA Foundation Scholars Breakfast:** All AUA Foundation Scholars are acknowledged at the AUA Foundation Scholars Breakfast, which is held during the AUA Annual Meeting, and in the Research Pictorial. Attending the AUA Foundation Scholars Breakfast is required for all investigators funded by the AUA Foundation.
- **AUA Foundation Research Forum:** Each year at the AUA Annual Meeting, the Research Forum provides a venue showcasing the research of promising young investigators. All investigators funded by the AUA Foundation are required to attend the Research Forum.
- **AUA Foundation/SBUR Summer Research Conference:** The Summer Research Conference provides an intense and intimate forum for young investigators to meet research leaders, hear about emerging research concepts and methods, network with participants and speakers, learn about new methods and techniques, and receive mentoring and advice on research career activities. The conference is typically held each August and has a different scientific theme and scientific topic each year. If the topic is associated with the research being conducted by the awardee, he or she would be required to attend the conference.

Award Requirements

The awards are on a contract basis. Failure to meet the terms of the agreement may result in required repayment of the award. The requirements are to:

- Provide annual progress reports by e-mail or on a disc.
- Provide a final progress report by e-mail or on a disc.
- If requested, meet with the AUA Foundation Research Director and/or the AUA Research Council Chair twice each year for a review of progress and the research environment. One of these meetings will take place at the AUA annual meeting.
- Participate in AUA Foundation-designated scientific meetings. Some meetings may occur at Astellas Pharma US, Inc. Headquarters.
- Develop an “NIH R01 type” application no later than the fourth or penultimate funding year to be submitted to the NIH, VA or other external funding agency no later than the first quarter of the fifth or final funding year.
- Remain in academic practice for a minimum of the number of years equal to the number of years of support provided. If this obligation is not met, repayment to the AUA Foundation will be required.
- Provide acknowledgement of support in any publication or presentation arising from work supported by the AUA Foundation/Astellas Pharma US, Inc. Rising Star in Urology Research Awards Program. Such acknowledgement should read:

“This work was supported in part by the AUA Foundation and Astellas Pharma US, Inc.”
- Send the AUA Foundation copies of articles published regarding AUA Foundation/Astellas Pharma US, Inc. funded research.
- Attend the required AUA Foundation research-related events.
- Notify the AUA Foundation of any personnel, location, or project status changes that occur after the award announcement or during the award period.
- Provide a copy of the current IRB approval letter if activities involving human subjects are planned during the proposed research.
- Provide a copy of the current IACUC approval letter if activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the proposed research.
- Maintain an externally-funded career development award.
- The mentor(s) of the awardee agree to participate as reviewers for AUA Foundation grant programs.

Failure to adhere to these requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation may result in a delay in the next scheduled payment or termination of the award. If an awardee relinquishes his or her award, repayment to AUA Foundation will be required.

Application Checklist

A complete application package will contain the following items **in the stated order**. Any application documentation, other than that provided in the existing Career Development Award grant, critiques, or score sheet, using less than a 12 point font will not be reviewed. Please visit <http://www.UrologyHealth.org/astellas> for complete application information, registration, to download an Application Agreement Form and to upload and submit the application package.

Checklist for Applicant

- Complete all online sections:
 - ____ Applicant information
 - ____ Mentor(s) information
 - ____ Project information
 - ____ Print the Registration Summary Form
 - ____ Download the Application Agreement Form

Application Package Documents:

- Registration Summary Form
- Applicant *Curriculum vitae*
- Completed Application Agreement Form
- Letter of Support from each mentor describing the mentoring program and commitment to applicant,
- Letter from Urology Department Chair detailing research environment, institutional support and commitment to applicant and career development with special attention to documentation of protected time for research
- A current NIH-style biosketch for each mentor
- Copy of career development grant award letter*
- Copy of career development grant*
- Copy of career development grant review summary sheets and scores*
 - *Please note that career development grants, summary sheets, and scores are confidential documents which the applicant must choose to disclose. However, these items are required for this competition.
- Scan all materials into a single .pdf file.
- Upload the .pdf file.
- Submit your application package **no later than Friday, November 20, 2009 at 5:00 pm LOCAL TIME. Applications that are late or incomplete will not be considered.**