TO: Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs
FROM: Jennifer Gagnon, Associate Vice President for Research Administration
SUBJECT: Pew and Searle Scholars Programs

The University has been invited to nominate one candidate for the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences and one candidate for the Searle Scholars Program. Both of these programs are for Early Career Faculty conducting research in the biomedical and related sciences. Please review carefully the sponsors’ websites for full details and specific eligibility requirements. Please share this announcement with any and all eligible faculty from your unit, including new faculty who may not have arrived on campus yet, who meet the criteria listed below.

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences (http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/pew-biomedical-scholars/program-details) supports assistant professors of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of human health. The award provides $240,000 in flexible support—$60,000 per year for four years. Candidates must have been awarded a doctorate in biomedical sciences, medicine or a related field. As of November 16, 2015, nominees must hold full-time appointments at the rank of assistant professor. On July 16, 2015, candidates must have been in such an appointment for less than three years (not appointed before July 16, 2012), whether or not such an appointment was on a tenure track.

The Searle Scholars Program (http://www.searlescholars.net/go.php?id=1) supports outstanding early- career scientists who have recently been appointed as assistant professors on a tenure-track appointment and who are pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences. Grants are $300,000 for a three-year term with $100,000 payable each year of the grant, subject to the receipt of acceptable progress reports. Candidates should have begun their appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level on or after July 1, 2014. The appointment must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent) at an invited institution.
At this time I am requesting pre-proposals from any faculty member wishing to be nominated for either program. These pre-proposals are due on June 22, 2015 and may be sent to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvmm.edu) as e-mail attachments.

The pre-proposal should specify the program for which you wish to be considered and should include a research project summary (no more than three pages), a curriculum vitae and a letter of support from the department chair.

These materials will be evaluated by an internal committee which will select the most suitable candidate for each of these two programs. The committee will evaluate the pre-proposals for the Pew Scholars Program with the following criteria:

- Alignment with sponsor’s program goals;
- Thoroughness of the description of proposed work;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Feasibility;
- Applicant’s demonstrated promise as a contributor in science relevant to human health; and
- Applicant’s evidence of past success as an independent investigator.

The committee will evaluate pre-proposals for the Searle Scholars Program with the following criteria:

- Alignment with sponsor’s program goals;
- Thoroughness of the description of proposed work;
- Creativity and innovation;
- Feasibility; and
- Applicant’s demonstrated pursuit of independent research career in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.

Please contact Hilda Alajajian, Grant Resources Specialist, or me at 656-3360, if you have questions about this announcement.