

# UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

## 2026 Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech

Sponsored by:  
Urology Care Foundation Dornier Legacy Funds

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Proposal Opening Date:</b>	5:00 pm ET, Monday August 4, 2025
<b>Proposal Submission Deadline:</b>	11:59 pm ET, Monday September 29, 2025
<b>Peer Review:</b>	October 2025
<b>Funding Notification:</b>	November 2025
<b>Award Period:</b>	January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026

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## I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

### A. UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH AWARDS

The mission of the Urology Care Foundation (UCF), the official foundation of the American Urological Association (AUA), is to support the improvement of urological care by funding research, developing patient education, advancing humanitarian initiatives, and pursuing philanthropic support. Having recognized a major need to support the urologic research workforce, the UCF offers a portfolio of research awards supporting the full career spectrum, from medical students to independent investigators.

These awards are administered by the American Urological Association Education and Research, Inc. (AUAER) Office of Research, with funding provided by the UCF, partner organizations and sponsors. The AUAER Office of Research was created in 2001 with a mission to increase and maintain the workforce of urology physician-scientists and researchers to catalyze the advancement of clinical practice and reduce the burden of urologic disease through impactful research. All proposals are evaluated by an independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers who assess the scientific merits of each project as well as the applicant's current or potential future contributions to urology research.

The AUA and the UCF are committed to promoting diversity in its many forms to promote excellence in research and leadership within the urologic research workforce. The AUA and the UCF are supportive of efforts to analyze and address the ways in which social and economic inequalities impact the urology community, and the ability to achieve health equity for patients with urologic conditions. Information related to the applicant's race/ethnicity and gender is collected during the proposal process to assess these efforts but is de-identified for all reporting purposes. In the event that an available research award is restricted to applicants of a particular race/ethnicity or gender, this information may be taken into consideration during the award selection process.

### B. AWARD INFORMATION

Established in 2025, the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech was developed to support independent urology researchers who are past the stage requiring mentorship and **who are in need of bridge funding to secure higher-level research support**. Studies supported through this

award may be in basic, foundational, translational, clinical, or health services research in any area of urology. Investigators needing mentorship are **NOT** eligible to apply for these funds.

The Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech is available to urology researchers and clinician scientists who need bridge funding to continue with current research. Examples of bridge funding may include (not an all-inclusive list):

- Continued salary support (PI, co-PI, staff, etc.) during a break in funding.
- Continued support of a clinical trial during a break in funding. **\*\*Note:** no industry-sponsored clinical trials will be eligible for the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech funds.
- Continued support of animal colonies, cell lines or their associated consumables during a break in funding.
- Completion of additional data/experiments as requested by a study section or a national review committee, such as for an R award, CDMRP independent researcher award, or VA Merit Award prior to resubmission for further independent external funding.

The Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech will provide up to \$60,000 in research funding for up to 12 months between January 1 and December 31 of the funding year. Two (2) awards will be available this year.

## C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

### 1. APPLICANT

To be eligible to compete for a 2026 Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech, applicants must be conducting independent research within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens, but projects must be located at an accredited host institution within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Information about AUA Sections can be found at <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>.

Applicants must hold an advanced degree (e.g., MD, PhD, or equivalent) in a biomedical research-related field and must have a record of conducting prior independent urologic research from a major funding source. Examples may include (not an all-encompassing list):

- National Institutes of Health;
- Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs;
- Department of Veterans Affairs Research Programs;
- American Urological Association/Urology Care Foundation, etc.

For the purposes of this award application, independent urologic research is research supported through funding obtained by the primary investigator. Examples of eligible applicants may include (not an all-encompassing list):

- An investigator who has completed a K01, K08, K23 award or Veterans Affairs CDA award and has submitted an R01 that received reviewer comments requesting additional data.

- Investigators with current funding that will be ending during the award period (e.g. a funding 'gap' between R awards). However, investigators who have other concurrent major funding, for example, one R grant is still ongoing while the second R grant has a funding 'gap,' should not apply for this mechanism.
- Departmental (e.g. startup funds) and discretionary funding is NOT considered independent funding.
- Record of prior independent urology research must be demonstrated within the immediate past 3 years.
- The funding gap must occur during the first six (6) months of the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech.

A minimum primary investigator percentage effort is not required, as the funds are **not** required to be used for PI or co-PI support. All usage of funds must be noted in the budget justification.

One proposal per applicant is allowed during a competition year.

The applicant may include collaborators in their application if it will provide additional information to inform reviewers about the project, but there can only be one PI on the application.

The AUAER Office of Research is available to help answer eligibility questions. Please email us at [grantsmanager@auanet.org](mailto:grantsmanager@auanet.org) or [sgross@auanet.org](mailto:sgross@auanet.org).

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## 2. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

### AUA Membership

All applicants who are not AUA members at the time of submission must apply for AUA membership in the event of receiving a grant offer. When applying, select the AUA section where the host institution is located. Proof of AUA membership must be provided to the AUAER Office of Research prior to funds being dispersed. Additional information about AUA membership can be found at <https://www.auanet.org/membership/member-benefits-and-programs>. Please see Section III, Proposal Submission Instructions, A. Proposal Sections, 5. Eligibility.

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## 3. MENTOR

Applicants must **not** require a mentor and have evidence (through disclosure of prior funding) of independent urology-related funding from a major funding source. **Investigators needing mentorship are NOT eligible to apply for these funds.**

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## 4. HOST INSTITUTION

For an application to be eligible, the research must be conducted at an accredited institution that resides within the boundaries of the AUA Sections. Information about the AUA Sections can be found at <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>. Applicants are not limited to the institution at which they are enrolled; however, the primary project must be associated with the institution where the research is taking place. An example of this is an independent investigator who conducts a clinical study at a different location than their home institution.

Host institutions must sponsor the candidate by guaranteeing adequate support, such as providing a suitable research environment and laboratory equipment, in order to conduct the research. Additionally, **as a requirement of application submission**, institutions must agree, via signature on the Grant Agreement Form (GAF), that they will continue to provide strong institutional support during the award period. **Institutional indirect costs and/or costs not associated with the project are not allowed**. Please see Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, D. Funding Information, 4. Unacceptable Use of Funds for further information on funding restrictions.

There is **no institutional match requirement** for this award mechanism.

#### D. FUNDING INFORMATION

##### 1. AWARDS AVAILABLE

Two (2) awards are available for the 2026 Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech competition. The availability of all UCF awards is contingent on market conditions at the time of funding and subject to change. Final determinations regarding award funding will be made at the time of awardee selection. Grants are provided by the Dornier MedTech legacy fund. Applicants cannot conduct fully remote projects; the majority of the proposed research time must occur on-site at the indicated host institution.

The UCF reserves the right for final approval for any/all awards provided through the program.

While applications may propose any type of research on any urologic disease or condition, the UCF will prioritize proposals with a strong likelihood that the investigator will be able to successfully apply for further independent external funding by the end of the period of performance (POP). Additionally, applications that consider key gaps in research that have been identified in the AUA clinical guidelines and, if addressed, could have a significant impact on improving urology patient care, are encouraged. Projects conducting innovative research that address issues related to healthcare disparities are welcome.

##### 2. OTHER FUNDING

Applicants must show evidence of a funding gap or deficit during the first six (6) months of the award period (January 1 to June 30); the funding gap does **not** have to start or be already occurring at the beginning of the award period. For example, prior funding may end in February even though the Bridge funding would begin in January. Disclosure of all funding within the past three (3) years is required on the Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) portion of the application. See Section IV. Award Requirements, B. Reporting, 4. Changes to Contact Information, Project, Personnel, Institution, or Funding for more information.

In order to support as many investigators as possible and keep them in the research space, applicants with funding sources spanning multiple projects are discouraged from applying for Dornier MedTech Bridge Award funding to support one specific project.

##### 3. ACCEPTABLE USE OF FUNDS



To best offer recipients support during a time of tight funding, there is significant flexibility in the use of Dornier MedTech Bridge Award funds. Supported usage may include:

- Salary support (PI, co-PI, key personnel, lab members);
- Consumables and/or reagents;
- Animals or cell lines (acquisition, husbandry, veterinarian costs, etc.);
- Core facility fees;
- Other research related activities to be determined acceptable by the peer review committee.

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#### 4. UNACCEPTABLE USE OF FUNDS

Dornier MedTech Bridge Award funds are intended to directly support the project described. Therefore, funds may **NOT** be used to support:

- Capital equipment purchases;
- Projects outside of the one(s) proposed;
- Fully-remote project;
- Institutional indirect costs;
- Travel expenses;
- Registration/membership fees.

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#### 5. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech funds will be paid to the awardee's institution in one installment in January 2026, contingent upon receipt of required onboarding information and continued availability of funds. The UCF does not withhold taxes from awards (i.e., federal withholding, social security, local or state taxes). It is the awardee's/institution's responsibility to ensure appropriate accounting for federal and local taxes.

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## II. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

### A. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicants are responsible for composing, compiling, and submitting complete materials. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all required items are submitted electronically via the application submission system, including those requested from the department and letters from collaborators (if applicable), prior to the application deadline. The Dornier MedTech Bridge Award application has one application submission via ProposalCentral; it does **not** require a letter of intent. Applicants assume all responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of materials, and that materials are received in full in advance of submission deadlines.

The deadline to complete and submit the full application is **Monday, September 29, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET**. Partial applications and/or applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. Requests for exemptions to this policy will not be considered.

All eligible and highly qualified independent researchers and physician scientists conducting urology-related research are encouraged to apply. Within any given funding year, however, the UCF prefers to provide support to as many institutions as possible, provided the applicant has submitted a highly meritorious application. Therefore, funding decisions will be impacted by not only the merit of the applications but also may be impacted by the intent to distribute UCF funds to qualified applications from as many institutions as possible.

#### B. APPLICATION EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Please note that any application violating **any** of the following conditions will be deemed noncompliant and thus will not advance to review and will become ineligible for grant consideration. Requests for exemption will not be considered. All decisions made by the AUAER Office of Research are final.

- Noncompliance with formatting guidelines
- Missing or incomplete Grant Agreement Form
- Applicant biosketch/resume not included in submission materials
- Collaborator biosketch not included in submission materials (if applicable)
- Collaborator letter of support not included in submission materials (if applicable)
- Missing departmental/institutional support letter
- Missing Project Description
- Missing Statement of Need
- Missing Research Facilities and Environment Description
- Missing Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) document
- Missing Peer Review Summary Statement and/or Council Scores
- Any materials in excess of the prescribed page limits

#### C. GRANT AGREEMENT FORM

The Grant Agreement Form may be downloaded from the Download Templates & Instructions section in ProposalCentral. All information should be typed into the Grant Agreement Form: illegible information will not be accepted. This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures from every identified collaborator as well as a representative from the host institution, and submitted prior to the application deadline. Applications omitting the Grant Agreement Form and/or forms not fully executed will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

#### D. APPLICANT BIOSKETCH

Applicants must submit a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-style biosketch, strictly limited to five (5) pages, including descriptions of their contributions to research. A template is provided in the Download Templates & Instructions section in ProposalCentral. Submissions that do not include the applicant's biosketch and/or documents that exceed the page limitations will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

#### E. COLLABORATOR BIOSKETCH (IF APPLICABLE)



An NIH-style biosketch is required for all collaborators, limited to five (5) pages each. Applications that exceed the page limitation and/or do not include the collaborator's biosketch will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

## F. CONFIDENTIAL LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT

Applicants are responsible for assigning letter writers to their applications as soon as possible to allow them ample time to submit their required letters by the application deadline. Once the applicant assigns a letter writer to their application, ProposalCentral will send an automated email to the letter writer with an upload link that will enable them to submit their letter confidentially. Applicants can log into their applications at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support and may resend notification emails as needed. Applicants are highly encouraged to add [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) to their address books or safe sender lists. Letters must be received by the application submission deadline, **September 29, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET**, for consideration.

### 1. DEPARTMENTAL LETTER OF SUPPORT

The application must contain one letter of support on an institutional letterhead from the department in which the primary applicant will conduct the research, limited to two (2)-pages. Letters that exceed the page limitations will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. If the departmental letter of support is not received by the application deadline, **September 29, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET**, the application will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Letters must be received by the application submission deadline, **September 29, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET** for consideration.

Departmental letters should clearly demonstrate the department's support for both the applicant and the intended use of funds. The letter should demonstrate the applicant has the expertise required to conduct their research independently. Descriptions of the intended use of funds (e.g., salary support [PI, co-PI, key personnel, lab members], consumables, animals or cell lines, core facility fees, or other research related activities) must be included. Additionally, departmental letters of support must outline the department's resources (financial support, space, equipment, etc.) available to support the applicant's research project and why this funding is needed by the applicant.

### 2. ADDITIONAL LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Additional letters from other research collaborators, and/or relevant professional sources should only be included when relevant. If included, additional letters of support should be on an institutional letterhead and limited to one page each. Applications that include additional letters that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

Additional letters of support should include the writer's contribution to the project. Letters must be received by the application submission deadline, **September 29, 2025**, for consideration.

## G. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A brief description of the research the funding is intended to support is **limited to three (3) pages**. Applications that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award. It is recommended that no more than four figures be used.

The research project description should include the sections detailed below, using clear headers.

### Section 1. Project Summary

State the overarching problem or question the project seeks to address, the aims, milestones, and the approach(es) being used to answer the problem or address the question. This can be brief but must be sufficiently descriptive.

### Section 2. Project Progress to Date

Outline the work that has been completed to date. This may include brief summaries of aims completion, data, barriers and solutions that have been tried/are planned, anticipated completion dates for each aim/milestone. This may include aims and milestones that may extend past the period of performance for the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech. For example, if the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech is intended to support further data collection in order to apply for a larger grant, please briefly outline the project as a whole. This section is intended to be similar to a progress report.

### Section 3. Remaining Work

A short description of what remains to be completed on the project is required. This does not mean that all of the remaining work needs to be completed during the period of performance, but rather this will give reviewers a greater sense of how the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech funds will be utilized.

## H. STATEMENT OF NEED

A Statement of Need (limited to three [3] pages) describing the gap in funding (to include length of time, start of time, anticipated end of gap), other departmentally available funds, pending funding (source, amount, anticipated notification date), and intent is required.

Additionally, a plan describing how future funding will be obtained (including future funding source[s] and mechanism[s]) and the role of this award in implementing the plan is required.

If additional data/experiments are requested by a study section or a larger review committee, such as for an R award, CDMRP independent researcher award, or a VA CDA award, a plan to complete these data/experiments is required. A copy of the summary statement and impact score should be submitted with the application. This will not be counted against the three (3) page limit for the Statement of Need section.

## I. RESEARCH FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT DESCRIPTION

Limited to one (1) page, the Research Facilities and Environment document should describe the laboratory facilities, faculty, and technical assistance available to conduct the proposed project, as well as its relation to applicant's ongoing research program. Applications that exceed the page limitation will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review or receive consideration for an award.

#### J. PAST, CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT (PCPS)

Applicants are required to submit a Department of Defense (DOD) -style Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) document (limited to three [3] pages) for the past 3 years. The purpose is to allow reviewers to best determine the most meritorious applications with regard to other available funds.

#### K. PROJECT SUMMARY STATEMENTS AND/OR COUNCIL SCORES

Applicants are required to submit with their application summary statements and/or council scores and comments relating to the original project funding. This will allow reviewers to assess the scientific merit of the project overall and help prioritize the most meritorious applications. This will not be counted against the three (3) page limit for the Statement of Need section.

### III. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

#### Formatting Guidelines:

The following guidelines are applicable to all documents submitted for the application. Applications that do not abide by the formatting guidelines will be deemed noncompliant and will not advance to review.

Documents should use Times New Roman font in 12-point format with 1 to ½ inch margins. Paragraphs should be **single-spaced**, and figure/image legends/axes must be present and clearly visible. Letters from collaborators (if applicable) and institution administrators, etc. must be submitted on official institution letterhead, include full credential lines, be signed, and dated.

#### Electronic Registration

Applicants must submit the application and all required documents electronically via ProposalCentral at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. Submission of materials via email, fax, or postal mail will **not** be accepted.

To prevent emails from ProposalCentral from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended that applicants, individuals providing letters of support for the application, and institutional representatives add [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) to their address books or safe sender lists. Applicants requiring technical support related to the grant submission portal should contact ProposalCentral directly.

After creating a ProposalCentral account and logging into the system, the applicant can locate the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech application by clicking on the "Grant Opportunities" tab and searching for the American Urological Association as the Grant Maker. The application can be accessed by clicking the "Apply Now" button. The application sections are listed below with additional guidance on how to complete each section. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of all materials, and that materials are received in full before the application deadline.

## A. APPLICATION SECTIONS

- **Title Page**
  - Provide a title for your application (do not use all capital letters) and include the start and end dates of the proposed research (including dates outside of the award period).
- **Download Templates**
  - **Grant Agreement Form** – This form must be completed in its entirety, including all necessary signatures and contact information, and submitted with the full proposal.
  - **Biosketch Template** – This is a reference document to assist applicants in completing a maximum **five (5)-page** biosketch. Applicants may also visit <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for current NIH biosketch guidelines.
  - **Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS) Template** – This is a reference document to assist applicants in completing a maximum **three (3)-page** PCPS. Applicants may also visit [https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/commonform-cps-r.pdf](https://nsf.gov/resources/nsf.gov/files/commonform-cps-r.pdf) for current DOD PCPS guidelines.
- **Enable Other Users to Access this Application** (optional)
  - This section allows the applicant to give other users access to the application (such as an administrator or collaborator), but it is not required.
- **Applicant/PI**
  - Applicants will need to toggle between their “Professional Profile” in ProposalCentral and sections of the application in order to reference and complete the required information.
  - **ORCID Identifier**- In concurrence with the NIH policy requiring ORCID iDs from all applicants beginning October 2020 “to simplify applicant reporting and improve the tracking of career outcomes”, all UCF award mechanisms require applicants to provide ORCID iDs. Applicants may register for ORCID iDs at <https://orcid.org/>.
  - NPI (National Provider Identifier), if applicable.
- **Eligibility**
  - Enter AUA membership information if applicable. Membership is not required to apply but is required to accept any UCF research award.
  - Identify the host institution and the AUA section it resides within. The host institution is the primary location where the proposed research will be conducted. Applicants are not restricted to their home institution but must provide a letter of support from the location of the project.
    - Applicants who intend to conduct their research at an institution within the state of New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania should reference the institution’s zip code to select the appropriate Section (see <https://www.auanet.org/membership/who-we-are/aua-sections-and-demographics>).
  - Applicants will be required to confirm that they are independent researchers (as defined above in Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, C. Eligibility Information, 1. Applicant) who are **not in need of mentorship**, that they **have/have had prior funding from a major funding source** (as described above in Section I. Funding Opportunity Description, C. Eligibility Information, 1. Applicant) and that they **have an urgent need for bridge funding**. To do this, the applicant will **need to click the “agree” button**.
- **Institution & Contacts**

- This information is automatically populated from the applicant's institution selected in the Professional Profile and is where the funding will be sent by the AUA.
- **Key Personnel**
  - Applicants are required to identify key personnel and additional letters of support from collaborators, if relevant. This section does not prompt them to submit their required letters of support or PCPS.
  - Each collaborator must complete the required collaborator sections within the Grant Agreement Form.
- **Confidential Letters of Support**
  - This section enables the applicants to invite their collaborator(s) to complete and submit their required letters of support through ProposalCentral.
  - Once the applicant assigns a letter writer to their application, ProposalCentral will send an automated e-mail to the letter writer with an upload link that will enable them to submit their letter confidentially. Applicants have the ability to log into their applications at any time to check the submission status of their letters of support.
  - Applicants may resend the invitation to individual letter writers and track whether the letters have been received. All letters of support must be received before the application **September 29, 2025, at 11:59 pm ET** for the application to be considered for funding.
  - Letters of support must be on institutional letterhead.
- **Project Information**
  - Applicants are required to provide a lay abstract for the project requiring support and indicate the organ(s), disease(s), and proposal type most representative of the research project.
  - *By submitting the full application, the applicant gives consent for the use of the abstracts in UCF or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, and/or other media activities.*
- **Budget Detail**
  - Please provide estimated costs for the requested support categories. **UCF funds cannot be used for institutional indirect costs, travel or registration/membership fees. For additional restrictions on funding usage, please see 1 Funding Opportunity Description, D. Funding Information, 4. Unacceptable Use of Funds.**
- **Budget Justification**
  - Please review budget expense entries to ensure accuracy and provide brief descriptions of the purpose of the requested expenses in relation to the current research project needs. Note that total expenses across all categories may exceed the \$60,000 provided by the UCF, but ONLY \$60,000 will be provided by the UCF.
- **Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS)**
  - A DOD-style PCPS (limited to three (3)-pages) is required for the applicant and any collaborators, showing the most recent 3 years of support.
- **Upload Application Attachments Here**
  - *The application components previously detailed and summarized below are available as attachment types and must be uploaded as PDF files adhering to the page limitations indicated. Pages in excess of the limitation for any component and/or any missing section may result in the application being removed from consideration.*



- **Grant Agreement Form**
- **Applicant Biosketch / Resume** (three (3)-pages, NIH-style)
- **Collaborator Biosketch** (if applicable)
- **Departmental/Institutional Letter(s) of Support** (two [2]-pages)
  - The proposal must contain **one letter of support from the department** on institutional letterhead. Per Section II. Application Requirements, F. Confidential Letters of Support, 1. Departmental Letter of Support, departmental representatives will upload letters anonymously via link that is auto generated and distributed after the designated representative's e-mail is added to ProposalCentral. If the departmental letter of support is not received by the application deadline, the application will not be reviewed.
- **Project Description** (three ([3]-pages)
- **Statement of Need of Funds** (three [3]-pages)
- **Research Facilities and Environment Description** (one [1]-page)
- **Past, Current and Pending Support (PCPS)** (three [3]-pages)
- **Summary Statements and/or Council Scores**
- **Validate**
  - This section will check for any required information or files missing from the application.
- **Print Full Application with Uploads**
  - This enables the applicant to download the entire application package for their records.
- **Submit**
  - Once submitted, additional changes cannot be made to the application unless released by the AUAER Office of Research. To contact the AUAER Office of Research regarding your application please refer to section VI.

#### IV. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

##### A. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

An independent peer review panel of expert physician-scientists and researchers will evaluate eligible applications. Each application is considered according to established criteria for determining merit as described below.

**All review processes are conducted confidentially to maintain the integrity of the selection process.** Peer reviewers agree to a nondisclosure statement that all application and evaluation information will not be disclosed outside the peer review panel. Violations of confidentiality can result in the voiding of peer review results and other corrective actions. In addition, the applicant, collaborator(s), and other individuals involved in or otherwise standing to benefit from the proposal's funding are **prohibited** from contacting individuals involved in the review process to gain protected evaluation information or to influence the evaluation process. Violations of these prohibitions will result in the disqualification of the application.

Reviewers will evaluate to what degree the requested project support is likely to result in obtaining follow-on funding and/or completion of the larger research project.



Following the completion of peer review and from the pool of applications deemed fundable, the most highly meritorious applications will be offered a UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech grant. Given the complexity of this process, along with programmatic considerations, it must be understood that the highest scoring proposals may not be automatically funded; however, every effort is made to support applications with the highest merit. All funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the AUAER Office of Research and approved by the AUAER Director of Research and the AUAER Research Council Chair.

## B. REVIEW CRITERIA

All applications will be evaluated against the following review criteria:

### **Applicant**

- To what degree the applicant's achievements to date, stated career goals, and departmental Letter(s) of Support indicate their potential for continued success in urology research.

### **Collaborator(s) (as needed)**

- How well the contributions of the collaborator(s) enhance the research project through their expertise as evidenced by a strong Collaborator Letter(s) of Support.

### **Institution**

- To what degree the institution provides a supportive environment with ongoing urologic disease research that will promote the advancement of urologic research.
- Will the institution/department chair continue to support the applicant during the funding gap (access to current lab space, core facilities, administrative and financial support, etc.)

### **Project Description**

- To what degree the project is focused on a significant problem in urologic research.
- To what degree the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech funding is likely to result in significant progress on the project's remaining goals.
- To what degree the research project has the likelihood of attaining future external funding if it receives support provided by the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech funds.
- To what degree the application is well organized and clearly presented.

### **Statement of Need**

- To what degree the need for funding is clearly presented.

### **Past Current and Pending Support (PCPS)**

- To what degree the applicant is in need of funding to support ongoing research through a demonstrated gap or deficit in funding during the funding period.
- To what degree the applicant has been previously funded in the urology research space.
- To what degree the applicant has considered additional sources of funding, as demonstrated by pending support.

### **Summary Statements and/or Council Scores**

- To what degree the project has a likelihood of success as determined by prior funding summary statements and/or council scores for the project.

## C. NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION REVIEW RESULTS

UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech applicants will be notified of funding decisions through ProposalCentral and/or in writing via email. To prevent emails from the proposal submission system from being identified as spam, it is strongly recommended to add [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) to your address book or safe sender list. Please note that results will **not** be given over the phone.

Applicants selected for funding must:

- Send an email to [grantsmanager@AUAnet.org](mailto:grantsmanager@AUAnet.org) to **confirm or decline the award within 48 hours**.
- Submit an updated PCPS to confirm that other funding has not been accepted.
- Submit a **high-quality headshot** (file size typically  $\geq 1\text{MB}$ ) in professional dress or laboratory/white coat via ProposalCentral within a week of accepting the award. With the submission of this photo, the applicant thus gives consent for its use in UCF or AUA publications, advertising, fundraising, or other media activities.
- **Confirm AUA membership and provide proof of membership** (where applicable) to any award sponsor organization within a week of accepting the award.
- **Ensure that the correct individuals** (e.g., collaborators and/or administrators) are listed to have access to the award in ProposalCentral, if applicable.

#### D. NOTICE OF AWARD

For applicants selected for funding, a Notice of Award letter will be issued prior to the payment to notify the awardee and institution that an award has been made and to specify the terms and conditions of the award. The UCF and AUAER do not assume responsibility for activities that the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech grant supports, or for the acts of the award recipient, because both are under the direction and control of the award recipient's institution and subject to its medical and scientific policies.

### V. AWARD REQUIREMENTS

#### A. REGULATORY APPROVALS AND EXEMPTIONS

##### 1. INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB)

Awardees must provide a letter of approval or exemption from the local IRB if activities involving human subjects are planned during the period of performance. IRB letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of application submission. Should the application be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IRB approval or exemption letter by the AUAER Office of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the application submission system. **IRB approval or exemption documentation must be obtained prior to the award performance period start date. The UCF and AUAER reserve the right to terminate the award if the above terms are not met.** If payment is made before IRB approval is received, funds will be required to be returned.

##### 2. INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC)

Awardees must submit a letter of approval or exemption by the IACUC if activities involving vertebrate animals are planned during the period of performance. IACUC letters of approval or exemption are not required at the time of application submission. Should the application be selected for funding, the award will be contingent upon receipt of a copy of the current IACUC approval or exemption letter by the AUAER Office

of Research. Documentation should be submitted through the application submission system. **IACUC approval or exemption documentation must be obtained prior to the award performance period start date. The UCF and AUAER reserve the right to terminate the award, if the above terms are not met.** If payment is made before IACUC approval is received, funds will be required to be returned.

## B. REPORTING

Failure to adhere to reporting requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation as requested by the AUAER Office of Research may result in a delay in payments of other awards to the institution or suspension of the awardee or institution from eligibility for subsequent UCF funding opportunities. Unless approved by the UCF and/or the AUAER Office of Research, failure to complete the duration of the research period will result in repayment of unspent funds to the UCF.

### 1. PUBLIC ACCESS PUBLISHING AND SHARING OF GRANT INFORMATION

All UCF awardees are subject to a public access policy.

The AUA and its UCF reserve the right to include information relating to the grant (such as the grantee name and project title) in materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and UCF, including periodic reports, newsletters or news releases, the website, or in any other materials issued by or on behalf of the AUA and the UCF.

### 2. CLOSEOUT REPORTING

Failure to adhere to reporting requirements and/or provide appropriate documentation may result in a delay in payments of other awards to the institution or suspension of the awardee or institution from eligibility for subsequent UCF funding opportunities. Unless approved by the UCF and/or the AUAER Office of Research, failure to complete the duration of the research period will result in repayment of unspent funds to the UCF.

#### Final Report

Within 30 days of the end of the period of performance of the grant, the awardee must submit a final report via the ProposalCentral which must include the following information:

- **Summary of Completed Work/Usage of Funds:**
  - a. Narrative of funded research, clearly stating the findings, and specifying how the research results met the objectives established in the application (two-page maximum).
  - b. Inclusion of the contributions of collaborator(s), as appropriate.
- **Products or outcomes:**
  - a. List and describe any **products** (tangible products include but are not limited to: patents, new animal models, clinical guidelines, new assays, etc.) or **outcomes** (conference abstracts, presentations, and journal manuscripts published or in press) that were at least in part supported by the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech grant.
  - b. Disclosure of application to and/or receipt of follow-on funding to the AUAER Office of Research is required within one-year of the end of the POP. This will allow the AUAER OR to continually monitor the results of funded awards to better tailor future Program Announcements to the needs of the urology research community.

- c. New funding resulting from the work conducted using the funds from the Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech grant.
- **Description of Next Steps**
  - a. Describe further funding status (where applied, status, timeline, etc.) and/or regulatory next steps.

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### 3. OUTCOMES REPORTING

Following the completion of the period of performance, the AUAER Office of Research may contact previous awardees to collect additional award outcomes information including, but not limited to, publications, funding, invited speakerships and presentations, mentorship, and leadership positions within the AUA or affiliated organizations.

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### 4. CHANGES TO CONTACT INFORMATION, PROJECT, PERSONNEL, INSTITUTION, OR FUNDING

Any changes impacting the research project (i.e., collaborator[s], key personnel, host institution, available facilities, applicant contact information, etc.) that occur after the application submission deadline **MUST** be reported to the AUAER Office of Research. The AUAER Office of Research will review the situation and determine whether the submitted application may continue to peer review or must be withdrawn.

Requests to change the award applicant will result in automatic application withdrawal and/or award ineligibility. Requests for exemption will not be considered. All decisions made by the AUAER Office of Research are final.

If the applicant accepts pending funding after applying for the award (but before funding decisions have been made) that would cover the intended use of the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech funds, the awardee **MUST** contact the AUAER Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. The AUAER Office of Research will review the competing funding and determine whether the submitted application may continue to peer review or must be withdrawn. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, applicants may be ineligible to apply for future UCF funding opportunities.

If the awardee is selected for any additional funding that would cover the intended use of the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech funds from organizations other than the UCF after being selected, the awardee **MUST** immediately contact the AUAER Office of Research to discuss appropriate courses of action. If the awardee does not meet this requirement, return of any used or unused funds may be required. **Please be aware that the AUAER Office of Research will be monitoring publicly available funding sources to help identify the receipt of new funding that may be in conflict with the UCF Bridge Award Supported by Dornier Medtech funds. If such funds are found and were not disclosed to the AUAER Office of Research within 30 days of receipt by the institution, the AUAER Office of Research reserves the right to request return of remaining funds and/or exclude the awardee and/or institution from consideration for future UCF research funding.**

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### C. SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Awardees are required to send electronic copies of articles published based on UCF funded research to the AUAER Office of Research at [grantsmanager@AUAnet.org](mailto:grantsmanager@AUAnet.org). Applicants submitting any publications or presentations arising from work supported in whole or in part by this award must include the following funder acknowledgment:

“This work was supported in part by the 2026 Urology Care Foundation Bridge Award Supported by Dornier MedTech.”

#### D. AUAER AND UROLOGY CARE FOUNDATION RESEARCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Each year, the AUA and the UCF coordinate several events designed to advance urologic research. These events are subject to change year after year and may be held during the AUA Annual Meeting and/or at AUA Headquarters in Linthicum, Maryland.

Successful applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Research Honors Reception at the AUA Annual Meeting the year after the completion of the award to share the results of their research funding.

Please refer to the Notice of Award and/or contact the Office of Research at [research@auanet.org](mailto:research@auanet.org) for additional information.

#### VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to this Program Announcement or submission requirements should be directed to the AUAER Office of Research. The preferred method of communication is email at [grantsmanager@auanet.org](mailto:grantsmanager@auanet.org). Phone calls, when necessary, may be directed to 410-689-3762. Assistance is typically available Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Please allow two business days for response time.