

**2021 Society of Women in Urology (SWIU) / Intuitive Robotic Research Scholar  
Award  
\$10,000 for one year**

**Purpose of Award**

This Award is intended to support the development of outstanding women research scientists in the area of robotics research who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the understanding, treatment, and experience of urology using robotics. Investigators must be working in a research environment capable of supporting robotic research.

Applications will be judged on the quality of the applicant's research plan and the resources and environment available to the applicant. This includes the ability of the primary mentor and relevant division/department to provide appropriate guidance and protected time during the Award period.

It is anticipated that this research scholarship will be awarded on an annual basis.

**Eligibility**

1. The applicant must be a member of SWIU.
2. At the time of the award, the applicant should fit one of the below criteria:
  - a. in their final 1-2 years of completing a urologic residency training program in the United States or Canada and will have solidified plans for further fellowship training, with the plans for robotic experience during that training;
  - b. in a fellowship program in the United States with plans for robotic experience and further dedicated research time during that training
  - c. in their first ten years post fellowship graduation as junior faculty with a clinical focus in robotics.
3. The project must focus on robotics in urology (although the urologic focus is at the discretion of the applicant).
4. Applicant must be from a US or Canadian sponsoring academic, nonprofit or governmental institution. Proof of permanent resident status or a valid work visa is required if the applicant is not an American or Canadian citizen.
5. Applicant must have a mentor within or approved by the sponsoring institution(s) if in fellowship or within the first 5 years of training. The mentor must assume responsibility, ensure protected research time and provide guidance for the research. The sponsoring

institution(s) must ensure institutional support for the research. The mentor should have specific knowledge and experience in robotic surgery, and additional collaborator support from experts in the robotic field are encouraged. The applicant can have collaborators from outside institutions. Applicant must submit a letter of approval from their institution should they wish to have a mentor from an outside institution. In the case of transitions from fellowship to junior faculty (possibly at a different institution), the applicant must secure a similar mentor at their new institution as well.

6. SWIU will not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, creed, religion, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, age or any other factor irrelevant to the quality of the application.
7. Applications involving human participants must receive approval from their Institutional Review Board (IRB). Documentation of IRB approval must be provided to SWIU prior to distribution of the Award.
8. Applications should include research milestones for the conclusion of the grant.
9. Prior SWIU Robotic Research Scholars are not eligible to apply for this award.
10. SWIU will accept only one proposal from each applicant.

### **Application Components:**

**Please assemble all components into a single PDF in the order outlined below and label the file in format: LASTNAME\_SWIU/IntuitiveRoboticResearchScholar.pdf.**

**1. Abstract (2,000 characters).** The technical abstract should specify the relevant background, hypothesis, aims of the project and methodologies.

**2. Research proposal (4 pages):** A one (1) year research proposal of no greater than four (4) pages is required. The four-page limit applies only to the proposal and not to references, CV, or other supplemental information. Key sections to be included are: Title, Hypothesis and Specific Aims, Background, Preliminary Data, Research Design and Methods, and a brief Summary with Timeline and Milestones.

**3. References.** There is no page limit for this section. Please use single spaced, 10-point font for this section.

**4. Budget and budget justification (1 page).** Use the NIH form PHS 398, Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period, available on the [NIH website](#). No more than 10% of the budget may be

used for salary support for the principal investigator including fringe benefits. Please include the percentage effort for the amount of work time that will be devoted to this project. There is no minimum effort percentage, but time commitment to the project will be considered in evaluating the application. Salary support for other research personnel must be specified in the budget template. No portion of the Award is to be used for indirect costs to the sponsoring institution (e.g. overhead/administrative costs). The Award will not support the purchase of capital equipment. Limit the budget justification to 5,000 characters, highlighting key elements in the budget.

**5. Personal statement (1 page).** This section is limited to one page and should describe the applicant's career development plan for those in residency, fellowship or the first five years of practice. For those in years 5-10 of practice the career development plan is optional, but the personal statement should include how the applicant will use the Award to advance her career in academia-based robotic research in urology.

**6. Training and environment summary (limit 1 page).** This section should provide an accurate representation of the time commitment that will be dedicated to the proposed project and should provide a detailed description of the applicant's non-research responsibilities during this period. The time commitment described should be also reflected in the supporting mentor letter that will accompany this application. Additional information regarding resources available to the applicant to successfully complete the proposed project should be included.

**7. Applicant's biographical sketch (not to exceed 4 pages).** Use the NIH form PHS 398, available on the [NIH website](#). Blank format page: Non-fellowship Biosketch.

**8. Mentor's biographical sketch (not to exceed 4 pages).** Use the NIH form PHS 398, available on the [NIH website](#). Blank format page: Non-fellowship Biosketch.

**9. Two letters of recommendation.**

1. Primary mentor letter that emphasizes the applicant's potential for independence in an academic research setting. The letter should also describe mentoring experience, time protection for the applicant, and a commitment to provide resources and mentoring for the applicant for the duration of the Award as related to this project. *This is not required for those years 5-10 of practice, but is optional.*

2. Institution letter from Department (or Division) Chair. This letter should guarantee a specific time effort dedicated to this project, mechanisms by which the applicant's time will be protected from other obligations, and a commitment to provide resources to support the applicant's research proposal.

**10. Supplemental material.** Please use this section **ONLY** to include letters from collaborators and IRB/IACUC/IND approval. Do **NOT** submit reprints of articles with this application. Additional letters of recommendation may be included here.

### **Evaluation Process and Criteria**

Interested applicants must submit an application by **12:00 AM - Midnight (PST) on Thursday, July 1, 2021**. The award decision will be announced by August 2021. The **2020 SWIU/Intuitive Robotic Research Scholar Award** will start on August 2021.

Evaluation of the applications will be by a Scientific Review Group (SRG) comprised of experts respected for their own accomplishments in research and as leaders in their field. The SRG will review and score the applications based on the merits of the research proposals. The Award review process is based on the same peer review system utilized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Scoring of research projects is done individually by each medical expert and scores are added together to determine the final ranking of each proposal. Any reviewer with a conflict of interest will be excused from scoring and voting.

In the event there are 4 or less applicants, the Chair of the SRG will present to the SWIU Board of Directors (BOD) the applicant with the highest score as the Award Recipient. In the event there are 5 or more applicants, the Chair of the SRG will present to the SWIU BOD the 2 applicants with the highest ranked proposals. The SWIU BOD will then review the ranking of the 2 top applicants, based on those scores, and based on all specified criteria below. The SWIU BOD will then vote between these 2 top applicants to determine the final Award Recipient. Any member of the SWIU BOD with a conflict of interest is excused from voting on the Award decisions.

Evaluation of the proposals will include, but not be limited to the following:

1. Merit of the research plan and objectives
2. Project's relevance to research questions that will advance robotic surgery in urology
3. Applicant's qualifications
4. Ability of primary mentor to provide appropriate guidance during the award period and demonstration that there are adequate resources available to the applicant to support the research project
5. Appropriateness of budget to completing the research plan during the grant period

### **Terms of Award**

Payments will be made to the comptroller or to the designated financial officer of the sponsoring institution, which shall then disperse the funds to the individual Award recipient. The total

amount of the award, \$10,000, will be distributed in one payment by Intuitive. It is the policy of SWIU not to provide indirect costs to the grant recipient's institution. The Award start date will be August 1, 2021. The Award recipient and the sponsoring institution shall pay at their own costs all taxes and impositions in connection with the Award. The Award does not create an employer-employee relationship between the Award recipient and SWIU. SWIU does not assume any legal responsibility or obligation for the conduct or acts of the grant recipient, the mentor, or the sponsoring institution.

At the conclusion of the Award period, the Award recipient must complete a final report summarizing the research conducted, and any plans to continue the research beyond the Award period.

Publications, research talks and poster presentations based on any study or research done with the support of the Award should acknowledge the support of SWIU. Reprints of such publications or abstracts should be sent to SWIU.

The Award recipient will be expected to present interim research results at the SWIU Annual Clinical Mentoring Conference in January 2022, and final results at the SWIU Annual Meeting at the American Urologic Association May 2022.

In the event the Award recipient's research is interrupted due to an incapacitating physical or mental illness or death, the Award will be terminated and the unused portion of the funds must be returned to SWIU by the sponsoring institution within 30 days of the date of termination.

Send completed applications and any questions can be sent to [info@swiu.org](mailto:info@swiu.org).