LSOM Early Career Grant Development Program
October 31, 2018

LSOM Early Career Grant Development Program

Due date: Applications due via REDCap (https://redcap.uthscsa.edu/REDCap/surveys/?s=MFY4DWCDDP) on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 11:59pm CST.

Please refer questions to Emma Richardson Musil, MA, Program Coordinator, at 210-450-8392 or richardsone@uthscsa.edu

Mission: To create a supportive environment and foster the development of research careers for junior clinical faculty, the LSOM Office for Research developed the LSOM Early Career Grant Development Program. Through didactic sessions, peer mentoring, and grant writing/editing support, this program will strengthen participants’ ability to submit competitive applications for extramural research funding. This program supports the LSOM Office for Research Strategic Plan.

Description: The Early Career Grant Development Program is a 6-month intensive program designed to enhance the grantsmanship skills of junior clinical faculty. Upon completion of the program, each participant will be expected to have a proposal suitable for submission to an extramural funding agency. This effort is supported by the LSOM Office for Research and led by Don Dougherty, PhD, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Faculty Research Development in the LSOM. Program activities include one-on-one mentoring with experienced senior faculty, didactic sessions, peer mentoring, and grant writing/editing support.

Program Outline: Meetings are held weekly from February to June and consist of alternating didactic and peer-mentoring sessions and monthly one-on-one sessions with the Director of Faculty Research Development. Attendance at these meetings are required. When possible, senior UT Health SA investigators will serve as “guest lecturers” and provide participants with additional feedback on their proposals. Participants will also have access to editing services from an external consultant throughout the program.

Mentorship: Mentoring is a crucial aspect of participant success in this program, and participants should have a senior faculty mentor with a history of extramural funding to work with throughout the program. If an applicant does not already have this relationship in place, the Office for Research will facilitate an appropriate pairing. Participants are expected to obtain regular feedback from their mentors, and mentors are encouraged to attend program sessions to provide a holistic and supportive environment for proposal development.

Eligibility: Applications must be submitted by investigators whose primary faculty appointment is to a clinical department in the Long School of Medicine. The ideal candidate is an Assistant Professor or Associate Professor in the initial years of that appointment.

Application Submission: Applications must be submitted via REDCap by 11:59pm December 17, 2018. (https://redcap.uthscsa.edu/REDCap/surveys/?s=MFY4DWCDDP) Documents should be uploaded as Portable Document Format (PDF), use Arial 11-point font, single spacing, and .5-inch margins in all directions. Failure to follow these or the following guidelines may result in the application being administratively withdrawn.

Application elements include the following:

- **Personal Statement (2-page maximum)** Information included should address the candidate’s background and career goals and objectives. See below for additional detail.
• **Candidate’s background**: Describe your scientific history, indicating how this program fits into your research career development. If there are consistent themes or issues that have guided previous work, these should be made clear; if your work has changed direction, the reasons for the change should be indicated. Additional topics that can be included are: research efforts to this point in your research career; evidence of ability to interact and collaborate with other scientists; prior training and how it relates to your objectives.

• **Career Goals and Objectives**: describe your short- and long-term career goals and objectives, and how you plan to develop and/or expand your research career.

  o **Project Summary/Abstract (use template provided)**: Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals for the proposal to be developed/refined during the program. This should be a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work that is informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. Avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person. This summary must not include any proprietary/confidential information.

  o **Applicant’s full CV**

  o **Letter of support** from department chair and division chief, if applicable. This letter must include a statement that, if selected for this program, the participant will be released from clinical responsibilities for two hours of writing time each week during normal business hours.

  o **Optional**: Letter of support from mentor, mentor’s CV

**Review process**: Applications will be reviewed by the Vice Dean for Research and the Director for Faculty Research Development. Participants will be selected based on their potential to develop into an independent investigator and obtain subsequent extramural research funding. Up to six applicants will be selected for the 2019 cohort.

**Recruitment Schedule**:

- **October 31**: Call for Applications
- **December 17**: Applications due
- **January 7**: Notification of selection

**Program Schedule**: Mandatory standing group sessions will take place weekly from February to June 2019. Exact dates will be determined in conjunction with program participants to account for varying schedules and maximize participation. Optional sessions to continue refining proposals will take place every other week from June-October.