The Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award supports independent young physician-scientists conducting disease-oriented research that demonstrates a high level of innovation and creativity. The goal is to support the best young physician-scientists doing work aimed at improving the practice of cancer medicine. The awardee will receive financial support for three years, as well as assistance with certain research costs such as the purchase of equipment. The Foundation will also retire up to $100,000 of any medical school debt still owed by the awardee.

For the purposes of this award, the Foundation’s definition of clinical research will follow the definition set out in “The NIH Director’s Panel on Clinical Research Report to The Advisory Committee to The NIH Director,” December, 1997:

a) Patient-oriented research: Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects. This area of research includes: patient-based studies of mechanisms of human disease, diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, clinical trials and development of new technologies for the detection, treatment and prevention of human cancers.

b) Epidemiologic and behavioral studies.

c) Outcomes research and health services research.

Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues but do not deal directly with patients. In other words, clinical or patient-oriented research is research in which it is necessary to know the identity of the patient(s) from whom the cells or tissues under study are derived. Preference will be given to research that adheres to the “Handshake Rule,” meaning that the physician will conduct research studies that directly involve patients.

Partnership with NIH and NCI: see information about potential opportunities for pilot partnership here.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded projects is not allowed.
- The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident.
- The applicant must have received an MD or MD/PhD degree(s) from an accredited institution, completed his/her subspecialty training and be U.S. board-eligible.
- The applicant must hold a valid, active U.S. medical license at the time of application and must apply within the first four (4) years of his/her initial full faculty appointment (cut-off July 2012). Adjunct or acting positions are not eligible.
- Candidates holding or awarded R01s at the time of application are not eligible to apply.
- The applicant must commit to spending 80% of their time conducting research.
- The applicant is required to apply in conjunction with a Mentor who is established in the field of clinical translational cancer research, cancer prevention and/or epidemiology and can...
provide the critical guidance needed during the period of the award. No more than two Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators will be funded to work with the same Mentor at any given time.

- Candidates may apply up to three times during this eligibility period.
- Only one application will be accepted from a mentor per review session (including co-mentorships).

Internal Nomination Process:

Interested applicants should send the following documents in sequence in one PDF to resapp@jhu.edu no later than 4 p.m. on January 5, 2016:

1. **JHU Limited Submission Cover Sheet**
2. **Abstract** (one page, double-spaced)
   - Applicant should outline their long-term vision and goals in the field of clinical cancer investigation and their future commitment to clinical/patient research. Describe any formal research experience, postdoctoral or equivalent, you may have had after completion of your MD. The committee seeks a description of dedicated research training during which 80-100% of your time was committed to research.
3. **Research Proposal**
   - The research proposal, including figures, tables and legends, is limited to five pages of single spaced, 12-point type and should outline concisely (1) the aim(s) of the proposed research project(s), (2) the significance of the research goals, (3) the plan of research proposed and the experimental designs, strategies and methods to be used in the conduct of the research. Where applicable include, (4) biostatistical methods used for design and analysis. If any part of the research proposal falls outside of your or your mentor’s research expertise, (5) please explain and identify the expert consultant who will guide you. A list of references is not included in the 5-page limit.
4. **Curriculum Vitae** of applicant, including current external research support and publications
5. **Curriculum Vitae** of mentor, including current external research support and publications
6. **Budget** (two pages maximum)
7. **Mentor’s Letter of Support**
   - (Note: Letters of Recommendation can be submitted separately to resapp@jhu.edu stating applicant’s name in the subject line)
   - The Mentor should (1) evaluate the applicant’s qualifications for the proposed research project, (2) assess his/her potential for successful independent research, and (3) describe independence of applicant from the mentor.
8. **Letter of Recommendation from the Department Chair/Director**
   - (Note: Letters of Recommendation can be submitted separately to resapp@jhu.edu stating applicant’s name in the subject line)
   - This letter should (1) identify the applicant as their nominee, (2) confirm the applicant’s and mentor’s academic appointments, (3) address the applicant’s status in securing a tenure-track or most equivalent faculty position, (4) state the institution’s willingness to support the applicant’s research efforts and guarantee 80% protected time for the applicant’s research to fulfill the terms of the award, (5) address the institution’s/department’s commitment to the development of the applicant as a clinical investigator, and (6) detail the laboratory and office space allotted to the applicant. If the applicant is not occupying the space at the time of the application, please provide a time line of when this will occur.

Each applicant should expect to receive a confirmation of receipt of their materials. If an applicant does not receive an acknowledgement, or has any questions, please contact the limited submissions office at resapp@jhu.edu.

**Former JHU Awardees:**

Patrck A. Brown, MD (2006); Andrea L. Cox, MD, PhD (2006); Charles G. Drake, MD, PhD (2004); Joseph A. Califano, III, MD (2001); Maura L. Gillison, MD, PhD (2000); Vered Stearns, MD (2000)