



## Inviting junior faculty to apply for the 2024 Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Distinguished Scholar Award (DSA)

Applicants should be Basic Scientists or Clinical Scientists on a clear trajectory to a successful independent research career and demonstrate a compelling case for how and why the funds will help them to maintain productivity while they are facing significant demands of being a caregiver. Up to five scholars will be funded through this RFA for 2024 and will be offered an additional year of professional development opportunities. In addition, two runners up will receive \$2,500 for targeted support.

Eligibility and application information are described in detail in the attached RFA. Videos featuring the 2020, 2022, and 2023 DSA winners are at [link](#).

The application timeline is as follows:

- Letter of intent due at 5:00 PM on February 13, 2024
- Full applications are due at 11:59 PM on February 22, 2024
- Notification of awards will be made by March 15, 2024
- Funding will begin on March 29, 2024

For questions and application advice, please email [Timnit Berhane](#), Program Manager for the Office of Gender Equity in Science and Medicine.

---

### **Request for Proposals: The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Distinguished Scholar Award**

Assistant Professors and first-year Associate Professors with independent research programs may apply for funding to help maintain momentum as they integrate family caretaking responsibilities into their careers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

**Opportunity:** \$50,000 for one year, based on a competitive process. Up to five scholars will receive funding. In addition, the Office of Gender Equity in Science and Medicine will connect awardees to key institutional career development resources, including Mount Sinai LEAD and programs through the Offices for Women's Careers (OWC), Faculty Development (OFD), and Diversity and Inclusion (ODI). We will also produce short videos of each scholar for their website. Two runners up will receive \$2,500 toward targeted supports.

**Eligibility:** Clinical,\* translational or basic scientists at the Assistant or first-year Associate Professor level who:

- Have an intra or extramural career development award or research project grant with annual direct costs sufficient to provide both research and salary support and devote at least 50% effort to research.
- Are on a clear trajectory to a successful independent research career.
- Show evidence of strong research training and productivity.
- Demonstrate a compelling case for why the funds will help them to maintain productivity while they are facing significant demands of being a caregiver. Typically, caregiving would be childcare, partner care, and/or eldercare, but prospective supplement recipients may make the case for other family caregiving responsibilities.
- Members of groups underrepresented in science and medicine are strongly encouraged to apply.



\*Eligible physician researchers must be conducting an original and rigorous clinical research project that has the potential to address a health issue that poses a significant clinical burden (with considerable morbidity and mortality, whether it is a rare or common condition) and that has potential for societal benefit. This funding support cannot be used to support experiments that utilize non-human animals or any tissues derived from them.

### **Application Components:**

The proposals will follow the NIH/K23 format and include:

- Candidate and Career Development Plan; highlight how the research program is independent of that of their mentor. (1-page)
- Research plan readily understood by reviewers outside the applicants' research field: must include a title, specific aims, background/significance, preliminary data, experimental design and methods, workplan and timeline, and references. (Maximum 3 pages excluding references)
- Statement of Need: this statement must demonstrate a compelling case for why the funds will help them to maintain productivity while they are facing significant demands of being a caregiver, and specifically family caregiving challenges. Caregiving challenges may include child, partner, and/or elder care, or other family caregiving responsibilities. (1/2 page)
- Budget and Budget Justification (maximum \$50,000 for one year; no indirect costs allowed). Funds may be used to support part-time personnel (i.e., technician, research or study coordinator, data analyst, programmer, biostatistical services, fellow, student, grant writer), dissemination services (i.e., media support, professional illustration), career development activities (i.e., professional coach), or other ways that support the PI's research. Funds cannot be used to support the investigator's salary.
- Two letters of support: one nomination letter should come from the Primary Research Mentor, another from a former mentor or current chief or chair.
- NIH biosketch and Other Support.

**Review Process:** A committee appointed by the Office of Gender Equity in Science and Medicine will review and score all applications using NIH criteria: Candidate, Career Development Plan, Mentor(s), Research Plan. A special review criterion is demonstrated need.

**Expectations of Funded Scholars** (in addition to research activities):

- **Providing progress reports at 6 and 12-months** including challenges and accomplishments during the funded period.
- **Attending semi-annual meetings** with the Distinguished Scholar Award program director and with other Scholars.
- **Participating in professional development opportunities** including mentorship development opportunities for Scholars and their mentors.

*Submit your Letter of Intent form by 2/13/24 at 5:00 PM via [this link](#).*

*Due Date 2/22/24 at 11:59 PM; Submit your application via [this link](#).*

*Notice of Award 3/15/24; Funding will begin 3/29/24.*

Join our informational session on Wednesday, 01/29/24 at 10:00 a.m. to ask any additional questions. We will record the session. [Register here](#).

For more information, please email [Timnit Berhane](#), Program Manager for the Office of Gender Equity in Science and Medicine or review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).