REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
(10-22-2015)

Junior Faculty Research Scholar Awards

Notice of Intent Due: Noon, January 5, 2016-Required
Application Receipt Date: Noon, January 26, 2016

The Junior Faculty Research Scholar (JFRS) award will support mentored research and career development by junior faculty. Individual JFRS awards will be named to honor the contributions of senior investigators at Penn State Hershey who have advanced the frontiers of knowledge both through their own research and through the mentoring of colleagues and trainees.

A. Eligibility Criteria:

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) of a JFRS application must have his or her primary academic appointment in the College of Medicine at the rank of Assistant Professor. In addition to the basic science faculty, virtually all physicians employed by The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center have a primary academic appointment in the College of Medicine and are therefore eligible to apply.

2. The PI must not currently have a K01, K08, K23, K99/R00 or similar research career development award; and b) must not have served as PI of an R01, R35 or R37 grant or other peer-reviewed, externally-funded research grant of equivalent size, duration, and competitive success rate such as the Impact and Innovator Awards funded by the Department of Defense. However, investigators who have served as PI of an R03, R21, K22, R43/R44 or other similar external grant award are eligible to submit an application to this program if they meet the other eligibility criteria in this RFA. PIs of a previously funded JFRSA are not eligible to submit an application. Any questions regarding eligibility should be directed to Research Development (x6949 or researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu).

3. The PI must commit a minimum of 30% effort to research including 10% effort to this project. If the PI proposes to devote more than 10% effort to the project, other funding is required to support the additional salary and fringe benefits.

4. PIs who are eligible for this program may submit one application in response to this RFA.

5. PIs of JFRS awards may be eligible to apply for and receive other competitive institutional research grants provided there is no scientific overlap between the projects.

B. Program Guidelines:

1. JFRS applications may focus in the areas of basic, clinical, translational, or educational research within the mission of the Penn State College of Medicine.

2. Each PI must identify a Mentoring Team of 3 or more experienced investigators to provide advice and assistance in developing and executing both a Research Proposal and a Career Development Plan. If the award is funded, the Mentoring Team should meet with the JFRS awardee at least every 6 months.

3. JFRS applications may request up to $100,000 in direct costs per year for up to 2 years to support new research projects at the Penn State College of Medicine/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

4. Grant funds may be used to support the salary and fringe benefits of the PI (10%) and research staff (in proportion to effort dedicated), student stipends, supplies, equipment, travel, publication costs, and expenses related to the use of human subjects.
5. Other funding is required to support the contributions of any collaborators from other colleges or campuses.

C. Institutional Priorities: Priority will be given to scientifically meritorious applications from candidates with outstanding potential to successfully address important problems in biomedical/health research in their chosen field. It is anticipated that successful projects will result in one or more peer-reviewed publications and provide the preliminary data needed to obtain competitive extramural research funding.

D. Review Process: JFRSA applications will undergo review by the College of Medicine Scientific Review Committee (SRC). Reviewers will evaluate:

1. The scientific and technical merit of the Research Plan using the NIH review criteria and scoring metric. The SRC will evaluate: (50%)
   - significance of the proposed research project
   - investigator(s) PI’s training and prior research experience
   - innovation of the proposal,
   - approach with regard to overall strategy, methodology, rigor and feasibility of the proposal
   - environment and its contributions to the success of the proposal

2. The proposed Career Development Plan: (50%)
   - the critical role of the Career Development Plan in achieving the proposed research
   - the qualifications and commitment of the Mentoring Team and its proposed role in providing guidance and advice to the PI in the development of a robust research career
   - the commitment of the department to the further development of the PI’s research career

E. Awards: The recommendations of the Scientific Review Committee will be forwarded to the Vice Dean for Research and Graduate Studies who will recommend to the Dean the application(s) to be funded and the senior investigators for whom the award(s) will be named. Contingent on the receipt of meritorious proposals, 2-3 awards will be made. The PI of a JFRSA application recommended for funding will be invited to develop a Pennsylvania Department of Health Certifications Form and Strategic Plan for final approval by the PA Department of Health prior to the issuance of a JFRSA. PIs of all funded awards will be expected to: a) prepare an interim progress report approximately one year after the JFRS award is activated; b) present an oral progress report upon request, and c) submit all progress reports and related information to comply with requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Health (see examples of the PA-DOH Annual Report and Final Report guidelines at http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home/forms).

F. Additional Information: any questions regarding this RFA should be referred to Research Development (researchdevelopment@hmc.psu.edu; Phone x6949).

Notice of Intent to Submit an Application-Required – Receipt date for submission of Notices of Intent is Noon, January 5, 2016.

A. Prepare a Notice of Intent as a single PDF file containing the following information:
   - Name, department and contact information for the principal investigator and the name, department, and institution of all members of the mentoring committee.
   - Title of the Research Project
   - Abstract of the Research Project

B. Submit your Notice of Intent electronically
   - Navigate to the Research Development Dropbox website (https://docdrop.med.psu.edu/DocDrop/)
   - Use your Penn State Access ID to login
• Upload your JFRSA Notice of Intent as a single PDF file.
• In the “title” box at the web site, label your submission as follows: Last name of the PI-NOI-JFRSA-Receipt-date (e.g. Jones-LOI-JFRSA-1-5-2016). **Please do not put the title of your application in this box.**
• You will see a green box at the top of the page confirming the successful upload of your document.

**Instructions for Applicants**

**Junior Faculty Research Scholar Awards**

**APPLICATIONS MUST USE THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:**

1. **Page Format** - All pages of the application should have 1” margins all around and use a font size of 11 points or larger. Number all pages consecutively beginning with the Cover Page.

2. **Cover Page:** Please use the cover page template posted on the Research Development website at [http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home](http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home). Label the application “New” or “Revised” “Junior Faculty Research Scholar Application” and include all of the requested information for you and your mentoring team.

3. **Table of Contents:** Include a Table of Contents with page numbers for each section of the application.

4. **Introduction for Revised Applications:** Explain how the application has been revised in response to the previous reviewers’ comments. What additions, deletions, revisions and other responses to reviewers’ comments in the previous critiques has the PI made in the revised application? (1 page)

5. **Abstract:** Briefly summarize the objectives, methods, and health-relatedness of the proposed research project in terms appropriate for a scientifically or technically literate lay reader.

6. **Specific Aims:** State concisely the goals of the proposed research summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved, and list succinctly the specific objectives of the proposed research. The Specific Aims section must be no more than 1 page on a separate sheet.

7. **Research Strategy:** This section should describe the proposed research project and include, in order, the Significance, Innovation and Approach and should not exceed 5 pages single spaced including figures and tables.

8. **Vertebrate Animals** - Proposals involving the use of vertebrates must include a discussion of 5 points regarding the use and treatment of animals in the Research Design and Methods section: 1) the proposed use of the animals, 2) a justification for the use of animals, the choice of species, and the numbers to be used, 3) description of the veterinary care, 4) a description of procedures for minimizing pain and distress, and 5) a description of and rationale for the method of euthanasia.

9. **Human Subjects** – Applications that involve human subjects must include a Protection of Human Subjects Section that addresses the points below. Applications that are not proposing human subjects research but will use human data or biological specimens, must provide a justification for the claim of no involvement of human subjects. If Human Subjects are involved, address each of the following:

   **Applications that propose to involve human subjects must address:**
   1. the risk to subjects
   2. the adequacy of protections against risk
   3. potential benefits of the research to subjects and others
   4. the importance of the knowledge to be gained
   5. for clinical trials, data and safety monitoring plan and a data and safety monitoring board for Phase III trials.
10. Literature Cited- (no page limit)

11. Research Project Budget and Justification—Provide a SIMS budget, per the posted instructions at http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home. The SIMS budget will require using the “group” function to provide two components, one for year 1 funding and one for year 2 funding. Use July 1, 2016 as the start date. Include a one page detailed budget justification for each year. Any budget item that lacks strong justification may be deleted.

12. Career Development Plan: This section should be prepared jointly by the PI and the Mentors. This section should not exceed 4 pages and should be organized as follows:

   a. **Background**- Describe the PI’s prior research training, start-up recruitment package, dedicated lab space, other available research resources, research effort commitment, other professional and academic responsibilities, and long term career goals and objectives.

   b. **Mentors**- Describe the qualifications of the Mentors and provide a rationale for why they are a critical member of the Mentoring Team

   c. **Plan**- Describe anticipated career development activities: courses, workshops, programs, academies, etc., providing a rationale for how these activities will facilitate the completion of the proposed research and a trajectory of scholarly success for the applicant. Describe the nature and timing of the anticipated interactions with individual mentors and the team.

   d. **Future Research** - Describe the external funding agencies/mechanisms that are likely to be interested in funding your research and connect the anticipated outcomes of your proposed research with opportunities available externally, e.g., knowledge gained from your proposed research will be sufficient preliminary data for what funding opportunity.

13. NIH Biosketch: Include a current NIH biosketch, using the new 5 page format, for the PI and the designated Research Mentors. Biographical Sketch forms available at: http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/researchdevelopment/home/forms

   **Research Support.** List all active and pending research projects. Provide project title, sponsor, project period, and funding awarded/requested. Indicate whether each project listed does/does not overlap with this application.

14. Attachments: Attach only the information requested below.

   a. **Departmental Commitments**- Attach a letter from the PI’s Department Chair to describe the department’s commitment to the PI’s further development as an independent investigator, document the total percent effort that the PI will commit to research (including at least 10% to this project), and describe any commitment of departmental resources that will contribute to this project.

   b. **Research Mentors Commitments**- Attach a letter(s) signed by each of the designated Research Mentors to document their agreement to provide advice and assistance in the conduct of this research project and in the further development of the PI’s career as an independent investigator.

   c. **Other Commitments**- If the research proposed requires the use of facilities or other resources that are under the purview of another investigator(s), include a letter from that individual to document the availability of those resources for use in the proposed research.

**Application Deadline:** On or before Noon, January 26, 2016, applicants should submit an electronic Adobe version PDF (Please save your word documents as PDFs rather than scan them whenever possible.) of the application in ONE file to the drop box at https://docdrop.med.psu.edu/DocDrop/. For **Document Title**, use the following – Last name of the PI-JFRSA-date (e.g. Jones-JFRSA-1-26-2016). Please do not put the title of your application in this box. You will need to use your Penn State Access ID to submit your application.