

Rick A. and Deanna M. Stern Family Endowed Research and Innovation Fund in Surgery

The Department of Surgery is pleased to announce the Rick A. and Deanna M. Stern Family Endowed Research and Innovation Fund in Surgery. The purpose of this endowment is to enable trainees and students to perform *mentored research in the area of colorectal cancer*. The endowment provides a one-year stipend with the potential for extension to a second year of funding.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a surgery trainee who will dedicate one year to research that includes the area of colorectal cancer with a faculty member in the Department of Surgery at Northwestern University
- Trainees from outside institutions are eligible
- FSM students will be eligible if there are no eligible resident applicants for the funding cycle

Proposal format: The following items should be compiled into a single PDF.

1. Completed application form.* Fill out and save as a PDF.
2. A one-page cover letter outlining the applicant's short and long-term career goals and plan for academic development.
3. Applicant's *curriculum vitae*.
4. Title, Abstract, and Research Plan (no more than 4 pages, single-spaced, Arial 11 pt, 1" margin).
 - a. Abstract should be written in lay language (200 words or less).
 - b. Research Plan should address the clinical need of the project, why the project is innovative, preliminary data, how you propose to solve the problem, your hypothesis, the experimental design and methods, and how you will evaluate and define success.
5. Literature cited (no page limit).
6. Budget and budget justification (no page limit). Fill out the NIH-style budget form* and save as a PDF. The NIH-style Budget Justification should be completed separately (see application template/forms). Provide enough details for each budget category to support the budget request. If you have a quote(s), you may attach it. The following budget categories must be justified, if applicable: salary, equipment, and travel.
7. Letter of support from faculty research mentor(s) (no more than 3 pages, single-spaced, Arial 11 pt, 1" margin). This should include a description of the training plan for the applicant's career development.
8. NIH-style "Other support" documents for both the applicant and mentor.*
For instructions, see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm>. A template is provided if needed. Enter "none" in the document under the heading "Other support" if none exists.

* *The application form, budget template, budget justification template, and Other Support template are provided as Word document attachments.*

Funding plan: Each award will provide up to \$40,000 per year.

Budgetary restrictions:

- No indirect costs will be funded.
- Budgeted travel must be a vital component of the project's success. Total expenditures per trip are limited to \$1,500 per trip per person.
- Salary support is restricted to the applicant, research assistants, technicians, and analysts who are critical to the success of the project. Salary support will not be provided for individuals outside NMHC and campus partners.

Review:

All proposals from eligible applicants will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and Department of Surgery leadership. In each funding cycle, meritorious applications from residents will have a funding priority over applications from medical students.

Award:

Notification of full or partial funding will be sent to all applicants in March. The anticipated start date for awards is July 1. Notification letters will indicate if additional documentation or steps are required prior to the start of the project. Awardees are required to obtain Institutional Review Board and/or Animal Care and Use Committee approval if appropriate.

Expectations:

Awardees are expected to attend and present at Department of Surgery Research Conference and to submit an abstract to the annual Department of Surgery William H. Pearce, MD Research Symposium. Moonlighting during the award period is not permitted without the written approval of the mentor(s).

Reports:

Awardees are required to submit a final report one month after the funding period ends. The final report should mention any related invention disclosures and/or patent applications that resulted from this work.

Acknowledgement:

All awardees are required to acknowledge the support of this funding in any manuscripts/publications or presentations that result from this work. Acknowledgement in manuscripts/publications should use the following verbiage:

The authors acknowledge the support of the Rick A. and Deanna M. Stern Family Endowed Research and Innovation Fund in Surgery

Submission Deadline: March 1

Completed applications (a single PDF file containing all components of the proposal) should be emailed to:

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Questions should be directed to:

Karen J. Ho, MD
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