

The Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship in Educational Research and Innovation

Sponsored by the Department of Medical Education Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

[The Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship in Educational Research and Innovation](#) is an opportunity for career development through investigator-proposed, innovative research projects in health professions education-related scholarship and research. The goals of the Fellowship are to:

- Provide mentorship, support and career development to junior faculty establishing careers focused on scholarship and research in education
- Promote innovation in health professions education research
- Serve as pilot funds to lead to future educational research and grants

[Click Here to Submit an Application](#)

Eligibility:

Applications must have a primary investigator who has an active appointment to the faculty of the Feinberg School of Medicine and have a rank no higher than Assistant Professor at the time of the application deadline. In general, we accept applications from those within 7 years of their initial appointment or who have only recently begun to pursue educational scholarship. The goal is to assist those new to this domain. For those applicants beyond this timeframe, an explanation of their career path and justification for their acceptance should be included in their application.

Scope:

Successful proposals will address current issues and/or challenges in health professions education at any level of the health professions education continuum. The committee will give preference to projects that are innovative and can form the basis for future research.

Timeframe:

Projects should span two years of work.

Funding:

Applications may request up to \$25,000 annually (for a total of \$50,000 maximum funding request over the two-year grant period).

- All salaries budgeted must adhere to the current NIH salary cap (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm).

- We have found that primary investigators are successful when they have sufficient release time to conduct their project. Therefore, we strongly encourage an allocation of no less than 5% effort over the course of the grant with at least 5% FTE salary as part of the budget. **The minimum FTE budgeted on the grant is 5% FTE, however, more may be budgeted.**
- Beyond funds for the primary investigator, funds may be designated for staff or student support, materials for research, or travel costs associated with the project. Supplies specific to the purpose of the project (e.g., books, specialized software, teaching or assessment aids) may be included. However, general supplies (e.g. computer hardware, etc.) are not permitted. Capital expenditures greater than \$5,000 are not permitted.

Application Process:

The process for applying for the [Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship](#) is multi-stage and is intended to serve a dual role as an application process as well as a mentorship opportunity.

- Applicant submits initial application (details below) through online [Application Form](#): **Due December 22, 2023.**
- Committee reviews applications and those deemed to be appropriate for further consideration (estimated to be 6 applications) are invited to move into an 8-week mentored proposal development program: Initial invitations will be announced on January 5th.
- Individuals accepted into the proposal development process will be expected to commit to a total of 6 hours of in-person meetings from **February to March 2023**. Meeting days and times will be determined after selection.
- Final proposals are due to the committee by **March 25, 2023 at 11:59pm**.
- The committee will release final funding decisions in late April.
- Funding for selected projects will begin with the next University fiscal year: **September 1, 2024**. Please note the September start date does not coincide with the academic year, but is required by the budgetary policy of the University. Please take this into consideration in planning your project.

Initial Application Requirements:

A completed one-page proposal/letter of interest should contain the following components:

1. Online Application Form ([Click Here to Submit an Application](#))
2. Descriptive title of proposed research
3. Name, title, department, address, email, and telephone number for principal investigator applicant
4. 250 word research abstract
5. Names of other key personnel
6. Brief description (~ 1 page) of proposed research and methods with sections headers for **approach, feasibility, innovation and potential impact and an optional section for those further into their career explaining why they should be considered (one paragraph).**

7. Number of years, estimated overall budget for each year, and estimated percent effort for each year
8. Curriculum vitae of primary investigator in [Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine format](#).

Full Proposal Requirements (if accepted into proposal development program):

- 6-8 page full proposal
- 1 page maximum works cited
- Educational instruments being used in the study (if applicable)
- Budget using the [NIH SF424 budget](#) form and a written budget justification
- Letter from Chair/Division Chief supporting time commitment
- Letter from your Medical Director granting permission for the study (this is applicable if your proposal includes planned activities occurring in a clinical environment)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at fame@northwestern.edu.

About Augusta Webster, MD (1903-1993)

Dr. Augusta Webster, a member of Northwestern's Class of 1934, was the first woman to be named a full professor at the medical school and in 1960 became the first woman in the country to head a department at a major teaching hospital– the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department at Cook County Hospital. It was at “the County” that she earned her fame as a teacher of medical students and obstetrical residents, and as a dedicated physician and friend to the medically underserved people of Chicago. After internship and residency at Passavant Memorial Hospital, she practiced at Cook County Hospital for over 40 years, including 15 years of non-salaried service.

At “the County,” Dr. Webster introduced the first nurse midwife program in Illinois in 1970. She was a founder of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and of the Portes Cancer Prevention Center. In 1948, she received the Alumni Medal of Northwestern University and in 1954, she was named “Woman of the Year” by the American Medical Women's Association.

In 1991, a generous gift by Barbara Olin Taylor, PhD, created the Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowships in Medical Education in Dr. Webster's honor, with the intent of fostering the career development of innovative health professions educators.

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Department of Medical Education

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