



## Program to Enhance the Retention of Clinicians

funded by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

The PERK (Program to Enhance the Retention of Clinicians) program provides supplemental funds to junior faculty physician scientists who are balancing professional work with caregiving responsibilities. The goal of PERK is to retain early-career physician scientists by supporting their ongoing clinical research efforts. PERK aims to help junior faculty sustain productivity while managing caregiving demands, including childcare, eldercare, spouse/partner care, and personal health concerns.

### Leadership

**Kathleen T. Brady, MD, PhD**

Vice President for Research

Distinguished University Professor

Director, MUSC PERK Program

**Marc I. Chimowitz, MBChB**

Associate Dean for Faculty Development

Professor of Neurology

Co-Director, MUSC PERK Program

### Request for Applications

Application Deadline: **January 31, 2020 at 5:00 pm**

Available Awards: **2**

### Eligibility

- 1) Full-time faculty appointment at MUSC at the **Instructor** or **Assistant Professor** level at the time of application.
- 2) Hold an **MD** or **DO** degree and have an active US medical license.
- 3) Be conducting a clinical research project and **have existing research support** ("parent grant") as Principal Investigator on a mentored career development grant, research project grant, or other equivalent research grant from a federal or non-federal source (e.g. foundation or professional society).
- 4) Candidates must have **at least 1 year of support remaining** on the parent grant at the time of application. If the parent grant involves clinical trials then it must be registered in ClinicalTrials.gov.
- 5) Demonstrate a compelling need for this supplemental research support as it relates to **extraprofessional caregiving responsibilities** – typically childcare, eldercare, family or personal health concerns, etc.

### Terms of Award

- One-year grant of up to **\$44,000**.
  - The proposed budget period must be within the currently approved project period for the existing parent grant.

- Funds may be requested for standard allowable expense categories such as research support personnel (including fringe), buy-out of time to reduce clinical load, research supplies, and other direct costs including, but not limited to, research subject compensation and data analysis/statistical support. PERK funds may not be used to purchase general purpose equipment (e.g. computers) or caregiving costs.
  - **In keeping with the wishes expressed in Doris Duke’s will, experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals will not be supported by this program.**
- Any research conducted as part of this grant must meet the DDCF’s definition of clinical research. For this program, clinical research is defined as the scientific investigation of the etiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human disease using human subjects, human populations, or materials of human origin. Included in the definition are the studies that utilize tissues or pathogens only if they can be linked to a patient.
- The proposed supplement activities may not be independent of the parent grant and the research objectives must be within the scope of the peer reviewed and approved parent project. PERK funds are to be used solely toward supporting clinical research associated with the parent project.
- Progress reports with up-to-date budget expenditures will be required at the mid-point of the award with a final report due at the end of the designated project period. In addition, each PERK scholar will meet with the Steering/Mentoring Committee annually (or upon request) to formally review scholar progress. Their designated mentor, if applicable, will participate in the discussion as well.
- Funding will not be released to the PERK scholar until all approved required regulatory documents (e.g. IND, IDE, CITI training certificates) are received by the program.
- Awards are not transferrable to another institution or Principal Investigator.

## Evaluation

MUSC is one of 10 sites to be awarded this grant program from the DDCF. Program effectiveness will be evaluated by an IRB-approved research study from the University of Michigan (PI: Reshma Jagsi, MD, DPhil). Baseline data from all applicants will be collected at the time of application; all applicants (whether funded or not) will also be asked to complete (optional) additional surveys, and de-identified, coded data will be sent to Dr. Jagsi. UM researchers will collect longitudinal data on promotion and retention rates for applicants and awardees and may request to conduct follow-up surveys and interviews. It is requested that all PERK applicants and awardees participate in the IRB-approved assessments, surveys, and interviews that are part of this evaluation.

## Application Submission

Candidates must submit an application that includes information on the candidate’s background, parent grant, proposed budget, and extraprofessional need.

**Candidates will apply to the PERK program via SCTR’s InfoReady portal. You can access the application through SPARCRequest at [sparc.musc.edu](http://sparc.musc.edu):**

- 1) Select “South Carolina Clinical and Translational Research Institute (SCTR)”
- 2) Click on “Funding Opportunities”
- 3) Select “Program to Enhance the Retention of Clinicians (PERK)”

**Note: A SPARC Study ID for the parent grant is required.** If you do not have a Study ID for your project, go to [sparc.musc.edu](http://sparc.musc.edu) to get one. Once you have an existing project/study in SPARC, **you will need to add the funding opportunity to your existing project/study at**

[sparc.musc.edu/dashboard](http://sparc.musc.edu/dashboard). Detailed instructions on this process can be found under “Competition Files” on the PERK program application page in InfoReady.

The following elements are required to be uploaded into the application portal as PDFs:

- Specific Aims from the parent grant
- NIH Biosketch, including current and pending support
- IRB approval letter(s), if applicable
- Proposed Budget (up to \$44,000) for 12 months
- Budget justification that clearly demonstrates the amount of funds requested and how the requested funds will contribute to the candidate’s scientific and/or career development. Any budgetary overlap with the parent grant should also be addressed.
- Letters of Support: 1) applicant’s department chair or division chief who can address the quality and relevance of the environment for scientific and professional development of the candidate, including institutional commitment of resources; and 2) mentor or research colleague who can address the candidate’s progress and potential for research independence
- Personal Statement (up to 1 page) describing extraprofessional caregiving responsibilities and the anticipated impact of the supplemental funding.

## Selection Criteria

Each application will be reviewed by reviewers with appropriate expertise. Criteria for funding will include: 1) reviewers’ recommendations; 2) alignment with the mission and aims of the PERK program; and 3) likelihood that the research effort will be productive and lead to extramural funding and subsequent promotion.

Applications will be scored on the 1-9 point NIH scale and scoring will focus on the following areas:

- Potential of the candidate to develop as an independent researcher
- Academic achievements
- Institutional commitment to the career development of the candidate
- Demonstration of a compelling need for the supplement related to being a caregiver
- Likelihood that the budgeted funds will contribute substantially to the scientific and career development of the candidate

## Anticipated Outcomes

The short- and long-term outcomes of the DDCF grant are:

- Generation of critical preliminary data to support new investigator-initiated research grants.
- Extramural funding of grant applications that were developed from a project that was initiated and supported using the supplemental funds.
- Retention and promotion of PERK scholars within academic ranks.
- Long-term sustainability of the PERK program as “Extra Hands” support through institutional commitments.

## Contact

Diana Lee-Chavarria, PERK Program Manager, [leeachar@musc.edu](mailto:leeachar@musc.edu)