



Date: September 19, 2022

To: Deans, Chairs, and Yale Faculty

From: Linda Bockenstedt, Co-Director, COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists
Keith Choate, Co-Director, COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists

Re: COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists

We are writing to announce a request for applications for supplemental research support from early-career physician-scientists who face significant caregiving demands. The goal of the program is to retain such scientists in the research enterprise. Funding is provided by the COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists at Yale School of Medicine (COVID-19 FRCS) funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation through the COVID-19 Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists collaborative and the Yale School of Medicine. Our process will consider the degree of demonstrated caregiving burden and prioritize applicants with limited access to other resources such as institutional support packages. Funds can be used to “buy out” clinical obligations or to hire additional research staff to optimize research activities. Applicants must have a compelling, time-sensitive need for the funds to regain research momentum because of increased family caregiving responsibilities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Typically, this would be childcare, partner care, and/or eldercare, but applicants may make the case for other reasonable family caregiving responsibilities.

Key Dates

Application due date: October 31, 2022

Earliest anticipated start date: December 1, 2022

Eligibility

- Applicants must have a full-time faculty appointment at the Yale School of Medicine as Assistant Professor or Instructor at the time of the award.
- Applicants may not have been a faculty member for more than 10 years by the anticipated start date of December 1, 2022. The 10-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 an MD or a DO degree and must have a current US medical license.
- Applicants must demonstrate a compelling need for the supplement that is related to being a caregiver.
- Applicants must have an active intra or extramural career development award or research project grant with annual direct costs sufficient to provide both research and salary support. Internal start-up funds do not satisfy this requirement.
- Applicants must have a minimum of 50% effort allocation to research at the time of application.
- Applicants must show evidence of strong research training and productivity.
- Applicants must be conducting an original and rigorous clinical research project that has the potential to address a health issue that poses a significant clinical burden (with considerable morbidity and mortality, whether it is a rare or common condition) and that has potential for societal benefit. 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.



- Previous awardees may request a second year of support in select circumstances if well-justified and if previously awarded funds have been expended by the anticipated start date.

Budget

- Applicants are eligible to request up to \$90,000 for research support for a one-year period. The final funding amount will be decided by the review committee based on the statement of need, how support will alleviate, in the short term, the impact of caregiving responsibilities on the research program, and available funding.
- Funds must be used to further research. Examples include technical support, grant-writing support, or buy out of required clinical time so that more time can be spent on research. The funds may not be used for:
 - Childcare or other caregiving costs directly.
 - Research costs, that would not directly help Program Scholars reclaim their research time.
 - Travel
- Funds may not be used to support experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals.

Evaluation Criteria

- Need for additional support is the critical driver. We evaluate need for additional support as a function of what additional support is needed and what is already provided by the institution or other research grants. For example, candidates who have a high level of need but have access to other resources that could be used to achieve the same purposes as this funding mechanism will not be considered as highly as candidates who lack existing support. Candidates who demonstrate a high level of caregiving burden will be ranked higher than individuals who demonstrate low levels of caregiving burden.
- Salience of Support. How likely is it that funds provided by the funding mechanism will allow the candidate to achieve their research goals? Will the award substantially increase the likelihood that the candidate will continue as an academic researcher?
- Academic achievements to date. Does the candidate have rigorous training in clinical research? Is the candidate's academic, clinical, and research record of high quality?
- Academic potential. What is the likelihood that the Career Development and Mentoring Plan will contribute positively to the scientific development of the applicant? Do letters of support indicate confidence in the applicant's career potential? What is the likelihood that the applicant will achieve scientific independence?

Application Process

- The application package with detailed instructions is available for download on the YCCI website.
- Applications must be submitted by October 31, 2022, using the online form available on the YCCI website.

Other Terms and Conditions

- Recipients must provide a proposed start date (no earlier than December 1, 2022). All required approvals (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be obtained by the proposed start date.

Examples of Significant Caregiving Demands

Example 1: An assistant professor in Pediatrics is PI on a K08 award in which she is assessing the use of school-based clinics to increase rates of immunization with the HPV vaccine. She has two young children



who attend daycare and another in elementary school. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the staffing at her children's daycare which can no longer offer full-day daycare 5 days a week and she is reaching a point in her study in which she will need to be at the school through late in the afternoon 2 days a week. She is planning to apply for the Doris Duke award and will use the funds to buy out the two afternoons of clinical time. This will allow her to spend the time needed to conduct her study and still be able to pick up her children some afternoons.

Example 2: An assistant professor in Neurology has been traveling frequently to support his father who was recently diagnosed with long Covid. His mother passed away several years ago, and he is in the process of moving his father to Connecticut to enable him to care for his father more closely. This situation forced him to take time away from his research study in which he sees patients in follow-up and recruits new patients. He is applying for the Doris Duke award so that he can hire a research assistant to see the patients in follow-up. The extra help will enable him to catch up with recruitment so that he can complete the study on time.

Example 3: An assistant professor in Psychiatry recently initiated her K23 award. Her research project involves formative research to lay the groundwork for an intervention to prevent opioid addiction in young adults. Her husband, a critical care physician, has been required to pick up additional clinical coverage limiting his ability to help with childcare duties. She plans to use Doris Duke funding to hire an analyst to assist her in coding and analyzing qualitative interview transcripts.

Contacts

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