



2021 WESTON CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD Request for Applications

Overview

Childhood skin diseases are associated with severe burden on patients, families, and health care providers. Despite this burden, effective treatments are sparse, the pace of research is slow, and board-certified pediatric dermatologists remain few-in-number. To support the development of the next generation of clinician scientists in the field, the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA), together with the Society for Pediatric Dermatology (SPD), is offering the **2021 William Weston Career Development Award (CDA)** to support one early career investigator in the conduct of an innovative research study under the direction of a senior mentor. Applications may be submitted by a pediatric dermatologist no more than seven years out of training for **\$40,000** to support salary and research activities for one year.

Goals

The Weston CDA is driven by PeDRA's and SPD's commitment to support both research and researchers in the field of pediatric dermatology. It is intended to provide protected research time, resources, and expert mentorship for an early career clinician scientist. Ultimately, the Weston CDA is expected to help position the recipient for a long-term career in the field with the potential to obtain funding from the Dermatology Foundation, NIH, or other agencies in future. Priority will be given to applications that support PeDRA's and SPD's commitments to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion across all facets of their organizations and pediatric dermatology research.

Application

Applications to the Weston CDA must be written in 11pt Arial font or larger with at least one-half inch margins and submitted by email to katherine.devenport@pedraresearch.org as a single pdf (not to exceed 20MB) that includes the following:

1. Project Application ([fillable PDF available here](#))
 - To include proof of IRB or IACUC (or equivalent) approval if applicable.
2. Cover Letter (*1 page maximum*)
3. Career Development Plan (*2 page maximum*) - Should describe the applicant's career development plans and plans for future funding.
4. Abstract (*250 word maximum*)
5. Layman's Summary (*150 word maximum*)
6. Project Proposal (*5 page maximum, not including references*) must include:
 - Specific Aims (*one page*)
 - Background and Rationale
 - Project Description
 - Methods and study/experimental design
 - Primary and secondary outcome measures (*if applicable*)
 - Statistical analysis
 - Potential pitfalls
7. Budget (*2 page maximum*) – Provide a detailed budget for the proposed research, including brief justification.
8. Biosketches (*5 page maximum per biosketch*) – Provide NIH-style biosketches for the applicant and mentor
9. Letter(s) of support – Must include a letter from the chair of the department where the award project will be carried out. This letter should describe the department's commitment to the applicant, mentor, and training environment, as well as any relevant departmental resources that will be provided (e.g. lab space, protected time, personnel), and (if applicable) support of a non-dermatology mentor.

Review

Applications will be reviewed by the PeDRA Grants Committee based on the following:

1. Strength of applicant and his/her commitment to advance the field
2. Strength of research proposal
 - a. Significance
 - b. Innovation and Impact
 - c. Clarity of proposal
3. Strength of budget
4. Strength of mentor
5. Strength of environment, including evidence of institutional support for the project, mentor, and development of the applicant's career

Eligibility *Must be met on or before July 1st, 2022*

Applicant:

- Must be a pediatric dermatologist residing in the United States or Canada
- Must be a current member of PeDRA and/or SPD with membership held at least one (1) year
- MD; DO; MD, PhD; or equivalent
- Must be a faculty member in a department/division of dermatology, or fellow with a letter of commitment to be on faculty during the award period.
- Must be an early career investigator, defined as being no more than seven (7) years out of training. Special exceptions may be made for cases such as maternity leave or military service – please email us with any questions about eligibility.
- Must not be a recipient of another federally funded career development award. Those who have also applied for a Dermatology Foundation CDA are welcome to apply but will be ineligible for a Weston CDA if awarded a Dermatology Foundation CDA.

Mentor:

- Must have an academic appointment in dermatology or another program at the sponsoring institution that is approved by the dermatology chair
- Need not be a member of PeDRA and/or SPD

Award

This award provides **\$40,000 USD for one year (direct costs only)** to support research activities and up to 0.2 FTE of salary support for the applicant.

Important Dates

Application deadline: 11:59 PM PST, Thursday, December 2nd, 2021
Awards made: no later than March 15th, 2022
Start date: July 1st, 2022

Questions

Send questions to PeDRA Research Coordinator, Katherine Devenport, at katherine.devenport@pedraresearch.org.