

THE ROLANETTE AND BERDON LAWRENCE BONE DISEASE PROGRAM OF TEXAS 2025

Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Research Award 2026

The Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Bone Research Awards were named to honor the couple for their generous support and endowment of the Bone Disease Program and their continued philanthropic leadership in the community.

Purpose

The purpose of the Bone Disease Program of Texas Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Research Award is to provide initial funding for promising laboratory, pre-clinical, clinical or translational studies involving bone disease. Projects will promote research development in the areas of skeletal formation, biology and abnormalities, craniofacial morphogenesis and abnormalities, bone metastases and bone health in cancer patients. The award program emphasizes hypothesis-driven research with high potential for future external funding. Research proposals should advance the goal of reducing the incidence and morbidity of bone disease.

Eligibility

Research awards are open to Baylor College of Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and The University of Texas Health Science Center faculty members. We will accept proposals from the following: senior post-doctoral fellow, instructor or assistant professor within the first five years of their initial appointment and collaborative research (between clinical and basic science, senior-junior or junior-junior faculty members within and between institutions). Proposals should focus on the major areas of programmatic development: skeletal formation, biology and abnormalities, craniofacial morphogenesis and abnormalities, bone metastases and bone health in cancer patients. **Previous winners are ineligible.**

Terms

Awardee(s) will receive \$45,000 (direct costs only) for one (1) year. Investigators (MD or PhD) must allocate a minimum of 15% effort for the project. Annual progress reports are required. The Program Advisory Committee may withdraw awards for non-compliance or nonperformance during the funding period.

Application Procedure

Candidates will submit a completed Research Award Application Face Sheet with Abstract and 5 page proposal. The proposal will include: 1) Specific Aims, 2) Background, Significance and innovation, 3) Preliminary Studies, and 4) Research Plan. References are not included in the page limit. A 1-year budget and NIH biosketches for all key personnel are required. All applications will be submitted electronically. IRB/IACUC approvals for the project may be pending at the time of submission but must be approved for award of funding.



Deadline

The Application deadline is April 1, 2026 by 5 PM

Selection

An appointed Scientific Committee will review and score all proposals. Investigators submitting the best scoring proposals will be selected as finalists and will present at the Bone Disease Program Scientific Retreat on May 1, 2026. The presentations will be judged by a panel of external reviewers and the Program Advisory Committee, who choose the award recipients based on scientific merit and clarity of oral presentation. The award recipients will be announced at conclusion of the scientific retreat.

Award management

Funds will be awarded following written acceptance by the awardee and notification of IRB / IACUC approval. Annual progress reports will be reviewed by the Bone Disease Program Director and Co-Directors. Funds that are not used in a twelve-month period may be approved for a one-year extension if requested in writing, with strong justification, at least 30 days prior to the end of the award. Should an investigator change institutions during the project period and/or is no longer affiliated with Baylor College of Medicine, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, The University of Texas Health Science Center, the remainder of the award funds will be returned to the Bone Disease Program of Texas.

Publications and Presentations

All published or presented data based on research supported by this award will credit the program as follows: This work supported by the Bone Disease Program of Texas Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Research Award.

Rolanette and Berdon Lawrence Research Award Application Guidelines

Applications will be accepted electronically (by email) only. No hard copy applications will be accepted.

Applications must include:

- Application Face Sheet with Abstract
- Project narrative no longer than 5 typewritten pages including 1) Specific Aims, 2) Background, Significance and Innovation, 3) Preliminary Studies, and 4) Research Plan. Any relevant figures and tables should be included in the 5-page limit. Use 12-point Times Roman for the project narrative. References are not included in the page limit.
- Attach project budget prepared using the [NIH PHS 398](#) form for initial budget period along with a brief budget justification.
- Use attached biosketches for all key personnel.
- Optional attachments may include IRB or IACUC approved protocol, relevant in-press manuscripts and letter(s) of support from senior faculty.
- Incomplete proposals, or proposals that exceed 5 pages (not including attachments), will not be considered.

Review criteria should include the following:

- *Significance*—effect of the proposed research on skeletal formation, biology and abnormalities, craniofacial morphogenesis and abnormalities, bone metastases and bone health in cancer patients;
- *Approach*—quality of the conceptual framework, design, methods, analyses and rigor;
- *Innovation*—originality of the specific aims;
- *Environment*—evidence of institutional, departmental and senior faculty support.

Award finalists will be announced by April 15, 2026 after proposal reviews by the Bone Disease Program of Texas Scientific Review Committee. The finalists are expected to present their research proposals at the Bone Disease Scientific Retreat, Friday, May 1, 2026. Awardees will be announced at the conclusion of retreat.

Award criteria will be based upon (1) the quality of the proposed project and oral presentation and (2) the priority of the proposed project in the field of bone research as determined by the Selection Committee.

Application submission deadline: April 1 by 5:00 pm. All applications will be submitted by email to: Charlotte Cherry <ccherry@bcm.edu>

Past Awardees

2019	Dung-Fang Lee, PhD, George Eisenhower, PhD, and Ronit Marom, MD, PhD
2020	Joohyun Lim, PhD, Greg Couasnay, PhD, Trivedi Trupti, PhD
2021	Monika Weisz Hubshman, MD, Gabriel M. Pagnotti, PhD, Ivo Veletic, MD
2022	Keren Machol, MD, PhD, Laura Ortinau, PhD, Hiroyuki Yamaguchi, DDS, PhD
2023	Efronsini Cuko Tsuoko, PhD, Lei Shi, PhD, I-Wen Song, PhD
2024	Ellen Busschers, PhD, Youngjae Jeong, PhD, Xiaolei Zhao, PhD
2025	Maria Del Mar Romero Lopez, Jiansen Yan, Dongwook Yang

Lawrence Research Award Application Face Sheet

First Middle Initial Last Degree(s)

Title

Institution Name

Department

Mailing Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Telephone

Fax

E-Mail

Co-Investigator(s) – include degree(s)

Proposal Title

Abstract summarizing your proposed research (150-words)

Indicate the amount of funding requested: \$ _____

Signature

Date