

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



**College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine
2023 Research Intramural Awards Request for Applications (RFA) for:**

- *Impact Award*
- *Collaborative Challenge Award*
- *Junior Faculty Pilot Project Award*
- *Senior Faculty Pilot Project Award*
- *Rehn Family Research Award*
- *Outcomes Award*
- *Trainee Award*

Spring 2023 Award Competition

Opportunities to Apply: Senior Faculty, Junior Faculty, Rehn, Impact, Outcomes and Trainee Awards

Notification to Apply: April 7, 2023

Submission Due Date: May 12, 2023, midnight

Notification of Awards: Week of June 12, 2023

Funding Performance Period: July 5, 2023- July 5, 2024

Fall 2023 Award Competition

Opportunities to Apply: Senior Faculty, Junior Faculty, Rehn, Outcomes, Trainee, Collaborative Challenge, and Impact Awards*(Impact award contingent on available funds from spring)

Notification to Apply: September 11, 2023

Submission Due Date: October 13, 2023, midnight

Notification of Awards: Week of November 27, 2023

Funding Performance Period: January 8, 2024- January 8, 2025

College of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine

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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 Jr Faculty and Senior Faculty Pilot Award funding, Collaborative Challenge Award funding, Rehn Family Research Award funding and Impact Award funding.

Award objectives are to identify faculty who show strong promise to become leading researchers, 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, 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. **Impact Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. **It is anticipated that one (1) award will be awarded each funding period, but if all funds are awarded in the spring, no award will be offered in the fall.** Awards may range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 each. Up to \$50,000 may be requested for any one project. The final award amount is determined based on merit, need and justification after favorable scientific scoring and review by the Vice Chairs and administrative panel. Equipment purchased through this award is the property of the DOIM and cannot be transferred to another institution without the approval of the Department's Chair. The **Impact Award** provides faculty researchers within the DOIM an opportunity to advance or enhance their research program. Appropriate use of funding includes requests for instrumentation, purchase of critical experiment supplies, support of trainee or research assistant and support of research of a novel, impactful or innovative idea. Any category of request will be considered.
- b. **Collaborative Challenge Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. These funds provide support for a multidisciplinary group of faculties; at least one faculty member must be DOIM faculty. It is anticipated that one (1) Collaborative Challenge project application will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$30,000 may be requested. **The Collaborative Challenge grant is awarded only in the fall.**
- c. **Junior Faculty Pilot Project Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. It is anticipated that two (2) one-year applications will be awarded. Up to \$30,000 per proposal may be requested. **One (1) application will be funded in the spring competition; and one (1) for the fall competition.**
- d. **Rehn Family Research Award (RFRA):** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. Provides research career funding for junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM, with research interests in the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. The RFRA provides up to \$16,000 of support for each project. Two (2) projects will be funded this year. **One (1) application will be funded in the spring competition; and one (1) for the fall competition.** Applicants who demonstrate substantial progress may apply for one (1) additional year of funding, contingent upon available funds. All renewals are competitive.
- e. **Senior Faculty Pilot Project Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. It is anticipated that two (2) one-year applications will be awarded each funding period. Up to \$30,000 per proposal may be requested. **One (1) application will be funded in the spring competition; and one (1) for the fall competition.**
- f. **Outcomes Research Award:** Funded for a twelve (12) month period. These funds further our commitment to improve the safety, quality and delivery of patient centered care and/or improve systems of healthcare. Projects can incorporate clinical outcomes, highlight financial impact, improve functional measures, and use qualitative and/or quantitative 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.
- g. **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, impact and possibility of 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 Impact Award, Senior Faculty Pilot Award, and the Collaborative Challenge Award** are only open to faculty with primary appointments in Internal Medicine.
- **Rehn Family Research Award** is open to junior faculty, clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical 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> or Faculty Development OneStop at https://ce.uc.edu/FacDev/Workshops/Index/ProfDev_P.

Cost for attendance at any course should be included in the application budget. Verification of attendance should be included with the post-award progress report.

- a. **Impact Award:** Proposals accepted from assistant professor level faculty and above with primary appointment in any of the divisions within the DOIM. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal for a given application cycle. A detailed proposal with an explanation of how the requested funding will be used to enhance the research program and potential for future funding is required. Budgets requesting purchase of a piece of equipment must include two (2) quotes. Partial funding request must document and explain any supplemental funding. Innovation, novel idea, or justification of need for funding should be fully explained. **As a condition of award, applicants may be asked to amend the proposed budget (rebudget).**
- b. **Collaborative Challenge:** Proposals will be accepted from any faculty member with primary appointment in the DOIM and should include collaboration between scientists from either different divisions within the DOIM or from different departments within the COM, University of Cincinnati, or Academic Health Center. Proposals that involve multidisciplinary teams of basic and clinical scientists are encouraged and will be given priority. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal for a given application cycle.
- c. **Jr. Faculty Pilot Project Awards:** Junior faculty members with primary appointment in Internal Medicine at the assistant professor level or below with appointment in any of the divisions within the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati. *Note: Post-doctoral fellows and Research Scientists are eligible if they will be joining the faculty at the completion of their fellowship and/or appropriate supporting documentation from their Division Director is provided.* Eligible applicants can be basic scientists, physicians, and other health care faculty with advanced degrees (M.D., Ph.D., M.D.-Ph.D., or equivalent). Groups of investigators from various divisions that are assembled around one of the themes mentioned above are strongly encouraged to apply. The designated PI must be at the level of assistant professor or below. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal. Jr. Faculty must identify one (1) project mentor for the Jr.

Pilot Award application; this 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 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.

- d. **Rehn Family Research Award (RFRA):** Provides research career funding for junior faculty clinical and postdoctoral fellows, residents, graduate students, and medical students affiliated with the DOIM, with research interests in the in the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. One (1) year of research funding is provided for eligible participants, with priority given to research projects that have potential for future external funding. Project must be related to the broad areas of hypertension and arteriosclerosis. A description of career objectives along with the expected impact of this award on the achievement of those objectives must be included in the proposal. Applicants must identify one (1) project mentor for the Rehn Family Research Award application. The mentor's bio sketch and description of the mentor's role in applicant's career development must be included. In addition to a budget, a statement of the plan to obtain future funding must be included.
 - e. **Sr. Faculty Pilot Project Awards:** Mid-level to senior faculty members at the associate professor level or above with appointment in any of the divisions within the DOIM at the University of Cincinnati. Groups of investigators from various divisions that are assembled around one of the themes mentioned above are strongly encouraged to apply. An individual investigator can be the PI in only one (1) proposal for a given application cycle.
 - f. 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. **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.
 - g. **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 and MENTEES bio sketches 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 is 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, 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 Impact, Sr. and Jr. Faculty Pilot, Collaborative Challenge, Rehn Family, 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 up to 18 months post-award, to assist the funders in determining the impact of the award.
7. **Factors that may impact receipt of Award:** Awardees must be up to date in responding to all requests for progress/updates from any project funder. Delinquent status may be cause for intramural funding to not be awarded/released.
8. **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.

9. **Awardees:** Awardees will be expected to present their research proposal and/or results at the DOIM Research Conference, as requested, and are expected to submit for extramural research funding for additional career development or independent research funding. **All awardees must complete required trainings on the responsible conduct of research.**
10. **Communicating funding support:** Acknowledgement of the University of Cincinnati Department of Internal Medicine Intramural Award in all presentations, publications, and extramural funding that arises from these awards is expected. Awardees may follow standard conventions for citing grant funding. Example: *This work was supported by the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine [grant number] or the research leading to these results has received funding from the Project titled, “YYY” from the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine under the award number ZZZ.*
11. **Applicants** are strongly encouraged to contact the DOIM Academic Research Services (ARS) office for assistance with proposal review, editing and consultations. Requests can be sent by *email message* to: IMresearch@uc.edu. Applicants may also schedule a consultation [request service through CCTST](#) -Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design (BERD) team for proposal review and to enhance responsiveness to this RFA.
12. **Mentors:** Mentors are strongly encouraged to provide mentees with research guidance towards an independent research career through a planned series of meetings, activities, and discussions. When indicated, the name of the mentor must be provided on first page of mentees application and mentor bio sketch must be included in the application package. All mentors are encouraged to attend formal mentor training.

For questions: Please contact Internal Medicine Research Office at imresearch@ucmail.uc.edu or Angie Duke at angela.duke@uc.edu.