

UAMS Research Academy

Established by the division of Research and Innovation in 2020, the mission of the **Research Academy** is to build a sustainable research community and elevate research excellence at UAMS. It aspires to create innovative care models and transformative breakthroughs in medicine. This mission aligns with UAMS Vision 2029 to make Arkansas the healthiest state in the region.

As our *first initiative*, Research and Innovation has partnered with the Translational Research Institute to launch a **Mentored Grant-Writing Program** for its **Research Academy Scholars**. The goal of this initiative is to expand research grant success through a structured grant-writing program and dedicated expert mentorship.

Mentored Grant-Writing Program

The first class of Research Academy Scholars will consist of up to 8 UAMS faculty members who are targeting an October 2020, R01 proposal submission. Approximately one half of selected Scholars will be working in clinical and translational research.

To apply: Applicants must submit 1) a fully developed Specific Aims page, 2) up to 3 pages of preliminary data, and 3) a letter of support from their department chair or unit head nominating them and demonstrating strong support for the applicant. *R01 resubmissions/revisions are encouraged*. Applications should be submitted through the Research and Innovation web portal (<https://tri.uams.edu/uams-research-academy-application-page/>) by March 27, 2020. The Mentored Grant-Writing Program will begin on April 14, 2020, with notification of award on or about April 7.

Selected scholars will meet on a weekly basis in the evening through distance learning with **Dr. Peg Atkisson** (<https://atg.consulting/what-we-do/grant-proposal-development>) from April 14, 2020 through June 2, 2020. Each scholar will be mentored by a seasoned faculty mentor (described below) and is expected to establish and follow a project management plan to meet UAMS and extramural proposal submission deadlines. Each scholar will participate in all aspects of the grant submission process by interacting with each UAMS Research and Innovation office (e.g., OSPAN, IRB, and ORSP).

Scholar Selection Criteria

Full-time UAMS faculty members, regardless of rank and campus affiliation/location, are eligible to apply. Faculty who are current recipients of federal trainee programs are not eligible (e.g., KL2, K, or COBRE). Applications will be evaluated by a review panel for scientific merit, strength of the preliminary data, and evidence of strong institutional support (letter from chair/unit head).

Mentor Selection Criteria

The UAMS Research Academy is seeking seasoned researchers with a proven track record of funding and mentoring success for this and future initiatives.

Faculty who are named as a **Research Academy Mentor** and participate in *this* Research Academy initiative will receive a research voucher of \$2500 if the proposal is submitted for the October 5, 2020, deadline. Additional vouchers will be rewarded if the mentored proposal is scored (\$2500) and funded (\$2500), for a potential total voucher of \$7500. The vouchers can be divided among multiple mentors, if desired. Mentors may solicit the expertise of other faculty

members as needed. The primary Research Academy Mentor will also participate in Dr. Atkisson's distance-learning program.

To apply: Potential mentors must submit 1) a letter of support from their department chair or unit head nominating them, 2) a personal statement describing their mentorship philosophy and experience including a list of successful mentees and outcomes (1 page total), and 3) a current NIH biosketch. Applications should be submitted through the Research and Innovation web portal (<https://tri.uams.edu/uams-research-academy-application-page/>) by March 27, 2020.

Research Academy Mentors must have a current or strong history of NIH funding or equivalent (R01, P01, P20, P30, U01, multi-year DoD, or VA Merit Review). If Mentors successfully mentor 1 Scholar to receive an R01, they will be considered Bronze Mentors; if 2 mentees, they will be considered Silver Mentors; if 3 mentees, they will be considered Gold Mentors; and if more than 3 mentees, they will be considered Platinum Mentors. All mentors will be highlighted on the UAMS Research and Innovation website.

For questions about the program, please contact Paul Duguid (pduguid@uams.edu).