

LIMITED COMPETITION

DATE:	May 29, 2020
TO:	Deans, Directors, and Department Chairs
FROM:	Research Development
SUBJECT:	Call for Nominations: NIH Director's Early Independence Awards (RFA-RM-20-014) (for NON -COVID related research)
WEBPAGE:	Program Information Link
SPONSOR DEADLINE:	September 4, 2020
INTERNAL DEADLINE:	June 19, 2020 before 4:30 pm via the InfoReady Portal (https://uvm.infoready4.com/)

The University may submit up to two nominations for this program.

At this time, we are accepting nominations from departments wishing to host exceptional junior investigators who wish to pursue independent research soon after completion of their terminal doctoral degree or post-graduate clinical training, thereby forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period. Please carefully review the sponsors' website for full details and specific eligibility requirements.

Nomination Packets (maximum 1.5 to 2 pages, excluding references and biosketch) **should include:**

- how the nominee meets the eligibility requirement
- how the nominee has demonstrated appropriate experience, training and skills to conduct highly innovative research
- how the nominee has demonstrated leadership and management abilities to conduct independent research
- the significance of the nominee's research project
- a description of the institutional commitment necessary for the nominee to conduct full-time, independent research for the duration of the award (should come from the Chair of the Department and describe integration of research into the dept., available space and equipment and any other beneficial resources/opportunities.)
- Biosketch of the nominee

The deadline for submitting Letters of Interest through the InfoReady portal is June 19, 2020 before 4:30 pm.

Questions? Contact Hilda Alajajian, Grant Resource Specialist (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu)

Program Summary below:

The program provides an opportunity for exceptional junior scientists to accelerate their entry into an independent research career by forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period. Awards will be for up to \$250,000 in direct costs per year, plus applicable Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs. The project period is limited to five years.

Institutions may actively recruit eligible junior scientists to apply for support through this program. Alternatively, prospective candidates can contact appropriate Institutional leaders to seek an appointment in an independent research position. In either event, the Institution will be expected to provide substantial support for the junior scientist as detailed in the solicitation. To foster independence, it may benefit candidates to be hosted by institutions other than the ones at which they have previously studied or trained. The appointment of the candidate at the host institution need not be permanent or tenure-track and may be contingent upon receipt of the award. Early Independence Award applications that **are not** intended to respond to the COVID-19 emergency must be submitted in response **to this FOA**.

Hilda Alajajian, MLS | Grant Resource Specialist

University of Vermont

Research Development

Office of the Vice President for Research

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Our team will be working remotely until further notice.

I will use MS Teams and Zoom for video and audio calls.