



Date: November 18, 2024

To: Deans, Chairs, and Yale Faculty

From: David Coleman, Brian Smith, and John Krystal, Co-Directors of YCCI, and Keith Choate, Associate Dean for Physician-Scientist Development; Lloyd Cantley, Eugene Shapiro, and E. Jennifer Edelman, YCCI Co-Directors of Education and Co-PIs of the CTSA KL2 Grant

Re: Nominations of junior faculty members for YCCI Scholar Awards and Yale Physician-Scientist Development Awards

2025 YCCI Scholar Awards and Yale Physician-Scientist Development Awards

We are pleased to announce a request for applications for the Yale Center for Clinical Investigation (YCCI) Scholar Awards and Yale Physician-Scientist Development (YPSD) Awards, which provide salary and/or research funds to a select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to research careers focused on improving human health. The YCCI Scholar program and YPSD Award are open to all applicants training and conducting research across the full span (T0-T4) of basic, clinical, translational, and community-based research focused on human health. Individuals must be nominated by a department chair, division head/section chief, or center/program director. The primary aim of these awards is to prepare the applicant for a successful independent research career, so career development and mentoring plans are very important. Awards will be for a total of two years. Funds may be requested to cover up to 75% of an individual's salary (with a maximum of \$120,000 per year, including fringe benefits) and up to \$25,000 of research support per year. Applicants who have an active career development award are not eligible for salary support but may apply for up to \$25,000 in research support per year (the specific aims of this additional research support must be different from the specific aims of the career development award, though they can be related). Applicants who have substantial start-up funds may not be eligible for salary support; this will be determined at the time of the award. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria: the candidate, the career development and mentoring plan, the mentors, the research plan (innovation, significance, and approach), the environment and departmental commitment, and whether the application targets one of the areas of special emphasis noted below.

Areas of Special Emphasis

- **Promotion of Diversity in Translational Research**

We encourage applications from individuals who are members of underrepresented populations in the biomedical research workforce (see [NIH NOT-OD-20-031](#)).

- **Promotion of Health Equity Research**

We encourage applications from individuals who are conducting research related to promoting health equity.

- **Promotion of Community-Engaged Research and Implementation Science**

We encourage applications from individuals who are conducting community-engaged research or implementation science research (see https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/communityengagement/pce_intro.html and <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/is/about>).

- **Promotion of New Technologies (e.g., Artificial Intelligence) in Clinical Research**

We encourage applications from individuals who are conducting research on the incorporation of new technologies to improve the health of patients.

Key Dates

Due date for letters of intent: **Friday, January 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM**

Due date for full applications: **Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00 PM**

Earliest anticipated start date: **Tuesday, July 1, 2025***

*Please note: Start dates may be later in the year, depending on the availability of slots.

Letter of Intent

A letter of intent is required. Letters of intent should be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, January 3, 2025. Please visit <https://medicine.yale.edu/ycci/education/jrfacscholars/scholars-rfa/> for information on how to submit a letter of intent. Please include an Other Support page that lists all start-up funds, current and past grants, and grant applications that are pending or that you expect to submit before July 1, 2025. Note that the purpose of the letter of intent is to confirm your eligibility and to plan for the review of the proposals and will have no effect on the scoring of the proposal. Applicants do not need to wait for eligibility confirmation to begin preparing the application.

Full Application

Complete applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, February 7, 2025. Please refer to the application packet for detailed instructions. Copies of the application packet can be downloaded from <https://medicine.yale.edu/ycci/education/jrfacscholars/scholars-rfa/>

Scholar Opportunities

As a YCCI scholar and YPSD Awardee, you will join a cohort of multi-disciplinary scholars across the Yale Schools of Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, and Engineering and Applied Science, and you will engage in the following activities:

- *Research Opportunities for Clinical And Translational Studies (ROCATS)*: this program serves as both an introduction to the breadth and depth of translational research opportunities at Yale and beyond and as the platform for forming peer mentoring teams leading to a year-long team science group project.
- *Research-in-Progress*: this series allows scholars to present their research progress to their colleagues at these bi-weekly meetings throughout the academic year.
- *Interdisciplinary Teamwork in Translational Research*: this two-half-day retreat focuses on ways to lead and work effectively on teams and is hosted by Daryn David, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Child Study Center.
- *Participation in national and local meetings*: Scholars will be invited to participate in one or two national CTSA meetings annually and will attend local YCCI and YPSD educational events, including but not limited to scholar orientation, Robert Sherwin All Scholar Day, Yale-Rockefeller Day, and the Janeway Society Annual Retreat.

- *Participation in evaluation activities:* Scholars will meet with one of the Co-Directors of Education at least once annually to review their research progress and be invited to provide feedback through a program assessment survey.

Requirements

- Applicants must have a full-time Yale faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor, Instructor, Associate Research Scientist, or Research Scientist at the time of the award. The appointment must not be contingent upon receipt of this award. Faculty who do not have an appointment as Assistant Professor must have a section of their Department Chair's letter that describes the Department's long-term commitment to the applicant and the applicant's trajectory for promotion while at Yale. The trajectory for promotion must not be contingent upon receipt of this award.
- The applicant must have been a **faculty member for fewer than five years by the earliest anticipated start date, Tuesday, July 1, 2025**. This 5-year period is cumulative and includes all appointments as an assistant professor, associate research scientist, lecturer, or instructor at any institution (any part-time appointments and leaves of absence should be described and will be considered in calculating the total time at a faculty rank).
- Applicants must have a clearly documented career path to becoming an independent investigator.
- Department Chairs/Section Chiefs should provide evidence of a strong commitment to these applicants in their support letters.
- Applicants cannot have previously received a YCCI Scholar KL2 or YPSD Award. Applicants with active career development awards are eligible to apply for research support only if the award will remain active during the entire two years of their YCCI Scholar or YPSD Award. Individuals who have previously received an NIH career development award that is no longer active are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants cannot have been a principal investigator on any research grant that provides \$200,000 or more in direct costs per year except for non-NIH career development awards.
- Foreign subcontracts are not allowable under this mechanism, and research at foreign sites will require approval by NCATS prior to an award.
- The NIH stipulates that **at the time of appointment** to a YCCI Scholar Award, scholars cannot have a pending application for any other PHS mentored career development award (e.g., K07, K08, K22, K23). The Other Support document needs to include all pending and planned grant applications.

Salary Support

- Applicants may request as much as 75% salary support up to a maximum of \$120,000 (including fringe benefits) per year.
- Applicants must commit 75% professional effort to their research and training regardless of the amount of salary support that they receive. Exceptions to this requirement are made for surgeons who can justify the need for extra time to maintain their surgical skills; surgeons must commit at least 50% professional effort to their research and training. This commitment should be outlined in the letter of support and must not be contingent upon receipt of this award.
- Departments will need to provide 50% of the requested salary support, not to exceed \$60K annually, for applicants who are not U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals or who have not lawfully been admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence at the time an award is made.
- Recipients of this award may receive compensation on Federal awards as the Program Director/Principal Investigator or in another role (e.g., co-investigator) as long the specific aims of the other supporting grant(s) differ from those of your YCCI Scholar award.

- Applicants with an individual or institutional K career development award at the time of application are not eligible for salary support from a YCCI Scholar or YPSD Award; please see Research Support below.
- Applicants with other types of career development awards may be eligible for salary support, depending on the size of the career award.
- Applicants who have substantial start-up funds may not be eligible for salary support; this will be determined at the time of the award.

Research Support

- Applicants may request up to \$25,000 of research support per year. Departments will need to provide 50% of the research support, not to exceed \$12,500 annually, for applicants who are not U.S. citizens or non-citizen nationals or who have not lawfully been admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence at the time an award is made.
- Applicants with active career development awards at the time of application may request up to \$25,000 in research support per year. They must devote 75% professional effort to research and training, and this project must be distinct from (although possibly related to) the one supported by the career development award. Exceptions to this requirement are made for surgeons who can justify the need for extra time to maintain their surgical skills; surgeons must commit at least 50% professional effort to their research and training. Also, the career development awards must remain active during the entire two years of their YCCI Scholar or YPSD Award.

Additional Terms of the Award

- After an applicant is appointed as a YCCI Scholar or YPSD Awardee, they may apply for an individual K award. If such an application is successful, they will be required to give up salary support. In some instances, it may be possible to keep the research support, provided that funds are available and the specific aims are distinct from that supported by the individual K award.
- Recipients must be prepared to start the award on time, so all required approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be submitted by the earliest anticipated start date. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to be approved by the NCATS before we can release funds for the research component of the proposal.
- The second year of a YCCI Scholar or YPSD award is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year and grant funding.
- Recipients will be required to complete training in the responsible conduct of research or to show documentation of completion of such training.
- Funds remaining at the end of the award year of the parent grant (for either research or salary support) CANNOT be rolled over to the following year per NCATS rules.

Institutional Support

Departments, sections, or programs with available funds are encouraged to provide additional support to scholars. While not always required, this support may result in an overall increase in the number of funded scholars.

Departments may supplement the YCCI Scholar's or YPSD Awardee's salary to a level consistent with the institution's salary scale. For effort directly committed to the YCCI Scholar or YPSD award, salary supplementation is allowable but must be from non-Federal sources (including institutional sources). Non-federal or institutional supplementation of salary must not require extra duties or responsibilities that would interfere with the goals of

the YCCI Scholar or YPSD Award. For effort not directly committed to the YCCI Scholar award or YPSD Award, recipients may devote effort, with compensation, on Federal or non-Federal sources as the Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) or in another role (e.g., Co-Investigator), as long the specific aims of the other supporting grant(s) differ from those of the YCCI Scholar award or YPSD award.

Additional Information

Finally, please see the YCCI website at <http://ycci.yale.edu> for a full description of the requirements of this award. For questions about the application process and eligibility, please contact Christine Costantino (YCCI_Funding_Opportunities@yale.edu). For questions related to the science of the project, please contact Drs. Lloyd Cantley (Lloyd.Cantley@yale.edu), Eugene Shapiro (Eugene.Shapiro@yale.edu), E. Jennifer Edelman (EJennifer.Edelman@yale.edu), or Chyrell Bellamy (Chyrell.Bellamy@yale.edu).