



Date: February 4, 2021

To: Deans, Chairs and Yale Faculty

From: Brian Smith and John Krystal, Co-Directors 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 research careers focused on improving human health. This includes basic research, clinical research, community-based research and translational research. 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 basic, 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).

Areas of Special Emphasis:

The YCCI Program will be open to all applicants training across the full span (T0-T4) of basic, clinical and translational research focused on human health. All applications will be accepted and reviewed based on scientific merit; however, some priority will be given to investigators who are an underrepresented minority, see special emphasis below for additional information.

Key Dates:

Due date for letters of intent: February 26, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Due date for full applications: April 2, 2021 at 5:00 PM

Earliest anticipated start date: July 1, 2021

Letter of Intent

A letter of intent is not required but is strongly encouraged. Letters of intent should be submitted by 5:00 PM on February 26, 2021. 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 April 2, 2021. 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>.

Special emphasis: Promotion of Diversity in Translational Research

YCCI is committed to attracting outstanding junior faculty members who are members of populations that are under-represented in the biomedical research workforce and who want to pursue careers in any type of translational research. Such applicants will be a member of a population identified by NIH as under-represented in the U.S. biomedical, clinical,

behavioral and social sciences research enterprise (see [NIH NOT-OD-18-210](#)). Awardees will receive training in the use of state-of-the-art research tools; training to enhance their abilities to work collaboratively in complex multidisciplinary research teams; and outstanding mentoring (including concordant mentoring) by experienced and diverse faculty that will support the junior faculty member's long-term professional development, including connecting diverse individuals to supportive networks. We will also provide access to resources for retention and elimination of barriers for career transition.

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 earliest anticipated start date, July 1, 2021**. 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 the earliest anticipated start date, July 1, 2021.
- 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
- The NIH stipulates 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). Thus, while both an individual PHS mentored career development award and the YCCI Scholar Award can be pending at the same time the PHS mentored career development award will need to be withdrawn before appointment to a YCCI Scholar Award.

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 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.
- 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 are not eligible to receive salary support
- Awardees who have previously been supported on a KL2/ K12 award are not eligible to receive salary support
- 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.

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.
- Applicants who are just requesting research support must have career awards that will remain active during the full two years of their YCCI Scholar award
- 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 the earliest anticipated start date. 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.

Departments may supplement YCCI Scholar's salary up to a level that is consistent with the institution's salary scale. For effort directly committed to the YCCI Scholar 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 award. For effort not directly committed to the YCCI Scholar 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.

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)