Date: March 28, 2017

To: Deans, Chairs and Yale Faculty

From: Robert Sherwin, Director of YCCI

Re: Nominations of junior faculty members for YCCI Scholar Awards

We are pleased to announce a request for applications for YCCI Scholar Awards, which provide salary and/or research funds to a select number of junior faculty members who are strongly committed to careers in clinical research, community-based research or translational research. Translational research includes basic science studies that are related to human disease, including studies that utilize animal models or in vitro studies such as cell cultures. 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 successful independent research careers, and emphasis will be placed on career development and mentoring plans. Awards will be for a total of 2 years. Funds can be requested to cover up to 75% of an individual’s salary (with a maximum of $100,000 including fringe benefits per year) and up to $20,000 of research support per year for a clinical, community-based, or translational research project. Applicants who already have either a career development award or a substantial Departmental start-up package are not eligible for salary support, but may submit an application for up to $20,000 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).

Key Dates:
Due date for letters of intent: April 25, 2017 at 5:00 PM
Due date for full applications: June 6, 2017 at 5:00 PM
Earliest anticipated start date: September 1, 2017

Letter of Intent
A letter of intent is required, must be submitted online and is due by 5:00 PM on April 25, 2017. Please visit http://ycci.yale.edu/ for information on how to submit a letter of intent. Please be sure to include an additional page in your biosketch that lists all current grants and grant applications that are pending or that you expect to submit. Note that the purpose of the LOI is simply to confirm your eligibility and for planning for review of the proposals.

Full Application
Full applications must be submitted by 5:00 PM on June 6, 2017. Please refer to the application packet for detailed instructions. Copies of the application packet can be downloaded from http://ycci.yale.edu and must be submitted online at http://ycci.yale.edu.

Please Note
• NIH policy stipulates that applicants for a YCCI career development award (KL2) may not apply for a federally-sponsored mentored K award (K08, K23, etc.) simultaneously or have such an application pending. Therefore, a candidate who has applied for a K award but has not yet received a score is ineligible to submit a YCCI Scholar application until it is known that the K application will not be funded and the applicant can document it in writing. Likewise, applicants for the YCCI career development award cannot submit an individual K award application until they receive a final decision about their YCCI application. This means that persons who apply for this YCCI KL2 award will not also be able to submit an application for an individual K award to the NIH (e.g., K08 or K23) for the June 2017 deadline AND they cannot have an individual K award pending at the time they submit this application.
Requirements:

- Applicants must have a full-time Yale faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor, Instructor or Associate Research Scientist at the time of the award and 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 no more than 5 years by the anticipated start date of September 1, 2017. This 5-year period is cumulative and includes all appointments as 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.
- Applicants cannot have been a principal investigator on any research grant that provides $100,000 or more in direct costs per year except for career development awards and NIH R03 grants. PI’s of K99/R00 grants may not apply if the R00 portion starts before September 1, 2017.
- Foreign subcontracts are not allowable under this mechanism, and research at foreign sites will require approval by NCATS prior to an award.
- Department Chairs/Section Chiefs should provide evidence of a strong commitment to these applicants in their support letters.

Salary support:

- In general, applicants may request as much as 75% salary support up to a maximum of $100,000 (including fringe benefits) per year.
- Applicants with a K or another career development award or who have substantial departmental start-up funds are typically not eligible for salary support from a YCCI Scholar Award; cost-sharing with the Department may be required if salary support is awarded.
- Recipients of this award cannot receive additional salary support from other federal funds.
- Departments will need to provide 50% cost share 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 who have already received an Individual K award that has ended are not eligible to receive salary support.

Effort:

- 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.
- Any additional salary support that awardees receive cannot come from federal funds per NIH rules.

Research support:

- Applicants may request up to $20,000 of research support per year.
- Applicants with career development awards at the time of application are not eligible for salary support, but they may request up to $20,000 in research support per year. If so, they must devote 75% professional effort to research and training and the 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.
- Cost-sharing will generally be expected for recipients with start-up packages.
Additional Terms of the Award:

- After a candidate is appointed as a YCCI Scholar, he/she may apply for an individual K award. If such an application is successful, he/she will generally be required to give up YCCI salary support, thereby opening the slot for another appropriate candidate. In rare instances it may be possible to keep the YCCI research support, provided that funds are available and the project is distinct from that supported by the individual K award. The individual’s term as a YCCI scholar will continue until the end of the original term and the individual is expected to continue to participate in YCCI Scholar activities.

- Recipients must be prepared to start the award on time, which means that all required approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc,) must be obtained by September 1, 2017. Projects that involve human subjects research or live vertebrate animals will also need to be approved by the NIH before we can release funds for the research component of the proposal.

- The second year of a YCCI Scholar award is contingent upon satisfactory progress during the first year.

- Recipients whose work is a significant departure from their previous studies will be required to take additional didactic training.

- Recipients who do not already have a Master’s or PhD degree will be required to pursue training leading to a Master of Health Sciences degree at Yale.

- 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 (for either research or salary support) CANNOT be rolled over to the following year per NIH rules.

Institutional Cost Sharing:

Cost-sharing will be requested from departments, sections, or programs with available funds. While not always required, cost-sharing may result in an overall increase in the number of funded scholars.

As stated in Voluntary Institutional Support Guidelines: Clinical and Translational Science Award support for KL2 scholars, RFA-RM-09-004, an institution may supplement no more than 50 percent of the Scholar’s awarded salary support, and this supplementation is allowable only from nonfederal sources of funding. Important: At least 75 percent of the scholar’s effort in his/her full-time position must continue to be dedicated to the awarded career development activities regardless of the source(s) of salary funding. The fact that a department funds a portion of the scholar’s salary can in no case result in the scholar redirecting effort toward departmental priorities outside of the research and career development activities of the YCCI award. Institutional funds may include funds from departments or sections, philanthropic foundations, hospitals and health care systems, components of university systems, and private industry.

Finally, please see the YCCI website at http://ycci.yale.edu, for a full description of the requirements of this award as well as an updated FAQ section. For questions about the application process and eligibility, please contact Nicholas Licht (Nicholas.Licht@yale.edu). For questions related to the science of the project please contact Lloyd Cantley (Lloyd.Cantley@yale.edu), Eugene Shapiro (Eugene.Shapiro@yale.edu) or Rajita Sinha (Rajita.Sinha@yale.edu).