



**Duke SCORES**  
Surgical Center for Outcomes Research

**Duke SCORES Scholars Program**

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

**Application Deadline: August 1, 2016**

Duke SCORES (Surgical Center for Outcomes Research) is a novel, transdisciplinary effort that promotes excellence in health services research (HSR) in the Department of Surgery. Duke SCORES will serve as a hub for education, research, mentorship, and resources to enable trainees and faculty to ask and answer questions with direct translational relevance to clinical research, patient care, safety, costs, and quality improvement.

**I. Purpose**

HSR is the branch of population health science that addresses how patient care is organized, financed, and delivered. Innovations through HSR can facilitate optimal health care delivery at the level of the population, health system, and the individual patient. The Duke SCORES Scholars Program provides funding of up to \$15,000 per project for 12 months to catalyze investigations of key questions in surgical outcomes research. The goals of this program are to foster new collaborations among Duke researchers, support research teams in obtaining preliminary data that will be used to apply for larger awards, and provide opportunities for mentoring and training for junior faculty, residents and medical students. Applicants will be expected to collaborate with available biostatistical support resources and to engage with the SCORES program.

**II. Key Dates**

- Application Submission Deadline: August 1, 2016 (4:59pm ET)
- Application Review: August/September 2016
- Funding Period: October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017 (12 months)

**III. Eligibility**

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be at the regular rank Assistant, Associate, or Professor level at Duke University. The PI must partner with at least one Co-Investigator from another division within the Duke Department of Surgery or from another Duke department or institute. Preference will be given to applications that include junior faculty members and/or trainees. PIs are encouraged to collaborate with SCORES biostatisticians regarding project development. To begin this collaboration, you should submit a request through this website, <http://biostat.duke.edu/biostatistics-core> and indicate you are submitting an application for the SCORES Scholars Program.

The proposed project should be innovative, impactful, and centered in surgical HSR; it should have the potential to attract significant interest for external funding. Successful applicants will be expected to work toward major milestones that will facilitate submission of grant proposals to



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external funding agencies. Applicants must clearly identify relevant funding opportunities that will be targeted with future applications for external funding based on successful completion of SCORES Scholars projects.

Faculty members may not serve as PI on more than one concurrently funded Duke SCORES pilot award.

### IV. Funding

Each award will consist of up to \$15,000 (direct costs only; see budget guidelines) with an expected start date of October 1, 2016 and ending no later than September 30, 2017. Up to three awards will be funded during this award cycle. Requests for no-cost extensions (carryover) will not be approved. SCORES Scholars awardees will each work together with a faculty member from the SCORES Steering Committee, who will facilitate access to SCORES resources and serve as a key contact person for the program.

### V. Selection Process and Review Criteria

1. Application Submission: The SCORES Scholars Review Committee will perform a detailed review of the applications and select the finalists. The Review Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing and scoring applications:

- Significance – The project MUST address an important problem or barrier to progress in the field and be directed toward the attainment of scientific knowledge or technical capability that can change or improve clinical practice. Please note that the subject MUST be sufficiently meaningful and require a depth of analysis to be viewed as a catalyst for larger projects. Applicants should articulate plans for future study and define how this pilot work will be used to develop externally funded projects, including explicit identification of targeted federal RFAs, PAs or other funding opportunities.
- Innovation – The research challenges or seeks to shift current clinical practice. Concepts, approaches or methodologies should be novel to the field or novel in a broad sense.
- The project proposes to pursue research questions that can best be answered through health services research methods.
- Collaborators – The project includes collaborators from multiple surgical divisions and/or other Duke departments.
- Statistical collaboration– The project includes an estimate of a statistician's effort that is appropriate for the work proposed.
- Mentoring – The project includes participation from junior faculty members and/or trainees.
- Approach – Methods and analyses used are well-reasoned and suitable to accomplish the specific aims of the proposal.
- Feasibility – Project scope of work is appropriate for the timeframe and level of funding.
- There is potential for independent external funding with data provided by this award.



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### VI. Application Procedure

All materials should be combined in a single PDF file and emailed to [DukeSCORES@duke.edu](mailto:DukeSCORES@duke.edu) no later than 5 p.m. on August 1, 2016. Surgery Research Development will offer proposal development assistance for the SCORES Scholars program. To schedule a consultation, contact Jennifer Cash at [Jennifer.cash@dm.duke.edu](mailto:Jennifer.cash@dm.duke.edu)

The required application sections are:

1. **Scientific Abstract:** Proposal summary for use by review committee members (maximum 30 lines of text)
2. **Specific Aims:** NIH-style format, half-inch margins, 11-point font (maximum 1 page)
3. **Research Strategy:** NIH-style format, half-inch margins, 11-point font (minimum 3 pages, maximum 5 pages, including tables and figures). Please include the following labeled sections:
  - Significance
  - Innovation
  - Approach
  - Plan for Application for External Funding
  - Table of Activities and Quarterly Milestones to be Achieved
4. **References Cited:** no page limit
5. **Budget and Budget Justification:** use PHS 398 Form Pages 4 and 5.
6. **NIH-format biographical sketches:** include biosketches for all key members of the research team using the current NIH format (5 page maximum per individual).
7. **Letter of Collaboration:** Provide a letter of commitment from each proposed collaborator, including the lead biostatistical collaborator.

### VII. Budget Guidelines

1. The budget period is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 (12 months). The award does not include indirect or overhead costs.
2. Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator effort will not be paid by this award. The award is designed to provide funding for technical support, research staff, and purchase of data.
3. Grant funds may be used for:
  - Salary support for technical staff and research support personnel
  - Programming support, including technical staff
  - Travel necessary to perform the research
  - Data/software purchase
  - Conference travel for dissemination of results (limit \$500 per application)
  - Manuscript preparation and submission (limit \$500 per application)
  - Other purposes deemed necessary for the successful execution of the proposed project



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4. Grant funds may not be used for:

- Effort for PI or Co-Investigators
- Capital equipment
- Office supplies or communication costs, including printing
- Conference travel costs exceeding \$500
- Professional education or training
- Computers or audiovisual equipment
- Manuscript preparation and submission exceeding \$500
- Indirect costs

Awarded funds must be used to conduct the work proposed. Duke SCORES reserves the right to revoke funding in the event it is determined that funds were not spent in accordance with the approved proposal.

### VI. Terms of the Award

#### A. Participation Requirements

Each Principal Investigator agrees to actively participate in SCORES didactic sessions and other events. At minimum, this includes:

- Biweekly meetings with SCORES-affiliated biostatisticians engaged in project development, including co-authorship of publications with SCORES-affiliated biostatisticians.
- Monthly meetings with Surgery Research Development staff engaged in grant proposal development.
- Attendance and presentations at monthly didactic and Research-in-Progress sessions as well as other SCORES events.

#### B. Post-Award Reporting

Each Principal Investigator agrees to submit a brief written progress report to the Duke SCORES Scholars Committee 6 months following the award start date. Within 3 months following completion of the 12-month award, each Principal Investigator agrees to provide a brief final written report and present the findings of their work to the group. Awardees also agree to provide a written update to the committee one year following completion of the award detailing grants applied for and received as a result of SCORES Scholars funding. Awardees are also expected to serve as reviewers for future Duke SCORES funding opportunities. All publications arising from this award must acknowledge Duke SCORES.

### MORE INFORMATION

For additional information on this funding opportunity, please contact Gina Della Porta, Director of Research Development, Duke Department of Surgery, at [gina.dp@duke.edu](mailto:gina.dp@duke.edu) or Jennifer Cash, SCORES Administrator, at [jennifer.cash@dm.duke.edu](mailto:jennifer.cash@dm.duke.edu)