

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
Internal Medicine
Office of the Associate Chairs



2019 Research Faculty Awards Request for Applications (RFA)

Spring Award Competition

Funded Awards: Distinguished Research Achievement Award, Senior Faculty Pilot Project, Rehn Family Research Award, Trainee Award

Notification to Apply: April 12, 2019

Submission Due Date: May 20, 2019

Notification of Award: June 17, 2019

Funding Period: July 8, 2019 – July 7, 2020

Fall Award Competition

Funded Awards: Junior Faculty Pilot Project, Collaborative Challenge and Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Award

Notification to Apply: September 9, 2019

Submission Due Date: October 21, 2019

Notification of Award: November 18, 2019

Funding Period: January 13, 2020 – January 11, 2021

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Background: The Department of Internal Medicine (DOIM) provides a number of internally supported funding opportunities for faculty and trainee investigators, consistent with our mission to improve health through innovative multidisciplinary research. Support is provided through Distinguished Research Achievement Award (DRAA), Jr and Sr. Pilot Awards, Collaborative Challenge Award, Rehn Family Award, Trainee Award and Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Award funding. The goal of funding these awards is to stimulate and advance research within the DOIM in partnership with investigators from other departments within the College of Medicine (COM) and the University of Cincinnati. Submissions from underrepresented

racial and ethnic groups and candidates with disabilities are encouraged. This funding enables department investigators to leverage preliminary findings and data to be used as the basis for competitive extramural research grant applications.

1. Grant Purpose by Award Type

- a. **Junior Faculty Pilot Project Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. It is anticipated that two (2) one-year applications will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$30,000 per proposal may be requested. The Junior Faculty Pilot grant is awarded only in the fall.
 - b. **Collaborative Challenge Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. These funds provide support for a multidisciplinary group of faculty; at least one faculty member must be DOIM faculty. It is anticipated that one (1) Collaborative Challenge project application will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$30,000 may be requested. The Collaborative Challenge grant is awarded only in the fall.
 - c. **Distinguished Research Achievement Award (DRAA):** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. It is anticipated that one (1) award will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$50,000 may be requested. Equipment purchased through this award is the property of the DOIM and cannot be transferred to another institution without the approval of the Department's Chair. The DRAA provides researchers within the DOIM that have maintained high levels of research support an opportunity to enhance their research program. Appropriate use of funding includes requests for instrumentation, support of critical experiment supplies, and trainee or research assistant support among other items. The DRAA is awarded only in the spring.
 - d. **Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. These funds further the commitment to improve safety and quality in health care and assist in determining what works and what does not work in health care delivery. Projects can incorporate clinical outcomes, financial impact, and functional measures and qualitative data collection methods and approaches. It is anticipated that two (2) applications will be funded. Up to \$5,000 each may be requested.
 - e. **Rehn Family Research Award (RFRA):** Provides research career funding for junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM, with research interests in the in the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. The award amount varies per year and is contingent upon investment performance. The RFRA provides up to \$16,000 of support for one (1) project for a period of one year. Applicants who demonstrate substantial progress may apply for one (1) additional year of funding, contingent upon available funds. All renewals are competitive.
 - f. **Senior Faculty Pilot Project Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. It is anticipated that two (2) one-year applications will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$30,000 per proposal may be requested. The Sr. Faculty Pilot grant is awarded only in the spring.
 - g. **Trainee Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. These funds will enable trainee investigators to leverage preliminary findings and data as the basis for competitive extramural research grant applications, but may also be used to support travel to research events to present findings or to expand research activities within the department. It is anticipated that two (2) applications will be funded. Up to \$5,000 for each award may be requested.
2. **Prioritization of proposals:** Projects with the best potential for future growth and impact and external funding will receive priority. This includes not only biomedical, outcomes, clinical, and population research, but research in areas that enhance clinical and translational research, such as biomedical informatics, biostatistics, and community-based projects. Within the general guidelines outlined above, the type of proposals that will be considered for funding include projects that:

- Stimulate the development of new clinical and translational inter- and multidisciplinary teams
- Promote community-based research
- Develop new methodologies that leverage institutional strengths
- Pursue high-risk, high reward studies
- Increase applications for external funding
- Foster new and innovative initiatives
- Improve patient safety, access or quality of care

3. Eligibility:

- **The Senior and Junior Faculty Pilot Project Awards, Distinguished Research Achievement Award and the Collaborative Challenge Award** are only open to faculty with primary appointments in Internal Medicine. **Rehn Family Research Award** is open to junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM. **Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Award** is open to Senior and Junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM. **Trainee Award is open to** fellows, residents, PhD students, graduate students, medical students, and undergraduate students affiliated with the DOIM.
 - **Applicants at Assistant Professor level or below:** Successful applicants are encouraged to attend at least one (1) grant proposal-writing seminar sponsored by the UC COM Office of Research or other any other University of Cincinnati office. For a listing of courses go to <https://research.uc.edu/events>. There are many offerings with no cost. Cost for attendance at any course should be included in application budget. Verification of attendance should be included with the post-award progress report.
- a. Sr. Faculty Pilot Project Awards:** Mid-level to senior faculty members at the associate professor level or above with appointment in any of the divisions within the DOIM at the University of Cincinnati. Groups of investigators from various divisions that are assembled around one of the themes mentioned above are strongly encouraged to apply. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal for a given application cycle.
 - b. Jr. Faculty Pilot Project Awards:** Junior faculty members at the assistant professor level or below with appointment in any of the divisions within the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. *Note: Post-doctoral fellows are eligible if they will be joining the faculty at the completion of their fellowship; appropriate supporting documentation from their Division Director is required.* Eligible applicants can be basic scientists, physicians, and other health care faculty with advanced degrees (M.D., Ph.D., M.D.-Ph.D., or equivalent). Groups of investigators from various divisions that are assembled around one of the themes mentioned above are strongly encouraged to apply. The designated PI must be at the level of assistant professor or below. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal. *Jr. Faculty must identify one (1) project mentor for the Jr. Pilot Award application;* this must be listed on the first page of the application package. The mentor's biosketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included in application. A description of applicant's career objectives along with the expected impact of the award on the achievement of those objectives must be included in the proposal.
 - c. Collaborative Challenge:** Proposals will be accepted from faculty within the DOIM and should include collaboration between scientists from either different divisions within the DOIM or from different departments within the, COM, University of Cincinnati or Academic Health Center. Proposals that involve multidisciplinary teams of basic and clinical scientists are encouraged and will be given priority. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal for a given application cycle.

- d. Distinguished Research Achievement Award (DRAA):** Investigators with three (3) or more years continuous funding averaging \$500,000 or more are eligible. Funding sources consist of all research awards funded through UC, listing the faculty member as PI, with the exception of training awards. VA Merit awards can be included in calculating funding averages. Funding average is calculated on direct award amounts only using the average of a rolling three (3) year period. A detailed proposal with an explanation of how the requested funding will be used to enhance the research program is required. Budgets requesting purchase of a piece of equipment must include two (2) quotes. Partial funding request must document and explain any supplemental funding.
- e. Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Award:** Provides funding for senior and junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM. *Jr. Faculty, fellows, residents and students must identify one (1) project mentor in application;* this must be listed on the first page of the application package. The mentor's biosketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included in application. A description of applicant's career objectives along with the expected impact of the award on the achievement of those objectives must be included in the proposal.
- f. Rehn Family Research Award (RFRA):** Provides research career funding for junior faculty clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM, with research interests in the in the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. One (1) year of research funding is provided for eligible participants, with priority given to research projects that have potential for future external funding. Project must be related to the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. A description of career objectives along with the expected impact of this award on the achievement of those objectives must be included in the proposal. Applicants must identify one (1) project mentor for the Rehn Family Research Award application. The mentor's biosketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included. In addition to a budget, a statement of the plan to obtain future external funding must be included.
- g. Trainee Award:** Provides funding for research projects submitted by fellows, residents, PhD students, masters students, medical students, and undergraduate students affiliated with the DOIM. *A letter of support/approval from either the DOIM mentor or principal investigator must be provided with application package.* **Trainee applicants** are strongly encouraged to seek assistance and feedback from Academic Research Services office. Emily Dobbs and Eric Smith are available to answer your questions, help with proposal design and planning, and to review your proposal. Email imresearch@uc.edu with requests. The mentor's biosketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included in application. A description of applicant's career objectives along with the expected impact of the award on the achievement of those objectives must be included in the proposal.
- 4. Application guidelines (Required Format):** Applications must be submitted electronically through CCAPS: <https://ccaps.research.cchmc.org/welcome>. Log in using your UC ("6+2") or CCHMC username and password. Next, select, "Apply" and follow the instructions. (To submit your application you will need to enter data into the fields and upload documents.)
- Proposals must be submitted in single-spaced text, one-half inch margins, and no smaller than an 11-point font. Arial typeface is preferred. The primary applicant's name must appear in the upper right hand corner of each page, and each page must be numbered in the order of the required elements
 - Proposals are limited to no more than 3 pages (including figures but not references). (Include research strategy, aims, impact, significance and innovation)
 - A one to two paragraph abstract of the proposal is required. (separate from 3 page proposal)

- limit)
- An itemized budget and biosketch for each key personnel (or mentor) must be included. (separate from 3 page proposal limit)
 - Standard PHS 398 forms for budget, biosketch, other support, and resources should be used. Refer to- <https://grants.nih.gov/Grants/Funding/Phs398/Phs398.html>
 - **All components of the applications should be bundled in a single PDF file**
 - Applications must be submitted through CCAPS before midnight on the submission deadline date
5. **Review Process:** A panel of peer investigators will review the applications for Sr. and Jr. Faculty Pilot, Collaborative Challenge, Distinguished Achievement, and Rehn Award. IM faculty and/or administrative staff will review Outcomes and Trainee Award.

At least three (3) scientific reviewers will review each application. An administrative review will be performed following the scientific review. Scientific review criteria will focus on innovation, scientific merit, prospects for future external funding, scientific design and capabilities of the investigative group. Applications will also be reviewed based on responsiveness to the RFA, scientific merit, feasibility, and potential impact of the work on improving the processes/methods used in the clinical/translational research process. All investigators will receive written feedback on their application from the scientific reviewers regardless of the award status.

6. **Progress Reports:** An e-mail update describing any concerns or impediments to the progress of the research should be sent to the award committee at any time during the award period. The project should be completed within one (1) year of the initial funding. A one (1)-page progress report is required at completion of the funding period and project. The progress report should include a summary of results obtained, a listing of presentations and publications, and a plan for or listing of extramural funding. *The award committee may request an additional progress report 18 months post-award, to assist the funders in determining the impact of the award.
7. **Funding limitations for all DOIM Research Awards:** Funds may not be used to support faculty salaries or salaries of the investigators but can be used for support staff or other expenses related to the application. The administrative review will consist of DOIM leadership, who will make final funding decisions. The administrative review committee reserves the right to revise the number of awards provided each funding cycle. Awards will be funded within one (1) month of the notification of award and must be utilized within the fiscal year awarded. **After the award, funding cycle has ended, any unused funds must be returned to the DOIM.** Only meritorious applications will be funded. Recipients can be awarded DOIM funds only once within a two (2) year period, but there is no limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by an investigator. Each submission will be reviewed as a new application.
8. **Awardees:** Awardees will be expected to present their research proposal and/or results at the DOIM Research Conference, as time permits.
9. **Applicants** are encouraged to contact the DOIM Academic Research Services (ARS) office, MSB 6111, for assistance with grant applications, as needed. **Email message can be sent to:** IMresearch@uc.edu

Questions: Please contact Internal Medicine Research Office at imresearch@ucmail.uc.edu or Angie Duke at angela.duke@uc.edu.