Procter Scholar Program

Research Support* $100,000 Opportunity

*for up to 2 years

Due: First Monday in May or October, at 5:00 pm

The Procter Scholar Program aims to support the development of highly skilled faculty members who have a primary appointment at Cincinnati Children's (Departments of Pediatrics, Surgery, Radiology and Anesthesia) and who are strongly committed to a career in academic research.

- Eligibility: Junior faculty, M.D. or M.D./Ph.D., *within 5 years of initial CCHMC appointment* and *building or expanding a research program with the specific goal of*
  - Planning for K-level application within 2 years (institutional KL2/K12 or NIH)
    -OR-
  - Current K08/K23 awardee planning for NIH R-level application (or equivalent extramural funding) within 2 years (3rd or 4th year of funding preferred).
    - Concurrent internal funding program (e.g. KL2/K12) not eligible.

- Successful Candidates will have a:
  - Strong commitment to pursuing a career in academic research
  - Record of accomplishment in research
  - Strong mentorship along with a clear path to independent research
  - Well-defined scientific research plan

  Candidates from historically underrepresented minorities in science encouraged to apply.

- The anticipated outcomes of the Procter Scholar Award are:
  - Successful transition to a National Institute of Health (NIH) R-level award (or R-level equivalent from foundations) or successful K-level award (if more junior)

Applicants should not submit the same proposal to more than one internal funding program simultaneously (e.g. Trustee Award/KL2/K12 program). First-time Applicants: please schedule a meeting with **Stavra Xanthakos, MD** (Program Director).

Submission guidelines and forms are available on the Procter Scholar Website.

The deadline for submission is **the first Monday in May or October, at 5:00 pm.** Send a single PDF file of the assembled application to **Regina Hiles** (Coordinator of Operations to CCRF) at Regina.Hiles@cchmc.org

Questions can be directed to Stavra.Xanthakos@cchmc.org (Program Director) or **Regina Hiles** (Coordinator of Operations to CCRF) at Regina.Hiles@cchmc.org

Application Guidelines

- Only one Procter Scholar application will be accepted from a clinical candidate (MD or MD, PhD)
- Applicant may submit up to 3 applications (new or revised).

Format

The applications must contain the following*, in order (see Word file for forms):

1. Face page.
2. Project summary, relevance, list division, department or institute & personnel
3. Table of Contents
4. Budget for year 1 of $100,000 and budget justification. The application should also include a budget for year 2. The release of funds for year 2 will be dependent upon the timely submission of progress made in year 1.
    a. Salary support is allowed for anyone working on the project, including the PI. If proposed project budget will exceed Procter Scholar funds, the application must provide information on other funding sources for the project (e.g. some resources may come from mentor or division).
    b. Funds can be requested for travel to a single domestic scientific meeting.
    c. Indirect costs are not provided.
    d. Budget start date: May submission is July 1; October submission is January 1
5. Budget Justification (**3 pages**)
6. Biosketch for principal investigator and mentor (must follow current NIH format)
7. Other Support (must follow current NIH format): Provide other support for the principal investigator and mentor(s), especially sources of funds currently available to support research on this or closely related topics by the applicant. If any overlap exists between this application and any other currently funded, or pending projects, clearly indicate why Procter Scholar funds are being requested. Duplication of funds is not permitted.

Career Development Plan and Research Plan: **7-page limit**

8. Career Development Plan: **2-page limit**. Brief description of how the proposal supports your career development and your subsequent NIH application**.**
    a. Candidate's Background. Brief synopsis of your career.
    b. Career Goals and Objectives
    c. Career Development/Training Activities During Award Period
    d. Describe your plan for an K-level or R01 grant application and how the Procter Scholar Award will help you achieve this.

    *Note: Candidate must devote at **least 75% percent** of their time to independent research*
9. Research Plan: **5-page limit** (below is the approximate length for each section)
    a. Introduction to Resubmission describing response to previous review (**1 additional page if applicable – does not count toward 5 page limit**).
    b. **Specific Aims (1/2 page):** Remember this is a 2 year project.

c. **Research Strategy (4 ½ pages).** Organize the Research Strategy into three sections - *Significance*, *Innovation*, *and Approach* using the instructions provided below. Include a thorough, but concise description of the work leading up to your current hypothesis.

- **Significance**: Explain how the proposal will address an important problem or a critical challenge in the field. Also indicate how this proposal will generate significant preliminary data needed for an NIH grant application.
- **Innovation**: Explain how the proposal challenges existing paradigms or clinical practice; address an innovative hypothesis or critical challenge in the field.
- **Approach**: Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include preliminary data, a rationale for experimental design and discuss any potential problems and solutions. In keeping with new NIH guidelines, describe methods to ensure robustness and reproducibility and explain how relevant biological variables (i.e. sex) are factored into the research design. See NIH notice on information regarding rigor and transparency. **Consultation with a biostatistician is strongly recommended.**

10. Human Subjects. Include all sections required for a NIH application. See PHS 398 instructions for more information.
11. Literature cited. Provide full details of literature cited including full title and authors.
12. Resource Sharing Plan. See NIH instructions for more information.
13. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources. See NIH instructions for more information.

14. Letters of Support from key collaborators or consultants.

15. Statement by Division, Department, or Institute Director outlining the Commitment to Candidate's Research Career Development **(1 page)**

    a. Describe the career development support of the applicant
    b. Describe Divisional support currently available to the applicant – start up package, research space and any other resources relevant to the application.
    c. Please include the Division Director's name in the statement.

16. Statement by Mentor or Co-Mentors. **(1-2 pages)**

    a. Provide information on Mentor's research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor.
    b. Describe a plan for the supervision and mentoring that will occur during the proposed research period.
    c. Describe a plan for career progression for the candidate to move from the mentored stage to a career as an independent researcher.
    d. Describe a plan for monitoring the candidate's research, publications, and progression towards research independence.
    e. Please include the Mentor or Co-Mentors' name in the statement.

17. Supplementary data will **NOT** be accepted.

2nd Year of Funding Process

A maximum of $100,000 per year for two years can be requested initially. Renewal for year 2 is dependent upon the timely submission of progress report after year 1. Progress reports are due June 15th or Dec. 15th depending on funding cycle.

Review Process

The main criteria for the review of the application are:

- Career Development and Scientific merit of the application. This will be assessed using the same criteria as used by NIH reviewers.
- Is the proposed work likely to position the applicant to a highly competitive NIH R-level award (or R-level equivalent from foundations) or successful K-level award (if more junior)
- Does the candidate have the potential to transition to an independent and productive researcher?
- Are the mentors appropriate?