

Call for Applications: Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists at Duke

Junior faculty members often face the challenge of working to establish academic careers while simultaneously managing significant caregiving responsibilities. These competing demands make it challenging to succeed in an increasingly competitive grant funding environment, and indeed can be an obstacle to retaining physician scientists at research-intensive academic institutions. To support junior faculty at this critical tipping point in their careers, the Office for Faculty is pleased to offer the Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists at Duke. Supported by an award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Dean Mary Klotman, the Fund provides supplements of up to \$30,000-\$50,000 per year to physician-scientists with significant caregiving responsibilities. Exact award amounts will be dependent upon the availability of funds in a given year.

The School of Medicine Office for Faculty is now accepting applications for the Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists for the funding period January 1-December 31, 2020.

Applications are due August 31, 2019. A brief, no-commitment e-mail stating your intent to apply is due August 7.

Current Fund scholars should [click here](#) for application instructions and guidelines for no-cost extensions and competitive renewals.

Eligibility

Supplemental funds are available to physician-scientists, regardless of gender, who:

- Demonstrate a compelling need for the supplement that is related to being a caregiver. Typically, this would be childcare and/or eldercare.
- Are regular rank faculty members at the Medical Instructor or Assistant Professor level. Applicants must be full-time faculty members with a primary faculty appointment in a School of Medicine department.
- Hold an MD or DO degree and an active US medical license
- Have research support such as a career development award or research project grant, which includes salary support
- Show evidence of strong research training and productivity
- Are conducting a clinical research project (*see definition below) that has the potential to impact human health

***Definition of Clinical Research**

For research projects supported in connection with the Fund, clinical research is defined as the scientific investigation of the etiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease using human subjects, human populations, or materials of human origin. Included in the definition are studies that utilize tissues or pathogens only if they can be linked to a patient.

Possible Uses of Funds:

Applicants may request funds to be used in a variety of ways, for example:

- 1) Research support personnel*
- 2) data extraction and analysis
- 3) image processing and analysis
- 4) writing clinical trials
- 5) assisting in grant or manuscript writing
- 6) technical support for conducting laboratory studies (such as extracting RNA for genomic analyses, conducting immunohistochemistry, performing western blots for protein analysis, completing flow cytometry experiments, etc.)
- 7) biostatistical support
- 8) access to core facilities (see note below regarding animal tissues)
- 9) buyout of clinical time
- 10) other support as proposed by the applicant

*Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the [Duke Office of Clinical Research](#) (DOCR) prior to application to discuss possible uses of funds. DOCR provides support for personnel performing clinical research across the Duke organization and offers a wide array of services within that spectrum. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to consult with DOCR about potential availability of resources for this program.

Faculty who are interested in using funds for biostatistics or other quantitative support and who do not already have a quantitative collaborator should consider contacting CTSI BERD (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design Methods Core [previously known as Biostatistics Core]) to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. Visit <https://biostat.duke.edu/berd-methods-core> to learn more and submit a request. The BERD Core requests two-month notice to develop new collaborations. Please indicate that you will be submitting an internal grant proposal and contact them as early as possible.

Important Note: In keeping with the wishes expressed in Doris Duke's will, experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals **will not** be supported by this program.

Application and Selection Process

Applications are online and consist of the following components:

- Application form including project title, description (<200 words), contact information and % professional effort devoted to research.
- Statement of individual need, including a description of caregiving responsibilities and how an award from the Fund would improve the balance between caregiving and professional responsibilities. Details such as the number of children/parents requiring care, any special needs of children/family members, spouse/partner career if applicable, proximity to family support, cultural expectations from family, and a clear explanation of how funds will benefit the faculty member will be helpful for the review.
- Research plan in the NIH format of Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation and Approach (no more than 3 pages, including figures, images, tables, etc., but excluding references), written so that it can be readily understood by reviewers outside of the applicant's research field. The research plan should give reviewers an understanding of the research that will benefit from this award.

- NIH-style Biosketch (5-page limit) that contains information about the training history, faculty position, a personal statement, scientific impact of research to date, publications and current research support (source, type, summary of goals, PI and role) as well as the amount of current research support and the individual's percent effort dedicated to each award listed.
- Proposed budget for the supplemental award, using the NIH detailed budget format. Budgets must outline direct costs and include a budget justification for each requested person or item. The budget should be page 1, and the justification should follow. Requests for salary support must include fringe benefits. The total request (including fringe) must not exceed \$50,000/year. More guidance on the NIH detailed budget is available at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/developing_budget.htm. A sample budget justification is available for download [here](#). If a particular section does not apply to your application, please leave this section blank on your budget.
- Letter of support from the individual's Department Chair, Division Chief, or Center/Institute Director. The letter should identify the applicant's primary research mentor/mentoring team. It should also indicate if departmental matching funds will be provided.
- A statement attesting that no animals or primary tissues derived from animals will be used in the research supported by these funds.

Please e-mail the Office for Faculty no later than August 7, 2019 to let us know if you plan to apply. This e-mail can be very brief and will help us gauge resources needed to facilitate the selection process.

[Click here to access the online application now.](#) If you already have a MyResearchProposal account, please login with your username and password and type "SOM" as the access code in the upper right-hand corner. Please do NOT create a new account. For further instructions about how to setup your account and begin your application, [click here](#). For any questions or concerns with the MyResearchProposal system, please contact Anita Brantley or Lesia O'Hara at 919-668-4774 or via email at myresearchproposal@duke.edu.

Selection Criteria

Fund applications will be competitively selected through an internal peer-review process. Applications will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria:

1. Quality of the research plan
2. Strength of letter of support
3. Evidence of strong training and productivity
4. Personal need

Applicants should clearly outline plans to begin using awarded funds on or close to January 1, 2020.

Award Administration

Applicants will be notified of their funding status in October. Funds will become available January 1. Awards will be for 1 year. Dependent upon the availability of funds, recipients may apply for one additional year of funding, and/or a no-cost extension. [Click here to learn more about the process for extensions or and renewals.](#)

Selected Fund scholars will be connected with a variety of mentoring resources, including up to 4 executive coaching sessions with an internal faculty coach, priority registration for popular faculty development programs, and mentoring meetings with Vice Dean for Faculty Ann Brown, MD, MHS. Additional programming may be developed based on the needs of the selected scholars.

Program Evaluation

The Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists at Duke is one of 10 Fund programs established nationally through a grant program from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. The impact of this new program will be evaluated as part of an IRB-approved research study conducted by principal investigator Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil, at the University of Michigan Health System (UM). Applicants will be asked to complete a survey conducted by UM, separate from the application form outlined above. Application data, excluding personal essays and letters of nomination, will be provided to Dr. Jagsi. Data submitted for this evaluation project will be de-identified. UM researchers will also collect longitudinal data on promotion and retention rates and may invite all applicants – regardless of whether they were selected for funding – to participate in follow-up surveys and interviews.

Questions?

Please contact the School of Medicine Office for Faculty at facdev@dm.duke.edu or 919.684.4139.