

UNM JOINT HSC+Main Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest and pre-proposals for the **Searle Scholars Program** limited competition. This funding opportunity makes grants to selected universities and research centers to support the independent research of exceptional faculty in the biomedical sciences and chemistry who have recently been appointed as assistant professors on tenure-track appointments.

Note: Information provided in this limited competition announcement is based on currently available details and is subject to revision upon receipt of final guidance from the sponsor.

Sponsor: Searle Funds at the Chicago Community Trust

Opportunity Title: Searle Scholars Program 2027

Opportunity Number: N/A

Sponsor Due Date(s): 09/30/2026

Award Amount: \$450,000 for a three-year term

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: One (1) per institution

Solicitation: [Process and Eligibility – Searle Scholars Program](#)

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
- Applicants should have begun their appointments as independent investigators at the assistant professor level on or after May 1, 2025. The appointments must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent) at the invited institution.
- The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components. Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for the Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of present and former Searle Scholars on this [website](#).

Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: **NOON on June 18, 2026** (for planning purposes)

Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: **NOON on June 29, 2026**

Limited Comp. Instructions: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating. *This sponsor considers Main Campus and HSC a single institution. The same submissions process will be used for applications from Main Campus and HSC.*

STEP ONE: Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) by **noon** on June 18, 2026. This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be reviewed; we require them so that we can form a review committee early.

STEP TWO: Please submit your 3-page pre-proposal, abbreviated budget, and CVs for key personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#) by **noon** on June 29, 2026. You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposals should address the major points that will be included in the nomination narratives:

- 1) A description of the proposed research and its significance.
- 2) The specific areas of research you would like to perform in your laboratory over the next few years.
- 3) Why this work is particularly novel and important.

Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the following:

- Significance (novelty and importance) of the proposed research
- Potential for successful results
- Evidence of creativity
- Feasibility and clarity of thought
- Qualifications of applicant (strength of publication record, honors or awards, other funding)

Applicant selections will be published on the [UNM Limited Competitions website](#). Should you have any questions please feel free to contact limited@unm.edu or HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu.