

FY24 DOM Research Accelerator Program

1. Objective

The objective of the Department of Medicine **Research Accelerator Program** is to provide support for junior faculty who are committed to pursuing a career as a physician-scientist or scientist within the DOM. The program provides funding during the crucial period of career development in the first three years of their first faculty position (Instructor or Assistant Professor) within the DOM. Eligible MD or MD/PhD applicants can be final year senior fellows or junior faculty members. Eligible PhD post-doctoral fellows must be in the final year of training with pending appointment to faculty independent of this award. This program does not support individuals to continue post-doctoral studies.

2. Description

The program initially provides one year of funding. Funding is a maximum of \$300,000 over a period of 2-3 years based on academic progress and a competitive NIH K or R application (or foundation equivalent) timeline within 18 months of **Research Accelerator** support. Requests will be reviewed by a DOM committee for funding decisions. It is expected that up to 2-3 awards may be made annually.

3. Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- Hold a MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree and seek additional research training under the supervision of a sponsor prior to embarking on a career of independent research.
- Have a primary academic appointment as Instructor or Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine. If PhD or equivalent doctoral degree without MD, candidate must have less than 3 years since PhD award.
- Faculty members must be within three years of their appointment as such.
- Senior fellows in their final year or junior faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor).
- Be in their final year of post clinical/post graduate training (e.g. final year of T32 research support).
- Must devote a minimum of 75% full time professional effort related to research.
- Candidates must have completed at least one year of research training in their current laboratory or research program prior to the start of this award. Candidates must have commitment from their Section for a full-time faculty position at the time they apply for the award. The faculty position commitment, which includes Instructor and Assistant Professor positions, must be clearly articulated in the Section chief's letter. Candidate's career goals and level must be aligned to submit a NIH K or R award or DOD/AHA/ACS etc. career award or equivalent within 18 months of beginning **Award funding**.
- Candidates should not currently hold other types of Institutional career development awards such as the CTSI KL2 award or other Foundation grants akin to a K award.

4. Support

Funding is made available for research related expenses including salary support for the candidate, research personnel expenses such as salaries of technical personnel, supplies, equipment, publication costs, and travel related to professional development conferences. Maximum Year 1 award amount: \$150,000. Please note that these funds are limited and must be expended within a year of the award's final disbursement. Unspent funds will be returned to the department.

5. Application

- a. NIH style Biosketch
- b. Candidate's current and pending support.
- c. Detailed budget for initial period (PHS 398 FP4) and composite budget (PHS 398 FP5).
- d. Candidate's background, career goals and objectives (1 page)
- e. Candidate's plan for Career Development including a timeline for K submission (1 page)
- f. Research plan (max 3 pages)
 - a. Prepare according to National Institutes of Health PHS 398 guidelines. Begin each section of the Research Plan with a section header (e.g., Introduction, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, etc.). The Research Strategy Section should be composed of three distinct sections –Significance, Innovation, and Approach; the approach section may include preliminary studies. The research plan should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project independent of any other document. Be specific and informative and avoid redundancies. **Limit to three (3) pages**.
- g. Mentorship Plan (max 1 page)
 - a. Constitution of a mentorship team that should include a primary mentor, a content mentor and third mentor of choosing. Indication that the team will meet at least 2x per year to review progress.
 - b. Indication of what additional training may be required and how that will be obtained.
 - c. Explanation of any other important pieces of career development that will be necessary for successful transition to a career development award.

- d. Plans for enrollment in the K writing course when appropriate.
- h. Mentor statement (max 1 page)
 - a. Describe: A. the primary mentor's research qualifications; B. previous experience as a research supervisor; C. mentorship plan for the candidate and D. plan for transitioning the candidate from the mentored phase to the independent phase of the award.
- i. Mentor's NIH Biosketch
- j. Section Chief's Letter of support describing the research and career development plan of the candidate's area of interest, the scientific environment in which the work will be done, evidence of institutional commitment in terms of space, equipment, protected time and other resources.

6. **Application deadline**

Applications should be submitted as a **single pdf** by April 15, 2023 to Vanessa.Nguyen@bmc.org.

7. **Review Criteria**

- a. Each proposal will be evaluated on the candidate's qualifications, the sponsor/training plan and environment and the scientific proposal.
- b. Does the applicant have the potential for both a successful career as an independent researcher and a successful training experience leading to future NIH awards?
- c. Scientific merit of the research proposal.
- d. The qualifications of the applicant, including suitable career stage, relevant research experience, prior scientific publications and other related accomplishments.
- e. The training environment including the extent of opportunity presented by the project for the candidate to acquire new approaches, techniques, and methods.
- f. The mentor's relevant research expertise, previous experience in training, specific plan for training the applicant, and resources and environment.
- g. The commitment of the Section to the development of the careers of physician-scientists, as reflected in a commitment to provide sufficient space, resources and protected time to promote the development of young investigators.

8. **Restrictions and reporting conditions:**

- a. The goal of this pre-career award program is to support junior faculty until a K award or equivalent is received. When the K-award is received Award funding may be terminated.
- b. Progress reports are required annually for continued support of the pre-career award funds in subsequent years. The annual progress report should be submitted in March. The progress report must follow the format below:
 - i. A two page progress report consisting of the following sections: Major goals of the project; accomplishments under these goals; and goals for the following year.
 - ii. List quantifiable measure of progress due to your funding such as new publications, new related funding and invited presentations.
 - iii. Current other support document with pending and active grants
 - iv. Detailed budget for current year (PHS 398 FP4).
 - v. Progress reports will be reviewed by Department leadership carefully to determine if candidates merit additional years of funding.
 - vi. It is expected that awardees will participate in Department of Medicine events such as Evans Research Days, serve as abstract reviewers and poster judges, and attend research retreats and speak/present their supported research at these events.