



# Alternatives to the K: Subspecialty-Specific Career Development Awards



# K Alternatives

- Foundations and Professional Societies with young investigator grant programs
  - Searle and Pew Scholars programs
  - American Heart Association
  - American Liver Foundation
  - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
  - National Kidney Foundation
  - American Gastroenterological Association
  - NASPGHAN Foundation
  - Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society
  - Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society
  - Society of Critical Care Medicine



# K Alternatives

- Emphasize basic or clinical research training and career development
- May offer “Fellow to Faculty” transition awards with up to 6 years of support
- Often include special grant programs targeting pediatrics or specific diseases
- Often partner with industry and other organizations/foundations
- Vary widely in amount and duration of support, but many are competitive with NIH K Award funding
- Application process often very similar to that of the NIH K award



# Eligibility

- Most targeted to applicants less than 3 to 5 years into first faculty position
- MD or MD, PhD
- Many also target PhD applicants as well
- Citizenship and visa status
- Most also offer student, fellowship and pre- and post-doctoral awards as well



# Advantages

- Focused on research career development
- Limited to your subspecialty and area of research interest
- May apply simultaneously with K award, but usually must relinquish one if both overlap and are funded
- More opportunity to become familiar to reviewers in a subspecialty organization



# Review Criteria

- Often very similar to that of the NIH K Award
  - Applicant
    - Eligibility
    - Training
    - Potential to become independent investigator
  - Mentor and Environment
  - Career Development Plan
  - Institutional Support
  - Research Plan
    - Significance
    - Approach
    - Innovation
  - Potential for project to lead to an independent research career



# Examples: NASPGHAN Foundation

- Abbott Nutrition Advanced Fellowship Training in Pediatric Nutrition
- George Ferry Young Investigator Development Award
- Nestlé Nutrition Research Young Investigator Development Award
- Mid-Level Career Development Award
- AstraZeneca Research Award for Disorders of the Upper GI Tract
- CPNP Nutrition Research Grant
- Innovations in Clinical Care Grant



# Examples: American Heart Association

- Grants offered by National Office and seven regional affiliates
- Pre- and postdoctoral fellowships
- Career Development Grant
  - Mentored research training grant
  - Faculty appointment by the time of award activation
  - May concurrently hold an NIH K award, if there is no budgetary overlap (except K99/R00)
  - No more than five years since the first faculty/staff appointment
  - Wide latitude for citizenship/visa requirements
  - Funding for 3 years at \$77,000 per year, including 10% institutional indirect costs



# Non-Subspecialty Career Development



## UTHSC LIMITED SUBMISSION OPPORTUNITY

### Searle Scholars Program

#### 2-Stage Limited Submission

(Internal UTHSC competition followed by UT system-wide competition)

Tenure-Track Assistant Professors only

#### Overview:

- The Searle Scholars Program awards grants to selected academic and research institutions to support the independent research of outstanding early-career scientists who have recently been appointed as tenure-track assistant professors. Searle is primarily interested in the potential of applicants to make innovative and high-impact contributions to research over an extended period of time.

#### Grant Level:

- Grants are set at \$300,000 for a three-year term, with \$100,000 payable in the first year and equal sums payable in the second and third years, subject to the receipt of acceptable progress reports.
- Generally, fifteen (15) new awards are funded annually.

#### Eligibility and Guidelines:

- **Applicants must have begun their first appointment as an independent investigator in a tenure track assistant professor position on or after July 1, 2019.**
- The appointment must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent)
- Applicants are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
- The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components.
- Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for the Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of [former Scholars](#).
- The Searle Scholars Program does not place any restrictions on funding from other sources of support. The award is meant to supplement other funding received by an investigator.
- Basic biological scientists who hold only an M.D. degree are eligible as long as they are researchers and not purely clinicians. Additionally, their research must contain basic science components.
- Applicants who were nominated for awards in the previous competition year but were not awarded can apply if they still meet the eligibility criteria.
- See eligibility requirements at <https://www.searlescholars.net/competition/eligibility>



# Non-Subspecialty Career Development

- Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences
  - Science relevant to the advancement of human health
  - Creative and pioneering approaches to basic, translational, and applied biomedical research
  - Does not fund clinical trials research
  - Funding from the NIH, other government sources, and project grants from non-profit associations does not pose a conflict
  - Selection based on candidate's performance and notable past accomplishments, including honors, awards and publications
  - For 2020 Award
    - Assistant Professor level as of 9/10/20
    - Not appointed Asst. Prof. prior to 6/15/17
    - \$75K per year for 4 years, 80% research effort
    - One candidate per institution
    - Complete application due 9/10/20



# UTHSC E-Blasts

- UTHSC Office of Research
- Regular campus faculty e-mail blast (Lisa Youngentob, [lyoungen@uthsc.edu](mailto:lyoungen@uthsc.edu))
- Focus on funding opportunities from all federal, private and corporate/corporate sponsored foundations, funds, charitable trusts, alliances, corporate giving programs, and other private grantmaking organizations



# Le Bonheur Junior Faculty Grants

- Eligibility
  - Members of the LBCH medical staff and investigators in the Children's Foundation Research Institute
  - Junior faculty members (less than 5 years out of training)
  - Require primary mentor and research career development plan
- Peer reviewed
- The amount of the award limited to one year of funding. Grants may be competitively renewed twice, for a total of three years of funding
- Funding up to \$25,000 per year to support development of research programs
- Applications due **April 30, 2021** with a starting date of July 1, 2021



# Other Opportunities

- Many of these organizations provide programs at national meetings as well as throughout the year for junior faculty
  - Mentoring workshops
  - Symposia on grant writing, manuscript preparation, study design, biostatistics, etc.
  - Single topic research conferences
  - Many provide funds for travel



# SPR Junior Section Membership

The Society for Pediatric Research Junior Section introduces fellows and early career faculty to SPR and provides career-building resources and educational opportunities.

Junior Section members are part of the SPR Member physician-scientist network and work with SPR Members to develop as researchers and to prepare for full SPR Active Member status.

**Benefits of SPR Jr. Section Membership include:**

- **Dues:** Complimentary.
- **Coaching:** For grant applications & research methods.
- **Grants:** SPR Physician Scientist Bridging to Success grant application eligibility.
- **Networking:** To support transition to faculty & SPR Active Member status.
- **Education:** Regional & national SPR programs.
- **Recognition:** Extensive awards program and travel grants.
- **Impact:** Through SPR advocacy for child health research funding.

**Eligibility:**

- **Fellows** currently enrolled in academic fellowship or postdoctoral program related to pediatrics or child health.
- **Faculty** up to six years post-fellowship. Please share this announcement with your institution's fellowship department or others that may be interested.





# SPR Junior Section Membership

## About the **Junior Section**

The Society for Pediatric Research Junior Section introduces fellows and early career faculty members to SPR by providing a variety of resources and educational opportunities. The goal is to promote networking within pediatrics and continue the development of scientists, as well as to foster transition to a career in pediatric science and eligibility for SPR Active Member status.

- Aids fellows in transition from fellowship to faculty through a variety of programs including:
  - SPR Young Investigator Coaching Program, which provides career development guidance and mentoring.
  - SPR K-Club grant-writing course, which provides intensive, hands-on support for early career stage investigators.
  - SPR Physician Scientist Award: Bridging to Success grant, which provides critical financial support as researchers transition to independent researcher status.
- Supports transition to SPR Active Member status.
- Professional networking key to achieving independent researcher status.
- Opportunities for participation in regional/national SPR programs.
- Recognition through an extensive awards program and travel grants.
- Opportunities to advocate for child health research funding.
- Dues-free professional society membership.



# CFRI Access

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- **CFRI website: <https://www.lebonheur.org/research/>**



# Reminder Important Dates

- New K Series Grants

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
Due Date	February 12	June 12	October 12
Due in ORA	5 working days before due date	5 working days before due date	5 working days before due date
Merit Review	June-July	Oct-Nov	Feb-Mar
Advisory Council	Aug/Oct	Jan	May
Earliest Start Date	Sept/Dec	April	July



**Thank You!**

**Questions?**