



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: Pew Biomedical Scholars Program

Date: April 4, 2024

UNM Researchers,

The Pew Biomedical Scholars Program provides funding to young investigators of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of human health. The program makes grants to selected academic institutions to support the independent research of outstanding individuals who are in their first few years of their appointment at the assistant professor level. Candidates whose work is based on biomedical principles but who bring in concepts and theories from more diverse fields are encouraged to apply. Eligibility criteria is as follows:

- The program is open to individuals with a doctorate in biomedical sciences, medicine, or a related field, including engineering or the physical sciences.
- As of Sept. 5, 2024, you must run an independent lab and hold a full-time appointment at the rank of assistant professor. (Appointments such as research assistant professor, adjunct assistant professor, assistant professor research track, visiting professor, or instructor are **NOT** eligible).
- You must **NOT** have been appointed as an assistant professor at *any* institution **prior to June 10, 2020**, whether or not such an appointment was on a tenure track.
  - Time spent in clinical internships, residencies, in work toward board certification, or on parental leave does not count as part of this four-year limit.
  - Candidates who need an exception on the four-year limit should contact Pew's program office to ensure that application reviewers are aware an exception has been given.
- You may apply to the program a maximum of two times. All applicants must be nominated by their institution and must complete the 2025 online application.
- If applicants have appointments at more than one eligible nominating institution or affiliate, they may not reapply in a subsequent year from a different nominating entity.
- May not be nominated for the Pew Scholars Program and the Pew-Stewart Scholars Program for Cancer Research in the same year.

An award of \$75,000 per year for four years will be provided to the sponsoring institution for use by the scholar, subject to annual review of the scholar's progress. The awarded funds may be used at the discretion of the Pew Scholar for personnel, equipment, supplies, or travel directly related to the scholar's research, and as to best advance their research and career. Not more than \$12,500 of the annual award may be used for the Scholar's salary (including benefits). Not more than 8% (\$24,000) of the total award may be allocated for F&A. It is expected that Pew Scholars will spend at least 80% of their time in work or activities related to the accomplishment of their overall research goals (which are not restricted to the specific aims proposed for this award). During the four-year grant term, program participants are required to attend an annual meeting held in March or April. All eligible expenses for attendees' travel, lodging, and meals are paid by Pew.

UNM must provide the name of the selected nominee to the Pew Charitable Trusts by **May 15, 2024**. The selected nominee's full application will be due to the agency on September 5, 2024. Complete program details can be found on the [Pew website](#).

**This is a limited competition.** UNM (including HSC and branch campuses) is limited to **1 (ONE)** nomination. 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.**

**STEP ONE:** Please enter your ~100-word **statement of interest** by **NOON on April 18, 2024** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered.

**STEP TWO:** Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal by **NOON on April 25, 2024** via UNM's [InfoReady Review Portal](#). The narrative should be **accompanied by a draft budget and a 2-page curriculum vitae**. You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you can work on your documents outside the system before that. Your proposal will need to be approved through InfoReady by the Chair of your department. We recommend that you tell your Chair that you are submitting and let them know that they should expect an email from InfoReady. **\*\*This process, including submitting responses to both steps through InfoReady, applies to all UNM campuses, including HSC.\*\*** No late submissions will be considered.

In the pre-proposal, please briefly describe:

- Your most significant research contribution to date;
- The most innovative and novel aspects of your proposed research;
- A risky or creative approach you might use in pursuit of your goals;
- How you would benefit from the receipt of a Pew scholarship; and
- Why your specific research is significant.

Additional insights to consider:

Based on their performance during their education and training, candidates should demonstrate outstanding promise as contributors in science relevant to human health. This program does not fund clinical trials research. **Strong proposals will incorporate particularly creative and pioneering approaches to basic, translational, and applied biomedical research.** Ideas with the potential to produce an unusually high impact are encouraged. Selection of the successful candidates will be based on a detailed description of the work that the applicant proposes to undertake, evaluations of the candidate's performance, and notable past accomplishments, including honors, awards, and publications. In evaluating the candidates, the National Advisory Committee gives considerable weight to both the project proposal and the researcher, including evidence that the candidate is a successful independent investigator and has the skill set needed to carry out their high-impact proposal.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*