

To: School of Medicine Faculty
From: Katherine L. Nathanson, MD and Matthew D. Weitzman, PhD
Co-Chairs, PSOM Limited Applications Selection Committee
Re: Searle Scholars Program
<https://searlescholars.org/>

The University has been invited to nominate two candidates for the Searle Scholars Program. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) is managing the final candidate review and selection process; each school within the University may submit the names of up to two candidates.

Program summary: The Searle Scholars program makes grants to selected universities and research centers to support the independent research of exceptional young faculty in the biomedical sciences and chemistry who have recently begun their appointment at the assistant professor level and whose appointment is their first tenure- or CE-track position at a participating academic or research institution. The Searle Scholars program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components.

Eligibility:

- Appointment: Candidates should have begun their appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level **on or after May 1, 2024**.
- Track: The appointment must be the candidate's first CE- or tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent) at an invited institution.
- Independent research: Candidates must be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.
- 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:

- Grants are currently set at \$300,000 for a three-year period, with \$100,000 payable each year of the grant.
- Research focus: The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components. Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for the Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of present and former Searle Scholars on their website: <https://searlescholars.org/current-scholars/>.
- Reapplication: Applicants who were nominated for awards in the previous competition year but were not awarded may still meet the eligibility criteria for the current competition.

PSOM Review Process

Each candidate must submit the following in the order below:

- Cover Page: Proposal title, candidate name, academic rank and track, school, department, email address, phone number, and month and year of appointment to the PSOM faculty.
- Research proposal (maximum 2 pages, not including references): Single-spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins. Include research aims and description of how this fits the funders interests. *Note: Please craft the research statement in a manner that is easily understood by a broad audience.*

- CV or Biosketch, which includes educational background, professional appointments, awards and honors. Include all current research support (start-up and external) and pending support, including dollar amounts and start/end dates.
- Prior Submission Update: If you have submitted for this funding mechanism in the past, please provide on a separate page a brief explanation (1-5 sentences) explaining how the current application differs from prior submissions, highlighting any significant updates or changes to the proposal or your circumstances.

Please submit all materials in a single pdf file in the order above to Kaitlyn Hagarty at kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu by **12:00pm on Tuesday, July 8, 2025**. Subject line should read Searle__Applicant's surname_Applicant's first name. For Examples: Searle_Doe_John.pdf.

Please contact Kaitlyn Hagarty at kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu with any questions.