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: Any series except MSP contracts or Volunteer basis are not eligible.
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 is required.
4. Basic research proposals excluded.
5. MD or DO 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 skill tool
- Acquiring new knowledge to build a clinical research database
- Support for new collaborations to enhance clinical research at UC San
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- Building a nascent program at UC San Diego in some new focused area or enhancing an already existing program
- Developing new technology and bringing it back to UC San Diego
- Establishing a new training course for clinicians at UC San Diego
- Funding travel and support of sabbatical/leave activity to benefit the 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 availability, assurance of protected time)
- Scientific merit (for research grants)
- Feasibility

Each criterion will be scored on a 0–5 scale with 5 being most favorable. In addition, applications receive an overall project score.

Funding Range
AoCS Faculty Development and Clinical Awards will be made for $5,000-$10,000 each for a 12-month period.

Kaiser Permanente Professional Development in Clinical Education and Improved Patient/Physician Communication Awards for $10,000 for a 12-month period.
Reporting Requirements
There will be a six-month progress report and presentation at AOCS Research Meeting and a final 12-month report and presentation at the Academy of Clinical Scholars Research Meeting.

Application Components

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

1. A 3-page limit, double-spaced.
2. Research description must be contained in the grant application.
3. **Do you not submit a separate document.**
4. Current Curriculum Vitae
5. Budget and Budget Justification.
6. Letter from either Department Chair or Division Chief confirming applicant’s 50% clinical activity (includes direct patient care and clinical administration).
7. 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: Roslyn Lara (rlara@ucsd.edu).