

## EARLY CAREER ADVISORY COMMITTEE CLINICAL, TRANSLATIONAL, AND BASIC SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARDS

These Early Career Research Awards are funded through the CVRI's Early Career Advisory Committee (ECAC).

**Award Goal:** To encourage and support early-career investigators in cardiovascular research activities.

**Award:**

- Applications requesting any dollar amount up to \$10,000 will be considered.
- Of the funded applications, one award will be appointed by the Board of Directors as the *Martin M. LeWinter (MMLW) Young Investigator Award*. This honorary award represents a novel concept that has the potential to lead to a significant advance in fundamental knowledge about the nature of living systems and/or to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability.

**Dates of Submission and Award Notice:**

- Full Application due: February 23, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- Award notice: May 1, 2024

**Eligible Applicants:**

Early Career investigators, including from external institutions, who will perform cardiovascular research with a mentor at UVM, or UVM applicants proposing research with an external (non-UVM) mentor, will be considered, including:

- Undergraduate students
- Masters and PhD students
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students (1<sup>st</sup> year medical students are not eligible but should consider applying for a CVRI summer research fellowship)
- Postdoctoral Fellows
- Residents
- Clinical Fellows
- Faculty and Staff within 5 years of their first appointment (Assistant Professor)

**Eligibility:**

1. Applicants mentored by a UVM faculty member who performs cardiovascular related research.
2. Applicants proposing cardiovascular research with a non-UVM mentor who performs cardiovascular related research.
3. Awards may be used to pursue training in an external (non-UVM) laboratory (e.g., to learn a new technique).
4. Awards may not be used to attend conferences (applicants with this interest are encouraged to apply for a CVRI travel award).
5. Applications must be related to cardiovascular diseases (including stroke) and can be basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological, or public health-related.
6. Research project must be able to be completed within 1 year.

**Application Process:**

The application process consists of a research project application. Details and application requirements are below.

**Criteria for Selection:**

Applications will be reviewed by the ECAC and ad hoc reviewers. Applications will be scored based on the NIH Grant Application Scoring System (Overall impact, Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, Environment). Overall impact is the primary rating criteria for applications. The major emphasis in judging the overall impact will be the ability of the proposed research activities to develop new skills and/or to provide a novel research experience aimed toward developing one's career in cardiovascular research as articulated in the Cover Letter. Other factors such as scientific merit, innovation, significance to cardiovascular related research, and feasibility will also be considered.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Requirements for Submitted Proposals:**

The full application is due by 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2024 and should adhere to the guidelines below. The entire proposal, including the Cover Letter, Research Plan, Biographical Sketches (or CVs), Budget, and Letters of Support must be submitted as a single PDF document to [CVRI-VT@med.uvm.edu](mailto:CVRI-VT@med.uvm.edu). Proposals that do not meet this requirement will not be reviewed. Proposals must be written for a general, non-expert audience. Proposals should be written in Arial 11-12 pt font, single spaced, with  $\geq 3/4$  inch margins and include the following:

1. **Cover Letter:** (1 page) includes:
  - a. Project title;
  - b. Mentor identification (both UVM and, if applicable, non-UVM mentors);
  - c. Name, department, phone number and e-mail of applicant;
  - d. Brief explanation of research project goal and relevance of project to applicant's career development, including career goals and how this award will help attain these goals;
  - e. Brief explanation of relevance of proposal to cardiovascular related research;
  - f. Signature of applicant; and
  - g. Signature of applicant's Mentor or Department Chair.
2. **Research Plan:** (2 pages total). The research plan should include the following:
  - a. Specific aims and hypothesis;
  - b. Background and significance;
  - c. Experimental approach—this should highlight the application's experimental design including, e.g., measurements, outcomes, data collection, statistical analysis, power calculations, and rigor and reproducibility; and
  - d. References cited (references do not count toward the page limit).
3. **NIH biographical sketch or current CV:** Applicant and mentor (including non-UVM external mentors, if applicable) must provide NIH biographical sketches or current CVs.
4. **Budget** ( $\leq 1$  page): A budget must be provided and justified. Awards may not be used to supplement existing grants or to support previously funded research. The budget should clearly indicate how funds will be allocated. Indicate which expenses support cardiovascular related research and/or career development of early career researchers. Funds may be budgeted at an awardee's discretion but should not include funds for the applicant's own salary support or travel unrelated to the conduct of the proposed research.
5. **Letter of Support** ( $\leq 1/2$  page): A letter of support from the applicant's Mentor or Department Chair is required. The letter is a signed attestation taking responsibility for the accuracy of the application, the ethical conduct of the research, and honest management of the funds.

6. **Letter of External Support** ( $\leq 1/2$  page): For applications proposing research in an external (non-UVM) laboratory, a signed letter from the external laboratory's principle investigator is required. The letter must verify the laboratory's plans to host the applicant in their laboratory for the proposed training / research activities and attest to the accuracy of the application and an honest management of the awarded funds.
7. If applicable, a statement that IACUC or IRB approval will be obtained prior to the May 15, 2024 start date of the award.

**Awardee Requirements:**

Awardees are expected to adhere to the following requirements:

1. Year-end progress or final report (at 12 months);
2. Presentation at a CVRI event when invited;
3. Respond to surveys from the CVRI during and after the funding period;
4. Report all presentations, publications, and extramural funding related to the award to the CVRI
5. Report current and any new contact information (e-mail address, work address); and
6. Acknowledge sponsorship from CVRI in all related publications and presentations.