Now Recruiting One (1) Scholar
University of Colorado School of Medicine Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists (CU-FRCS)

- A grant and mentoring program for male and female MD or DO funded junior faculty facing hardship resulting from caregiving needs
- Up to five Scholars annually for 1 year awards of $33,333.33
- One year of funding is guaranteed, a 2nd can be requested, subject to committee review.
- Money can be used to pay for research costs including PRA salary (not PI salary) or other research and training costs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:
- CU-FRCS Scholars must have a MD or DO degree and active medical license.
- Must have full-time CU-SOM faculty appointment (Instructor or Assistant Professor).
- Must be PI on a research grant(s) (internal or external CDA e.g. K12/K23, or research project grant).
- Evidence of strong research training and productivity as well as primary mentor(s) with extensive research experience.
- Strong evidence of commitment to pursuing a career as a clinician-scientist.
- Money can be used to support only clinical research that does not include research using animals or primary tissues derived from animals. Demonstrate a compelling need that is related to family caregiving demands (e.g. children/elders/illness).

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS REQUIRED (COMBINE INTO 1 PDF):
1. NIH Bio-sketch (current version) with other support section describing active research funding. Personal statement should address commitment to research, scholarly productivity, and research mentor(s).
2. Letter of support from mentor addressing need and research potential.
3. 1 paragraph scientific summary of active research agenda and vision and career goals as a physician scientist.
4. 1 paragraph of FRCS need: Statement of need as to the situation causing this window of vulnerability, the way in which these funds will help support success as a physician scientist AND statement of how you will use the FRCS research funds if awarded.
5. Letter from Department Chair/Division Head, including the protected time for research presently allocated to the applicant. Letter must include a written commitment of additional sponsorship of $10,000 per year towards project support if applicant is awarded the CU-FRCS funds.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION
March 3, 2017

SUBMIT:
Program Assistant
Rachel.Aerne@Ucdenver.Edu

CONTACT:
Program Directors or Rachel Aerne,
Program Assistant
Rachel.Aerne@Ucdenver.Edu

PROGRAM DIRECTORS:
Judy Regensteiner, PhD (PI/PD) and Anne Libby, PhD (Co-PI/PD)

Applicants’ names kept confidential!
Q1: Is this program new?
A1: Yes, the CU Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists was one of ten programs funded nationally by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for 2016-2020. There are currently five funded Scholars—read about them at:


Q2: Is this for female faculty only?
A2: No, this is for junior faculty researchers, both men and women, who are successful researchers but who face hardship from caregiving demands at home that risk their academic careers.

Q3: What constitutes “hardship from demands at home” for this program?
A3: This program can support many types of needs, but applicants must explain the situation (such as illness of child, self or spouse or aging parents) and how it adversely impacts their research career. Some demands are particularly acute such as a sudden illness, and some are more lingering. All else equal, compelling need is supported first.

Q4: What kinds of uses for the awarded funds are allowed?
A4: These funds cannot be used for Scholars salary support; the funds are for research costs such as a lab assistant or analytic support. Persuasive proposals will make the case that these resources will help the Scholar maintain research productivity during the period of hardship.

Q5: Does the mentor letter have to indicate that s/he knows about the hardship—what if it is private?
A5: The research mentor provides a letter of support to indicate that the applicant is a committed physician scientist with robust training and promise who also needs this help. We respect the applicant’s choice to keep family hardships private, and also encourage applicants to share their situation with the mentor to get up-close support as it is needed. The sponsor (division/department head) need not indicate details of the hardship when they pledge their support for the applicant.
Q6: What does the sponsor letter need to say?
A6: The division/departmental letter must describe the protected faculty time allocated to the applicant for their research, as well as a commitment of an additional $10,000 sponsorship for each year of Doris Duke funding. Together with the $33,333.33 program funds, the annual award is for $43,333.33.

Q7: The RFA says that applicants must have research funding—what kind of research funding qualifies me for this program?
A7: Applicants must already have significant external or internal career development or scientific funding to apply. External awards such as a K23, internal awards such as K12, and external project funds as PI are all acceptable. Small internal pilot awards (less than $30K) or seed funding as a start-up package alone are not sufficient to qualify as research funding which would make an applicant eligible for this program.

Q8: Does it matter what kind of research I do?
A8: Yes, the Foundation requires that scholars funded by the program not conduct research using animals or primary tissues from animals under this mechanism (it is ok if the applicant is doing animal research but it cannot be supported by the Doris Duke funding).

Q9: Is this award for physicians only?
A9: Yes, the Foundation requires that scholars funded by the program hold an MD or DO degree with an active medical license. Applicants must be full-time regular Instructors or Assistant Professors appointed in the School of Medicine. Program leaders are pursuing other funding sources to extend this kind of support to PhDs and non-physicians in the future.

Q10: How many awards are made?
A10: There are five annual awards of $33,333.33, with an option for a second year, based on need and productivity.

Q11: Can Associate professors apply?
A11: No, the Foundation requires faculty to be appointed at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. Program leaders are pursuing other funding sources to extend this kind of support to Associate Professors in the future.