

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF
Internal Medicine
Office of the Associate Chairs



2020 Research Faculty Awards Request for Applications (RFA)

Spring Award Competition

Funded Awards: Trainee and Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Awards

Notification to Apply: April 10, 2020

Submission Due Date: May 15, 2020

Notification of Award: June 15, 2020

Funding Period: July 6, 2020 – July 5, 2021

Fall Award Competition

Funded Awards: Trainee and Outcomes Research/Quality Improvement Awards

Notification to Apply: September 14, 2020

Submission Due Date: October 16, 2020

Notification of Award: November 16, 2020

Funding Period: January 11, 2021 – January 10, 2022

College of Medicine

Department of Internal Medicine

Administrative Offices University of Cincinnati PO Box 670551

Cincinnati, Ohio 45267-0551

Medical Sciences Building, Suite 6065 231 Albert Sabin Way

Phone (513) 558-4231

Fax (513) 558-0858

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 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. **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 per competition: One (1) application will be funded in the spring competition; and one (1) for the fall competition. Up to \$3,000 may be requested for each award.
 - b. **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 four (4) applications will be funded. Two (2) applications will be funded in the Spring competition, and two (2) awards for the fall competition. Up to \$1750 may be requested for each award.
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 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. **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.

- b. **Trainee 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 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:** IM faculty and/or administrative staff will review Outcomes and Trainee Awards.

At least two (2) 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.