

The Association of VA Surgeons Foundation is offering a one-year resident research scholarship with the option of competitive renewal for a second year. The scholarship is \$25,000 per year. The funds may be used for salary and/or research expenses. No indirect costs will be covered. The award period is from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a member of general surgery or surgical subspecialty residency program during the period of the award
- Applicants must have at least one faculty mentor who has a 5/8ths or greater VA appointment
- Applicants must have completed at least two years within an accredited surgical training program in the United States by the time the scholarship is awarded on July 1, 2020 and should not complete formal residency training prior to June 30, 2021
- Approval of the application is required from the administration (dean or fiscal officer) of the applicant's institution

Application Components:

- Project summary signed by the applicant describing the proposed research and professional activities for the scholarship year including a statement of the career objectives of the applicant and how the research protocol furthers career development (400 word limit)
- Research plan (5 page limit) including the following:
 - Hypothesis and specific aims
 - Significance/innovation
 - Background/preliminary observations
 - Approach including potential limitations
 - Timeline
- Bibliography
- Facilities and resources (1 page limit)
- Proposed budget (1 page limit)
- NIH-style biosketch of applicant*
- NIH-style biosketch(es) for mentor(s)*
- Letter of support from primary mentor including:
 - Commitment to be made by the mentor to research and career development of applicant
 - Assurance that an ongoing relationship will be maintained with the applicant throughout the entire period of the award
 - Mentorship experience and proposed mentorship plan
 - Guarantee of appropriate protected time, laboratory space, equipment, and other resources required for the applicant to complete the research plan outlined in the application
- Letters of support from any additional mentors (if any) clearly delineating the separate roles of each mentor for the research plan

- Letter of support from department chair**
- Dean/Fiscal Officer Approval Letter stating that no indirect costs will be covered with this award
- Online attestation by applicant and mentor acknowledging that just-in-time institutional assurances (e.g. IRB, IACUC) need to be obtained prior to release of funding

* All biosketches are required to follow the most recent published NIH format (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

** Two separate letters are required if department chair is also a mentor

Review and Post-funding Requirements

The deadline for submission is December 1, 2019. The proposed research may be simultaneously submitted to other funding sources, however, only one source of funding for the project can be accepted. Applications will be reviewed by the Association of VA Surgeons Research Committee. The award winner will be announced at the AVAS Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh during the Annual Banquet on Monday, April 20, 2020. A written progress report including a budget report is due to the Chair of the AVAS Research Committee by July 1, 2020. The awardee is expected to attend the Association of VA Surgeons Annual Meeting in 2021 to present a report on the research as part of the Scientific Forum.

For more information, please contact Dr. Jason Gold at jgold@bwh.harvard.edu.