

From the Department of
Internal Medicine
Office of the Vice Chairs of Research



Department of Internal Medicine Research 2022 Intramural Awards- Request for Applications (RFA)- Outcomes Research Award and Trainee Research Award

Spring 2022 Award Competition

Opportunities to Apply: Outcomes Research Award
Trainee Research Award

Notification to Apply: April 8, 2022

Submission Due Date: May 13, 2022

Notification of Award: week of June 13, 2022

Funding Period: July 5, 2022 – July 5, 2023

Fall 2022 Award Competition

Opportunities to Apply: Outcomes Research Award
Trainee Research Award

Notification to Apply: September 12, 2022

Submission Due Date: October 14, 2022

Notification of Award: week of November 28, 2022

Funding Period: January 09, 2023 – January 8, 2024

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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 Outcomes Award and Trainee Award funding. The award objectives are to identify faculty and trainees who show strong promise to become leading researchers; 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 and to cultivate research projects that will leverage preliminary findings and data that lead to future funding from external sources. Submissions from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups and candidates with disabilities are encouraged.

1. Grant Purpose by Award Type

- a. **Outcomes Research 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 per year: One (1) application will be funded in the spring competition; and one (1) for the fall competition. **Up to \$5,000** may be requested for each award period.
 - b. **Trainee Research 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 per year. One (1) application will be funded for the Spring competition, and one (1) application will be funded for the fall competition. **Up to \$3,000** may be requested for each award period.
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, patient centered 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 **Outcomes Research Award** is open to Senior and Junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM.
 - The **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. **Outcomes Research 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 the application.** *The mentors name* must be listed on the first page of the application package. The mentor's bio sketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included in the 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.

- b. **Trainee Research Award:** Provides funding for research projects submitted by fellows, residents, PhD students, master's students, medical students, and undergraduate students affiliated with the DOIM. **A mentor must be identified for the project and the mentors name must be listed on the first page of the application package.** *A letter of support/approval from either the DOIM mentor or principal investigator must be provided with the application package.* The mentor's bio sketch 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. Trainee applicants are strongly encouraged to seek assistance with proposal design and planning and review from the Academic Research Services (ARS) office. Email imresearch@uc.edu with requests.
4. **Application guidelines (Required Format):** Applications should follow an NIH format with minor modifications and 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, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface are preferred. A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size requirement still applies. A smaller font may be used for figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends, and footnotes, but this type must follow the font typeface requirements and be readily legible. 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). The project should state broad, long term objectives and specific aims and reference any health relatedness of the project and should include research design and methods for achieved stated goals. Relevance of the research to public health should be included. The approach should describe experimental design and methods and include an appropriate analysis plan.
 - **Headers:** All sections must be identified with a section header (e.g., Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation. (Include research strategy, aims, impact, significance and innovation)
 - **Face Page:** A one to two paragraph abstract of the proposal is required. 500-word limit. (separate from 3-page proposal limit). Include academic and institutional Information: Title of project. PI name, position and title, division, type of research and email. Mentors name, title, degree and department and division, as applicable.
 - **Budget:** An itemized budget and bio sketch for each key personnel (and/or mentor) must be included. (separate from 3-page proposal limit). Statements of how the awarding of funds will enhance chances for outside funding are encouraged. [Complete page 4 for detailed budget for initial budget period form](#) and [page 5 budget for entire proposed project period](#). NIH 398 forms. Provide clear, succinct justification for each requested item. Detail space, equipment and other resources available to perform your research. [Provide NIH formatted bio sketches.](#)
 - Follow standard PHS 398 formats for budget, bio sketch, other support, and resources. PHS forms 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
 - The project should be able to be completed within one (1) year of the initial funding.

5. **Review Process:** A panel of faculty investigators will review the applications for the Outcomes and Trainee Awards. 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. 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 IMResearch@uc.edu 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 each type of DOIM intramural award 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 or other department venue, as requested and schedule permits, and are expected to submit for extramural research funding for additional career development. Acknowledgement of funding support from the University of Cincinnati Department of Internal Medicine Intramural Award in all presentations, publications, and extramural funding that arises from these awards during the performance period is expected. All awardees must complete required trainings on the responsible conduct of research.
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
10. **Mentors:** Mentors are strongly encouraged to provide the trainee mentee with research guidance towards a productive research career through a planned series of meetings, activities, discussion and guidance. Meetings with the trainee mentee to review overall career training goals, and progress are encouraged. The letter of support should provide details of the mentoring plan. Mentors name must be provided on first page of mentees application with mentor bio sketch included. All mentors are encouraged to participate in formal mentor training.

Questions? Please contact Internal Medicine Research Office at imresearch@ucmail.uc.edu or Yolanda Wess at wessyy@uc.edu.