

Weill Cornell Medicine
Research Assistance for Primary Parents (RAPP)
Initiative

Program Description

The objective of the Research Assistance for Primary Parents (RAPP) Initiative is to provide technical support to outstanding investigators, both male and female, who are primary caregivers for an infant or child. The awards are designed to assist researchers who are primary parents in continuing to advance their projects while balancing childcare needs.

The program will provide non-renewable grants of \$50,000 for one year to faculty researchers, postdoctoral trainees, or clinical fellows working in labs and departments that do not have the resources to offer technical research assistance of this kind. Applicants may be engaged in basic, translational, or clinical research projects. Funding must be used to cover salaries for technical personnel such as lab technicians, research assistants, and programmers.

Applications will be evaluated through the Office of Faculty Development and the Office of Women, and the top proposals will be awarded each funding cycle, up to a maximum of four per year. Awards will be made based on the applicant's past record of achievement and future promise.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be “primary caregivers,” or the parent who personally provides the greatest number of hours of care and/or supervision for an infant or child in a 24-hour period. An “infant or child” is defined as a child that requires ongoing care or supervision throughout the day. This program does not provide support for individuals who are caring for other family members (e.g., spouse, partner, parent, etc.).
- Applicants must hold a MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree and be based full-time at Weill Cornell Medicine. Faculty members with appointments at the Hospital for Special Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, and WCM-Qatar are not eligible to apply.
- Faculty applicants must be principal investigators on an ongoing research project, with preference given to those that are extramurally funded.
- Postdoctoral applicants and clinical fellows must have a high potential to obtain a faculty position at WCM, which must be clearly articulated in the letter of support. Their career goals must be aligned with submission of an application for an NIH K01, K08, K12, K22, K23, or K25 award, DOD/AHA/ACS career award, or equivalent within 18 months of initiation of RAPP funding.

Application

Please provide the following items in the order listed as a single PDF file (single-spaced, 11-

point Arial type with 1-inch margins). Applications should be saved using the naming convention “Lastname.Firstinitial_RAPP” and submitted by email to facultydevelopment@med.cornell.edu.

- Scientific abstract (250 words)
- NIH-style biosketch of the applicant
- Scientific description of the project with specific aims, details of individual duties of applicant and technician, and benchmarks of success (3-pages)
- Statement of applicant’s career goals (1 page)
- Justification of how childcare duties have impacted the applicant’s ability to maintain the pace of research progress (1 paragraph)
- Detailed budget (PHS 398 form)
- Letter of support from the department chair/division chief attesting to the candidate’s eligibility, whether other technical support is available to the candidate, the candidate’s past academic record, scientific progress to date, and potential for academic career development.

Application Deadlines

Completed applications are due on **April 5, 2021**. Funding will begin **July 1, 2021**.

Review Process and Review Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by a scientific review committee according to the following criteria:

- Scientific merit, including potential for publication and for subsequent extramural funding of the research project
- Justification of need
- Applicant’s personal qualifications, potential for academic success, and supervisory capability

Evaluation of Progress

Successful candidates will be required to submit a progress report within 2 months of the conclusion of program funding. The report, not to exceed 3 pages, should describe progress toward achieving the stated aims. It should list any work products (abstracts, papers, oral or poster presentations, awards, grants, etc.) and indicate the extent to which these were enabled by RAPP support.

Questions:

For further information, please contact Dr. Katherine Hajjar, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty, at khajjar@med.cornell.edu.