



To: Distribution List

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

Subject: Limited Competition: Pew Biomedical Scholars Program

Date: February 12, 2021

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 support the independent research of outstanding individuals who are in their first few years of their appointment at the assistant professor level. The Program is open to individuals with a doctorate in biomedical sciences, medicine or a related field. As of September 01, 2021, nominees must hold full-time appointments at the rank of assistant professor. **For the upcoming 2022 grant cycle, the application opens on June 14, 2021, and individuals must *not* have been appointed as an assistant professor at any institution prior to June 14, 2017, whether or not such an appointment was on a tenure track.** Exceptions are outlined on the program website. Time spent in clinical internships, residencies, in work toward board certification, or on a parental leave does not count as part of this four-year limit. 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 adjustment

Historically, applicants must be in the first *three* years of their assistant professor position to apply. Due to COVID-19-related research disruptions, **the sponsor is adding an additional year of eligibility so that individuals in the first *four* years of their assistant professor position are eligible to apply.** Eligibility adjustments will apply to three award cycles (2022, 2023, 2024). For the 2023 and 2024 competitions, the exact cutoff dates will be determined in the future.

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. Grant agreements will be issued in August of the award year. 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 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 IDC costs. It is expected that Pew Scholars will spend at least 80% of their time in work 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. All eligible expenses for attendees' travel, lodging, and meals are paid by Pew.

Complete program details can be found at [Pew Scholars 2021](#).

This is a limited competition. The University of New Mexico (including HSC and branch campuses) is limited to one nomination. UNM must provide the name of the selected nominee to the Pew Charitable Trusts by May 17, 2021. The selected nominee's full application will be due to the agency on September 01, 2021.

*** If you are interested in being considered for nomination and if you intend to submit a preproposal for this internal competition, please send a statement of interest via e-mail to limited@unm.edu by **March 1, 2021**. This is a required step that will help us to arrange a review committee in advance to expedite the process and maximize the amount of time the selected submitter has to prepare their final submission to the Pew***

Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal by noon on **March 23, 2021 to limited@unm.edu** with the subject line indicating: PEW - your name. The narrative should be **accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a letter of support from the chair of your department.**

No late submissions will be considered.

In the preproposal, 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
- In your opinion, why is your specific research 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. **Strong proposals will incorporate particularly creative and innovative approaches.** Candidates, whose work is based on biomedical principles but brings in concepts and theories from more diverse fields, are encouraged to apply. Risk-taking is 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 evidence that the candidate is a successful independent investigator and has published significant work.”

“The Pew Scholars Program values groundbreaking, highly innovative, paradigm-shifting research.”

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.