

## **Yale Department of Surgery Academic Development Award**

**Purpose:** Facilitate the development of junior faculty as independently funded investigators within the Department of Surgery.

**Goal:** Award seed funding for preliminary data with the goal of seeking extramural funding at the end of the grant cycle.

**Award amounts:** Up to: \$10K Education, \$15K Clinical, \$75K Basic Science.

**Deadline:** Jan 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on December 31. Grant funding will begin Feb 1, 2020.

**Eligibility:** The Department of Surgery seeks to fund applicants who are early in the research careers with a track record indicative of academic promise and potential in their science and mentorship resources. Eligibility parameters include:

1. Ladder faculty in the Traditional, Investigator, Clinician-Scholar and Clinician-Educator tracks
2. Well-established investigators (for example, previous recipients of NIH K grant, R01 or substantial extramural funding) are not eligible
3. Must have a letter from Division Chief guaranteeing protected time
4. Must have a letter of support from an established researcher (not required to be in the Yale Department of Surgery) who will serve as a mentor
5. Investigators with external funding are not eligible
6. Must not have previously won the award

**Mentorship:** Before submitting an application, the candidate must identify a mentor who will supervise the proposed career development and research experience. The mentor should be an active investigator in the area of the proposed research and be committed both to the career development of the candidate and to the direct supervision of the candidate's research. Candidates are encouraged to identify more than one mentor (i.e. a mentoring team), if this is deemed advantageous for providing expert advice in all aspects of the research career development program. In such cases, one individual must be identified as the principal mentor who will coordinate the candidate's research. The candidate must work with the principal mentor(s) in preparing the application. The principal mentor:

1. Must document the availability of sufficient research support and facilities for high-quality research
2. Will ideally have a successful track record of mentoring
3. Must have record of extramural funding

The principal mentor should contribute to the career development plan for the candidate (coordinated with the candidate's research strategy). In a letter of support, the principal mentor is expected to provide an assessment of the candidate's qualifications and potential for a research career. The research environment and the availability and quality of needed research facilities and research resources (e.g., equipment, laboratory space, computer time, available research support, etc.) must also be described.

**Application:** Application requirements will be similar to NIH K-awards. Information on NIH bio sketch and modular budget is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/424/index.htm#format>.

**Each application will include:**

1. Title Page
2. Abstract (limit 250 words)
3. Applicant information (1-page maximum):
  - a. Candidate's Background
  - b. Career Goals and Objectives
  - c. Career Development/Training Activities during Award (include mentorship plan)

These sections should emphasize why the applicant should be considered for the award, and also include items such as classes, seminars, and opportunities for interaction with other groups and scientists. Training in career skills, e.g. grant-writing and making effective presentations, is strongly encouraged.
4. Research Plan (4-page maximum) will include:
  - a. Specific Aims - preferably no more than 2 aims
  - b. Preliminary Data – no more than 6 figures; self-explanatory legends
  - c. Research Strategy
  - d. IRB/IACUC – indicate (briefly) status of any necessary protocols and approvals as IRB/IACUC approval will be required before funds are released
  - e. Significance and innovation of the work proposed
  - f. Literature cited (1 page maximum)
5. Applicant BioSketch (NIH format)
6. Mentor/Team member BioSketches (NIH format)
7. Letter of support from Division Chief that includes assurance and plan for how the time will be protected
8. Letter of support from the Principal Mentor. Mentors can be internal or external to the Department of Surgery but are expected to have a record of extramural funding (such as R01 or DoD grant)
9. Itemized Project budget and justification (1 page maximum)

**Application Format:** All applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. *Font:* Arial, size 11 point. Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per inch. Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
2. *Page Margins:* Use 0.5-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
3. *Application Paging:* Use single-spacing with consecutively numbered pages in the Research Proposal.
4. *Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figure Legends, and Footnotes:* You may use a smaller type size, but it must be in black ink, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Do not include figures or other materials that are not inserted directly into the body of the application.
5. Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document by 5 p.m. on the date due.

**Process:**

1. Study section type of evaluation for each application
2. Evaluations and scores will be based on criteria below
3. Individualized feedback will be given for each application
4. Opportunity to submit revised application for the next year's submission deadline

**Allowable costs:**

1. Salary and fringe support for students, graduate students, clinical trainees, and post-doctoral and clinical fellows is permitted, as well as salary to support personnel in mentor's laboratory. Salary/fringe support for faculty and administrative personnel is *not* permitted.
2. Travel funds that are needed for study conduct (e.g. participant travel) are allowed, if essential. Travel to a scientific conference is not supported.
3. Equipment that is essential for the study, and is not otherwise available, may be requested, but large equipment expenditures (greater than \$5,000) are not allowed.
4. Award is intended as seed money, rather than continuing support for ongoing projects.

**Final report:** A final report describing project accomplishments must be submitted within 60 days of the project end date.

**Further Information:** Potential applicants are welcome to discuss proposals with Dr. Gruber ([peter.gruber@yale.edu](mailto:peter.gruber@yale.edu)).