

Sponsor/Title: Kinship Foundation - Searle Scholars

External Link:

<https://searlescholars.org/application-information/award-information/process-and-eligibility/>

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

[Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing](#)

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-06-12

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-09-30

Focus: \$450,000 funding over three years for bold, high-risk/high-reward independent research of outstanding early-career scientists who hold exceptional long-term promise. Ordinarily does not support clinical research, but will support broader research programs that involve clinical as well as basic research.

Eligibility: Applicants should have begun their first tenure-track appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level on or after May 1, 2025. Eligible disciplines include biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences.

Competitive Applicants: will have an outstanding record of publications (in top journals) and awards relative to their stage. Ideas with the potential to produce an unusually high impact are encouraged. Selection of the successful candidates will be based on a description of the work that the applicant proposes to undertake, evaluations of the candidate's performance, and notable past accomplishments, including honors, awards, and publications. Applicants may also wish to peruse the program's [Scientific Advisory Board](#) for a sense of the reviewers' scholarly profiles.

Further Details: Full eligibility criteria, guidelines, and frequently asked questions [here](#).

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/5DwPTD5Kue8GSiBQ7> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- A current biosketch (5-page maximum) that includes the following: A personal statement of up to 1 page that justifies your selection as the nominee (noting why your research is high-risk/high-reward), Education, Positions, Other experience, Honors/Awards, Publications, Current Funding, and Pending Grants. **Please include one sentence or line confirming your eligibility.**
- Summary of proposed research and its significance (1 page maximum). References are optional and do not count toward page limits.

Questions: For questions regarding the Kinship Foundation, contact Kara Primmer (Foundation Relations) at primmer.1@nd.edu; for questions regarding Notre Dame's institutional support for nominees and external letter-writers, please contact Natalie Sargent (Provost's Office) at nsargent@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Internal applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.