UAHS Career Development Award

Request for Applications

The University of Arizona Health Sciences (UAHS), Career Development Award (CDA) training program was established by the Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences (SVPHS) at the University of Arizona (UA) in 2014. It is designed to provide research training and funding opportunities for junior UAHS faculty members at the UA to foster academic careers in clinical and translational research. Personalized didactic coursework, mentored research, and multidisciplinary interactions and collaborations will be offered to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to build a well-funded collaborative research career for the awardees. The College of Medicine-Tucson is also providing support for this program.

Scholars will be selected by the UAHS-CDA Advisory Committee, which is composed of established investigators and physician-scientists with excellent track records and well-funded research programs. The UAHS-CDA scholars will receive 75 percent assigned effort of their current total base salary support up to $75,000 per year for two years, plus fringe benefits. In addition, $5,000 per year will be available to defray costs associated with the scholar’s research-related activities, including lab supplies, tuition, and fees for enrolling in courses of interest related to his/her research. The CDA award will also provide $1,500 per year for the scholar to travel to one or more academic conferences and $5,000 per year to contribute toward the mentor’s research program. The program is intended to provide support for 2 years. The second-year funding is contingent upon a satisfactory progress report of the first-year of support, a required research and career progress report, and a presentation to the UAHS-CDA Advisory Committee. In the event that the scholar is successful in securing extramural grant funding, continuation of the remaining support from UAHS-CDA program will be determined based upon type, amount of extramural funding, and a review of programmatic overlap, in order to determine the suitability and amount of continued UAHS-CDA support.

Specific Requirements and Research Objectives:

**Research Project:** The UAHS-CDA scholars are expected to conduct an independent research project that is clinical and/or translational in nature (see definitions below) and designed to be completed within the first two (2) years of program participation. This project is expected to generate sufficient pilot findings or preliminary data to enable the submission of a NIH K-series or R01 grant (or equivalent) by the second year of the program.

**Mentorship:** Each scholar must choose a lead mentor; one or more co-mentor(s) is/are encouraged if the scholar’s research is multidisciplinary. The mentor(s) will facilitate and promote the scholar’s research and interactions with other UAHS-CDA scholars. They also will ensure that the UAHS-CDA scholar has adequate dedicated time and access to resources to conduct his/her research project.

The primary mentor is required to have a solid track record of extramural funding. The primary mentor and/or co-
mentors should have relevant expertise in the area(s) of proposed UAHS-CDA research.
Each UAHS-CDA scholar must develop a research plan outlining specific benchmarks, including timelines for completion of the research project, meeting presentations, publications and grant applications, and planned didactic courses or degree programs. The research plan will be discussed and approved by the mentoring team in consultation with the UAHS-CDA Advisory Committee, which is charged with providing final approval. The UAHS-CDA scholar also must complete an annual progress report describing the specific activities and accomplishments and whether specified benchmarks have been reached. UAHS-CDA scholars will commit to providing information regarding their career progression for 10 years past the 2-year funding period in order for UAHS to assess program impact.

**Departmental Support:** The UAHS-CDA award will provide up to $75,000/year for the scholar’s salary and fringe benefits/ERE. As a result, the scholar’s home department or division must agree to the following: i) the scholar will have protected time to spend 75 percent of his/her FTE on CDA didactics, research and other UAHS-CDA activities (please see Department Chair letter requirement); ii) 75 percent of FTE is calculated based on the scholar’s work week schedule at time of entry into the program, and iii) any changes to the scholar’s schedule that could infringe upon this 75 percent time must be approved by the UAHS-CDA directorship.

**Eligibility:**

**Applicants to the UAHS- CDA training program must have:**

1. U.S. citizenship or legal permanent resident status (e.g., eligible NIH K-series award).
2. A doctoral degree (e.g., MD, PhD) or its equivalent in health sciences or health sciences-related fields.
3. A current UAHS faculty position as assistant professor, instructor, or its equivalent at the UA, preferably within one to three (1-3) years of the first UAHS faculty appointment, with strong academic credentials and an excellent track record (at least two (2) first- or senior-author original research publications in well-recognized journals in their respective fields), as well as a strong interest in developing a career in multidisciplinary clinical or translational research.
4. A well-conceived research project that is **clinical, translational, and multidisciplinary** in nature and that is relevant to human health and disease (the project will lead to acquisition of preliminary data for submission of a successful research grant application in two years).
5. Identified mentor (or mentors) well-funded, highly productive, and willing to spend time and effort to provide guidance, research expertise, and research supplies for the planned project.
6. Documented departmental and division guarantee of 75 percent full-time effort dedicated for participation in the program and related research activities, including a guarantee of salary support to ensure 75 percent protected research time.
7. Candidate must not be (or have been) a principal investigator on an NIH-funded grant (e.g., R01, R21, or a project of P01, P50, P60, U54), mentored career development (K-series) grant or other equivalent
research grant award (including national career development awards that provide both annual salary support and research funds, such as the AHA Scientist Development Grant, the VA Career Development Award, etc.).

The UAHS-CDA scholars are required to: a) adhere to the directives outlined in the mentoring plan, b) commit to full participation in all requirements of the training program, c) complete an annual progress report, and d) present their research at a national meeting.

Application Process:
All applications should be submitted (https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_erpyp8SQLRANYJD). The application package should include the following:

- A research plan (up to five (5) pages), including specific aims, background and rationale, preliminary data, and experimental design and methods; including statistical analysis plan.
- A career development statement (by applicant, up to three (3) pages); including timelines for the submission of extramural grant applications (e.g., NIH K-series or NIH R01).
- An endorsement or recommendation letter from the mentor(s), including a training plan for the applicant (up to three pages).
- A copy of the applicant’s NIH biosketch (5 pages)
- A copy of the mentor’s NIH biosketch (5 pages per mentor), including documentation of the mentor’s current funding and the names and current positions of current and past pre-and post-doctoral trainees and their publications. Please include T32 tables for pre- and post-doctoral fellows as an attachment.
- A letter from the applicant’s department chair (or college dean) indicating that 75 percent of protected time and commensurate salary support (if required in excess of the $75,000 salary award) will be committed to the candidate by the Chair or Dean for the proposed research work. (See attached example)
- Budget (see attached example)

Review and Selection Process:
Scholars will be selected for support based on a competitive review process in which academic qualifications, career goals, and the quality of the training environment will be critical considerations for funding. Finalists will be selected and may be interviewed by members of the UAHS-CDA Advisory Committee.

Criteria for Selection:
1. **Track Record:** Creativity of the candidate and potential to conduct excellent multidisciplinary research judging by documented track record in one or more of the following: a) areas of expertise and prior training in research; b) number of first- or senior-author publications (especially original research
papers); c) previously funded NIH F32/F31 or equivalent fellowships; d) quality of previously written scholarship (e.g., original research papers, previous fellowship proposals, review articles, book chapters) appended to the application.

2. **Research Plan:** Scientific significance and impact, novelty and originality, potential clinical relevance, and feasibility of the written multidisciplinary research plan. Probability of the clinical, translational and multidisciplinary research project to result in an independently funded extramural grant (e.g., NIH K-awards, R01, PPG-project; NSF grant; VA Merit Review Award, DOD grant; AHA-SDG, etc.).

3. **Mentors:** Research productivity, record of active research funding (NIH-R01 or equivalent funding is required), track record of previous trainees, and multidisciplinary expertise of the proposed mentor(s). Most importantly, the mentor’s willingness to help the trainee to develop an independent research project that is competitive for extramural funding (e.g., NIH K-series award, AHA-SDG, VA Career Development Award).

4. **Career Potential:** The expectation that the candidate will develop an independent academic research medicine career as an outstanding independent investigator who will lead a multidisciplinary research team and have an important impact on improving health care.

5. **Resources and Departmental Support:** Tangible commitment and resources provided by the home department or division, and suitability of the available clinical and laboratory infrastructure and multidisciplinary research team. Clear commitment from the candidate’s department or division to respect the candidate’s effort in the research assignment and value the candidate’s academic career as a clinical/translational researcher.

**Definitions:**

1. **Clinical Research:** Research with human subjects that is a) patient-oriented research, b) epidemiological and behavioral studies, and c) outcomes research and health services research. Patient-oriented research is research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) in which a researcher (or his/her colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Patient-oriented research includes research on i) mechanisms of human disease, ii) therapeutic interventions, iii) clinical trials (see below), and iv) development of new technologies, but does not include in vitro studies using human tissues not linked to a living individual. Studies falling under 45 CFR 46.101(b) (4) (PHS 398, Exemption 4) are not considered clinical research by this definition.

2. **Clinical Trial:** A prospective biomedical or behavioral research study of human subjects that is designed to answer specific questions about biomedical or behavioral interventions (drugs, treatments, devices, or new ways of using known drugs, treatments, or devices). Clinical trials are used to determine whether new biomedical or behavioral interventions are safe, efficacious, and effective. For the purposes of this
UAHS-CDA funding mechanism, the feasibility of the proposed study will be taken into consideration. Candidates are advised to propose aims or goals that would be addressed during the 2-year UAHS-CDA funding period. They may provide additional information regarding future aims for reviewers to gauge their overall objectives, however, they should clearly demarcate the aim(s), which would be addressed during the UAHS-CDA funding period.

3. **Translational Research**: Translational research includes two areas of translation. One is the process of applying discoveries generated during research in the laboratory, and in preclinical studies, to the development of trials and studies in humans. The second area concerns research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community (Health Services Research). Cost-effectiveness of prevention and treatment strategies also are important parts of translational science. (Source: [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/glossary.htm))

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<td><strong>Submission Deadline:</strong></td>
<td>Monday, December 16, 2019</td>
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**For inquiries, please contact:**

Lauren Zajac  
Assistant Vice President, Research Administration  
University of Arizona Health Sciences  
(520) 621-0724  
lzajac@email.arizona.edu

Sairam Parthasarathy, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
Department of Medicine  
(520) 626-8309  
spartha1@email.arizona.edu