

Limited Submission Opportunity

RFP issue date: 4/30/2024 (revised 5/3/24)

Funder: American Diabetes Foundation

Program name: Postdoctoral Initiator Pathway Program

Program website: <https://professional.diabetes.org/research-grants/current-funding-opportunities-pathway-stop-diabetes>

Program summary: The ADA Initiator Pathway opportunity is a two-phased award designed to support the transition of postdoctoral scientists from mentored training to independent research faculty. These awards are highly competitive and intended to support particularly innovative and transformational ideas that have the potential to have an exceptional impact in diabetes with an emphasis on the investigator's potential to significantly transform diabetes through translational research ("moving the needle") to improve the lives of people with diabetes. These awards provide salary and research support for applicants during late stages of mentored training through establishment as independent research faculty.

Limitation: *Schools may submit an unlimited number of applications to this internal competition. UPenn will be limited in the number of applications it may advance to the ADA competition in July. (Revised)*

Eligibility:

- Must currently be in full-time research training position (postdoctoral fellow, research fellowship).
- Applicants must hold a MD, PhD, DMD, DO, PharmD, DVM or an equivalent health- or science-related degree.
- Have no more than seven years of research training following a terminal doctoral degree.
- Cannot concurrently hold an NIH K99/R00 grant. (All other career development awards are allowable unless concurrent awards prohibited by the other granting agency.)
- Must devote at least 75 percent of their total time and effort to research during the funding period (with 50-100 percent effort to the ADA project as defined below).
- At the end of Phase 1 (two years into award), the investigator needs to have obtained a faculty appointment at an accredited research institution.
- For any sponsored research projects, the applicant must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for the project, unless otherwise noted in the LSO. Please see [Penn's PI Eligibility requirements](#) to ensure you are eligible.

Award information:

- A research award of \$100,000/year in Phase 1; up to \$325,000/year in Phase 2 for up to seven years. Maximum combined support for Phase 1 and Phase 2 is \$1,625,000.
- Support: Project support and PI salary.
- Indirect support: Up to 10 percent of directs in Phase 1; up to 30 percent of directs in Phase 2.
- Project percent effort required: 75-100 percent effort to the ADA project in Phase 1; 50-75 percent effort to the ADA project in Phase 2.

Selection Criteria:

A committee, established by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR), will determine the final nominees to represent the University. This call for nominations will prioritize translational applications that move knowledge and discovery gained from basic research to its eventual translation into patient and population benefit. The ideal applicant will propose innovative research that will be an important step towards the eventual goal of improving the lives of people at risk of diabetes or living with the disease - and the pathway to this impact is clear.

OVPR Internal Review Process

Applications must include the following:

1. **Cover Page** which includes:
 - Proposal Title
 - Identify ADA focus: (see pg. 4 ADA Guidelines)
 - a) **basic science/preclinical** or
 - b) **translational science**
 - Candidate's name, academic rank, department, email address, phone number and campus address.
2. **Research Proposal (maximum 2 pages)**: including project title, aims and objectives.

***NOTE:** Scientific excellence is the primary benchmark for all Pathway applications, with an emphasis on the investigator's potential to significantly transform diabetes through translational research to improve the lives of people with diabetes. The proposed research strategy serves as a reflection of the individual's capacity for innovation, creativity, and collaboration.*

 - References should also be included to support the proposal but are not counted in the two-page limit.
3. A **CV** (Using NIH format) (maximum 3 pages), which includes educational background, professional appointments, awards and honors. Include all current research support if applicable.
4. **All materials must be submitted in a single pdf document in the above order to vprgrant@upenn.edu**
5. Subject line of the email should be, ADA_Initiator_applicant LAST name_ applicant FIRST name.

Deadline: May 31st, 2024

External Funding – Limited Submission**RESEARCH AREA**

- **Dental Medicine**
- **Biomedical**
- **Engineering**

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Ken Lambert or Jim McGonigle at vprgrant@upenn.edu.