Women’s Early Research Career Award  
*Sponsored and administered by the Office of Faculty Affairs and Diversity*

Over 40% of fulltime, female faculty at academic medical schools leave academics within 10 years. Advancement of women faculty to senior faculty positions is less frequent than that of their male counterparts. Recognizing the difficulty of maintaining research productivity during early career stages when competing extra-professional responsibilities (including child-rearing) are common, the DOM will establish the Women’s Early Research Career Award (WERC). The purpose of the WERC Award is to provide supplemental funding for women who are junior faculty to sustain research productivity during work periods with challenging demands. Applicants must have current financial research support and be on a clear path to a successful independent research career. The supplemental funding is intended to increase research productivity, thereby increasing career advancement opportunities for women in academic medicine.

**Application Guidelines**

- The WERC Awards provide funding for junior faculty women to sustain research productivity during early stages of their careers.
- Funds are intended to supplement or complement current, funded research projects.
- There will be a Letter of Intent requirement, with invitations to submit a full proposal. Click here for LOI Instructions.
- Full proposals will include a research plan (maximum 3 pages excluding references), 1-3 letters of support from mentors and/or research colleagues, NIH biosketch, Other Support page, budget justification, and budget.
- Applications will be evaluated and ranked for funding priority by a Subcommittee of the Research Committee; the DOM Chair will provide final approval.
- Awardees must agree to participate in a long-term evaluation process, so the DOM can assess the effectiveness of the scholarship support.

**Eligibility**

- MD, PhD, or equivalent advanced degree
- Candidate must be within 7 years of first full-time faculty appointment at the time the award is initiated, cumulative of all institutions, inside or outside the United States
- Academic appointment at the level of Assistant Professor at UMN Medical School, DOM
- UMN, VA, Regions, and HCMC faculty are eligible
- Tenure track and Academic track faculty are eligible
- Basic and clinical research investigators are eligible
- Must have a minimum of 50% protected time for research
- Current support as Principal Investigator for an investigator-initiated grant (e.g. career development award, research grant, pilot funding) - Sponsor must have conducted peer review (i.e. does not include business and industry funding)
- Submission of a project description for which the applicant is clearly the principal investigator, whose academic progress would benefit from such funding support
- Evidence of strong research training, productivity, and a well-defined focus in either basic or clinical research

**Awards Expenditure**

The awards are $50,000/year for two years in direct costs (total $100,000). Funds may be used for direct costs, e.g., support of a technician, postdoctoral fellow or graduate student, lab services, supplies, etc. Funds may be used for salary up to 10% PI effort (this may be counted toward 50% research effort). There will be a progress review at the end of the first year to confirm eligibility for the second year of funding. DOM has committed to a maximum of 2 new awards per year. If applicable, approved Human or Animal Use protocols must be current prior to award of funds.

**2018 Dates and Deadlines**

Letter of Intent submission deadline: February 26, 2018
Notification of LOI acceptance/invitation to apply: March 12, 2018
Full application due: April 30, 2018
Notification of awards: June 4, 2018
Start date: July 1, 2018