YII Young Investigator Initiative

A Grant Mentoring and Career Development Program

2026

October 23 - 25 l Rosemont, IL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026			
ALL	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration Open	
ALL	4:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Welcome Reception Buffet	
ALL	6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	**Welcome Remarks and Introductions** *2026 Faculty*	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026			
		Breakfast	Hotel
ALL	8:00 AM – 8:05 AM	**Welcome and Overview of the Day** *2026 Program Co-Chairs*	
ALL	8:05 AM – 8:30 AM	**Introduction & Overview of Review Criterion** *J. Edward Puzas, PhD; Nancy E. Lane, MD*	
WS I	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	**Presentation 1.1** **Hypothesis and Specific Aims** *J. Edward Puzas, PhD*	\
WS II	8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	**Presentation 1.2** **Round Table/Address Prioritized Issues & Questions** *Nancy E. Lane, MD*	
	10:00 AM – 10:15 AM	**Break**	
ALL	10:15 AM – 12:30 PM	**Group Mentoring on Specific Aims** Group 1: J. Edward Puzas, PhD; Kharma Foucher, MD, PhD; Fayez Safadi, PhD Group 2: Howard J. Hillstrom, PhD; Hani Award, PhD; Nancy E. Lane, MD; Caroline Thirukumaran, MBBS, MHA, PHD	
ALL	12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	**Mentoring Lunch**	
ALL	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	**Presentation 2.1** **Research Strategy: Importance of the Research, Rigor and Feasibility, Expertise and Resources** *J. Edward Puzas, PhD*	
ALL	1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	**Presentation 2.2** **Mentors, Collaborators and Teams** *Nancy E. Lane, MD*	
APPTS	3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	**Individual Office Hours with Mentors** (see schedule)	
NO APPTS	3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	**Group Office Hours & SciENcv** Join the group discussion while you await your appointment	
ALL	4:15 PM - 5:45 PM	**Presentation 2.3** **Round Table/Issues related to the Current Funding Climate** *Faculty Panel*	
ALL	7:00 PM	**Networking Reception and Dinner**	

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2026			
		Breakfast	Hotel
ALL	8:00 AM – 8:05 AM	**Welcome and Overview of the Day** *2026 Program Co-Chairs*	
ALL	8:05 AM – 10:30 AM	**Mock Study Section 3.1** *All Faculty*	
	10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	**Break**	
ALL	10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	**3.2.Alternative Funding Sources** *Howard J. Hillstrom, PhD*	
ALL	11:15 AM – 11:45 AM	**Presentation 3.3** **Review Mock Study Section and Interpretating the Summary Statement Assignments** *All Faculty*	
ALL	11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	Photo – Class of 2026 w Faculty Mentoring Lunch (provided onsite)	
APPTS	12:45 PM – 3:00 PM	**Individual Office Hours with Mentors** (see schedule)	
NO APPTS	12:45 PM – 3:00 PM	**Group Office Hours** Join the group discussion while you await your appointment	
ALL	3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	**3.4 Program Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks** Next 12 Months and Second Workshop Program *Nancy E. Lane, MD*	