The Searle Scholars Program supports research of outstanding individuals pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences. The Searle Scholars Program does not ordinarily support purely clinical research but has supported research programs that include both clinical and basic components. Potential applicants who are unsure if their research is appropriate for this Program are encouraged to examine the research interests of present and former Searle Scholars on the website.

The prime objective of the Searle Scholars Program is to support the career development of young scientists with outstanding potential. Part of the assessment of candidates is a review of research that might be undertaken as a Searle Scholar. The research proposal will be evaluated on the basis of its potential for successful results and for its evidence of creativity as well as for feasibility and clarity of thought. The proposal may overlap research for which other funds, outside of the Searle Scholars Program, are available or are being sought. Funds awarded by the Program are not intended to replace grants or awards obtained from another funding source but may be used to supplement on-going research.

Grants are $300,000 for a three-year term with $100,000 payable each year of the grant, subject to the receipt of acceptable progress reports. Generally, the program makes 15 new grants annually.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Candidates should have begun their appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level on or after July 1, 2013. The appointment must be their first tenure-track position (or its nearest equivalent).

**LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION**

Northwestern University is invited to submit no more than 2 applications.

**KEY DATES**

- Internal Letter of Intent due: June 23, 2014 (by midnight)
- Internal Proposal due: July 8, 2014 (by midnight)
- Internal Notification: July 21, 2014
- Sponsor Proposal due: September 26, 2014
SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT
Faculty members interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

1. Click here to access the LOI form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-Searle-2014”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Submit the complete LOI form by clicking on the Depot link: https://depot.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6642664_1-t_dVgCZGHn

SUBMITTING AN INTERNAL PROPOSAL
If interest exceeds the number of submissions the university is allowed, invitations to submit internal proposals will be sent to all faculty who submitted an LOI.

Proposals should be prepared with 0.5-inch margins, 11-point font size and are required to contain the following components:

1. **Cover Page with descriptive title and name of the PI (one page, max).**

2. **Introduction (ONLY for applicants who previously submitted an internal proposal for Searle Scholars)** that includes the following components (one page, max):

   a. Summarize how your research proposal differs from your previous submission(s).
   b. Summarize how your application as a whole differs from your previous submission(s) (i.e., publications, honors, awards, accomplishments, etc.).

3. **Lay summary** (non-technical) that clearly articulates your proposal to colleagues outside your field (one page max).

4. **Research Program Overview** - provide an overview of the specific areas of research you would like to perform in your laboratory in the next few years. Explain why this work is particularly novel and important (0.5 page max).

5. **Proposed Research Project** - part of the Searle Scholars Fund Program’s assessment of candidates is a review of research that might be undertaken as a Searle Scholar. Describe, in greater detail, a part of the research included in item #4 (3 pages max).

6. **An NIH biosketch (no page limit)** including:

   a. Current and pending support: title, period, amount (direct and indirect), sponsor, and relationship to current proposal.

   b. A list of all your publications. For papers submitted but not yet published, include the date of submission and no more than a one-page summary of what was submitted.
c. If you have not published any papers in the last two years, provide a brief explanation of why.

7. A printed copy of the initial page of no more than 5 papers that you believe exemplifies your scientific abilities. Please asterisk those publications in the biosketch. For each of the selected papers comment on its importance. Where there are multiple authors, describe your contribution to the design and execution of the project and to the analysis of the results and the preparation of the manuscript.

8. List of external references (minimum three), their titles, and affiliations; including one each from your doctoral and post-doctoral mentors or from similarly placed individuals who are acquainted with your research, achievement, and potential and will provide the required letters of reference for this program. It is preferred that the letters come from outside the institution which would receive the award. For each reference, indicate her/his most notable awards/honors.

9. A letter of support from your department/division chair. Nominees with joint appointments may submit a single letter signed by both department heads. This letter signifies that the Chair has ensured that you and your application are likely to be of sufficient quality to be competitive nationally. It should also include a statement that details the department's commitment to your research. In addition, we recommend inclusion of information not available in your biosketch or elsewhere in the application, such as (but not limited to) quotes from letters that the department collected during your hiring process.

10. Prepare your proposal as a SINGLE PDF FILE. It should be named "LastName-FirstInitial-Searle-2014", replacing "LastName" with the PI’s last name and "FirstInitial" with the PI’s first initial.

**UPLOADING THE INTERNAL PROPOSAL TO DEPOT**

1. Click on the Depot ticket provided in the email inviting you to submit the internal proposal.
2. Click the Upload button.
3. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
4. Click the OK button in Depot. Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

Depot access will expire after the deadline, as such late submission is not possible. Also, the Depot system does not allow you to overwrite an upload. If you need to upload a revised proposal BEFORE the deadline, contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu.

**CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/