FY23 Weill Department of
Medicine Fund for the Future

1.   Objective

The objective of the Weill Department of Medicine **Fund for the Future** Award Program is to provide support for Instructors and Faculty who are committed to pursuing a physician-scientist, scientist or translational scientist career at Weill Cornell. The program provides funding during the crucial period of career development in the first three years of their first faculty position (Instructor or Assistant Professor) at Weill Cornell. Eligible MD or MD/PhD applicants can be final year senior fellows or junior faculty members. Eligible PhD post-doctoral fellows must be in the final year of training with pending appointment to Weill Cornell faculty independent of this award. This program does not support individuals to continue post-doctoral studies.

2.   Description

The program initially provides one year of funding. Funding is a maximum of $300,000 over a period of 2-3 years based on academic progress and a competitive NIH K application (or foundation equivalent) timeline within 18 months of **Fund for the Future** support. Requests will be reviewed by WDOM leadership and the most meritorious proposals will be awarded.

3.   Important Dates

The following schedule summarizes the annual new application submission and existing awardee progress report deadlines. Funding for new and existing awardees begins July 1 of each fiscal year.

	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Requests for new applications							███	███				
New application reviews								███	███			
New application notice of awards									███	███		
Existing awardees progress reports									███			
Existing awardees notice of continued or terminated funding										███		

4.   Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

- Hold a M.D., PhD, M.D./PhD., or equivalent doctoral degree and seek additional research training under the supervision of a sponsor/sponsor prior to embarking on a career of independent research.
- Have a primary academic appointment as Instructor or Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine. If PhD or equivalent doctoral degree without MD, candidate must have less than 3 years since PhD award.
- Faculty members must be within three years of their appointment as such.
- Senior fellows in their final year or junior faculty (Instructor or Assistant Professor).
- Be in their final year of post clinical/post graduate training.
- Must devote a minimum of 75% full time professional effort related to research.
- Candidates must have completed at least one year of research training in their current laboratory or research program prior to the start of this award. Candidates must have commitment from their Division for a full time faculty position at the time they apply for the award. The faculty position commitment, which includes Instructor and junior faculty level positions, must be clearly articulated in the division chief's letter. Candidate's career goals and level must be aligned to submit a NIH K award or DOD/AHA/ACS etc. career award or equivalent within 24 months of **Fund for the Future** training.
- Candidates cannot concurrently hold a Department of Medicine seed grant award.
- Candidates should not currently hold other types of seed funding, Institutional career development awards such as the CTSC KL2 award or other Foundation grants akin to a K award.

If you have specific questions regarding eligibility, please contact Kristen Brady, krb2016@med.cornell.edu.

5.   Support

Funding is made available for research related expenses including salary support for the candidate, research personnel expenses such as salaries of technical personnel, supplies, equipment, publication costs, and travel related to professional development conferences. The funding guidelines are listed below:

- Salary/Fringe: $50-$75,000 for salary and fringes for the candidate
- Project support: $50-$75,000
- Maximum Year 1 award amount: $150,000

6. **Application**
    a. NIH style Biosketch
    b. Candidate's current and pending support.
    c. Detailed budget for initial period (PHS 398 FP4) and composite budget (PHS 398 FP5).
    d. Candidate's background, career goals and objectives (1 page)
    e. Candidate's plan for Career Development including a timeline for K submission (1 page)
    f. Research plan (max 3 pages)
        a. Prepare according to National Institutes of Health 2009 revised PHS 398 guidelines. Begin each section of the Research Plan with a section header (e.g., Introduction, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, etc.). The Research Strategy Section should be composed of three distinct sections –Significance, Innovation, and Approach; the approach section may include preliminary studies. The research plan should include sufficient information needed for evaluation of the project independent of any other document. Be specific and informative and avoid redundancies. **Limit to three (3) pages**.
    g. Mentor statement (max 1 page)
        a. Describe the primary mentor's research qualifications and previous experience as a research supervisor, plans describing the mentors that will occur for the candidate, and a plan for transitioning the candidate from the mentored phase to the independent phase of the award.
    h. Mentor's Biosketch
    i. Division Chief's Letter of support describing the research and career development plan of the candidate's area of interest, the scientific environment in which the work will be done, evidence of institutional commitment in terms of space, equipment, protected time and other resources.

7. **Application deadline**
    Applications should be submitted as **a single pdf** file using the naming convention:
    PI LASTNAME_DIVISION_FFTF.pdf. Email this file to Kristen Brady <krb2016@med.cornell.edu> by ==**January 31st, 2022 at 5:00 pm EST.**==

8. **Review Criteria**
    a. Each proposal will be evaluated on the candidate's qualifications, the sponsor/training plan and environment and the scientific proposal.
    b. Does the applicant have the potential for both a successful career as an independent researcher and a successful training experience leading to future NIH awards?
    c. Scientific merit of the research proposal.
    d. The qualifications of the applicant, including suitable career stage, relevant research experience, prior scientific publications and other related accomplishments.
    e. The training environment including the extent of opportunity presented by the project for the candidate to acquire new approaches, techniques, and methods.
    f. The mentor's relevant research expertise, previous experience in training, specific plan for training the applicant, and resources and environment.
    g. The commitment of the Division to the development of the careers of physician-scientists, as reflected in a commitment to provide sufficient space, resources and protected time to promote the development of young investigators.

9. **Restrictions and reporting conditions:**
    a. The goal of this pre-career award program is to support junior faculty until a K award or equivalent is received. When the K-award is received, departmental **Fund for the Future** award funding is terminated.
    b. Progress reports are required annually for continued support of the pre-career award funds in subsequent years. The annual progress report should be submitted in March. The progress report must follow the format below:
        i. A two page progress report consisting of the following sections: Major goals of the project; accomplishments under these goals; and goals for the following year.
        ii. List quantifiable measure of progress due to your funding such as new publications, new related funding and inviting presentations.
        iii. Current other support document with pending and active grants
        iv. Detailed budget for current year (PHS 398 FP4).
        v. Progress reports will be reviewed by Department leadership carefully to award candidates additional years of funding.
        vi. It is expected that **Fund for the Future** awardees will attend Department of Medicine research retreats and speak/present their supported research at these retreats.