

UC San Diego Health

Academy of Clinician Scholars (AoCS)

Request for Proposals

UC San Diego Academy of Clinician Scholars (AoCS) Faculty Development and Clinical Research Awards

Kaiser Permanente Award Professional Development in Clinical Education Improved Patient/Physician Communication

The UC San Diego Health Sciences Academy of Clinician Scholars (AoCS) is a body of distinguished faculty recognized by their peers for exceptional clinical skills, their commitment to patient care, medical education, and the advancement of new medical knowledge. The Academy creates a legacy of excellent healthcare delivery by fostering the continuous professional development of UC San Diego's clinician scholars.

In support of its mission, the Academy offers annual competitive awards to further professional development of clinical faculty at UC San Diego.

Applicant Eligibility

1. Academic Series: All series are eligible, except for MSP contracts and Volunteer basis.
2. Academic Rank: Any rank
3. Clinical activity must be at least 50% effort (includes direct patient care and clinical administration). A letter from the department chair or division chief confirming effort is required.
4. Basic research proposals are excluded.
5. MD, DO or PharmD are eligible.

Types of Applications Suitable for Funding

- (1) Clinical research proposals
- (2) Skill development proposals
- (3) Fostering improved patient/physician communication. Fundable activities awarded by AoCS may include but are not limited to the following areas:
 - Support for a research project
 - Acquiring a new clinical skill, procedure, or teaching tool
 - Acquiring new knowledge to build a clinical research database
 - Support for new collaborations to enhance clinical research at UCSD
 - Building a nascent program at UC San Diego in a novel area or enhancing an already existing program (must provide rationale for later)
 - Developing and/or bringing new technology to UC San Diego
 - Establishing a new training course for clinicians at UC San Diego
 - Funding travel and support of sabbatical/leave activity that would benefit clinical

programs and clinicians at UC San Diego

- Tuition and travel expenses to attend short courses that will enhance clinical, teaching, or research potential

Application Review Criteria

Members of the AoCS Research Committee and members with relevant expertise will review applications.

Review Criteria

- Degree of Innovation
- Benefits to the Academy and Clinical Community at UC San Diego
- Candidate's professional development needs
- Qualifications of the applicant to complete the proposed work
- How these resources will be leveraged (e.g. matching funds, assurance of protected time)
- Scientific merit (for research proposals)
- Feasibility

Funding Range

AoCS Faculty Development and Clinical Awards will be up to \$10,000 for a 12-month period.

Kaiser Permanente Professional Development in Clinical Education and Improved Patient/Physician Communication Awards will be for \$10,000 for a 12-month period.

Reporting Requirements

There will be a mid-year progress report, mid-year presentation at the AOCS Research Meeting and a final 12-month report and final presentation at the AOCS Research Meeting.

Application Components

A complete application will contain the following elements and comply with the following guidelines:

1. A 6-page limit, double-spaced proposal including references
2. Include the below in one document (e.g. **do not submit separate documents**). These additional documents do not count towards the 6-page limit.
3. Current Curriculum Vitae or Biosketch
4. Budget and Budget Justification
5. Letter from either Department Chair or Division Chief confirming applicant's 50% clinical activity (includes direct patient care and clinical administration).
6. Assistant Professors are encouraged to identify a suitable mentor for their proposed work and provide a letter of commitment from the proposed mentor.

Applications should be emailed to: Martha Contreras (mac219@health.ucsd.edu) by Sept 1, 2026

Questions can be directed to Chair of the AoCS Awards Committee: Dr. Samuel Eisenstein (seisestein@health.ucsd.edu)