NATIONAL FOUNDATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program

2027 Call for Applications

APPLICATION OPENS	DEADLINE	PROGRAM PERIOD	NFEM SUPPORT
September 1, 2026	**February 1, 2027**	**July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029**	**$50,000/year for 2 years**

Call for Applications

The National Foundation of Emergency Medicine (NFEM) invites applications from academic institutions to participate in the NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program. The program is designed to develop the next generation of academic Emergency Medicine (EM) scientists by supporting junior EM faculty and their mentors over a 24-month period.

Applications open September 1, 2026, and must be submitted by February 1, 2027. Accepted institutions will be notified in spring 2027. The anticipated program period is July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2029.

NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program

The Scholar/Mentor Program is intended for junior faculty in an academic Emergency Medicine track who are within five years of faculty appointment or terminal training. Preference will be given to candidates who are Emergency Medicine physicians. Scholars should not have a K award and should not serve as Principal Investigator on any NIH grant.

Program Goals and Structure

- Stimulate, train, and foster an enduring academic commitment to Emergency Medicine research.
- Support the development of junior Emergency Medicine investigators toward research independence.
- Strengthen institutional mentorship and research infrastructure within academic Emergency Medicine.
- Up to three awards will be made to Departments of Emergency Medicine for each cohort.

NFEM will provide $50,000 per year for two years (total $100,000 per Scholar), contingent upon an institutional match. As a condition of the award, the Department and/or School of Medicine must provide 20% protected research time through clinical buy-down. This protected effort must come from clinical responsibilities—not administrative or teaching effort—with the objective of providing approximately one day per week for the Scholar to conduct research.

Institutional commitment: The application must explicitly affirm the institution's commitment to the required match, including a Chair-signed commitment to 20% protected time supported through a 20% clinical buy-down. The institutional match must be provided from Department and/or School of Medicine resources and may not be funded, directly or indirectly, from the NFEM award.

Use of NFEM Funds

NFEM award funds may be used only for direct costs that support the Scholar's research and career development activities, consistent with the approved budget.

No indirect costs, facilities and administrative (F&A) costs, institutional overhead, institutional taxes or assessments, or similar administrative charges are allowable and may not be charged to the NFEM award.

Applicants must submit a proposed two-year budget describing the anticipated use of NFEM funds. The budget must separately identify the institutional contribution, including the required clinical buy-down and any additional institutional or in-kind support.

Program Expectations

- Develop an individualized development plan in collaboration with the Mentor and the Director of the NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program.
- Participate in periodic webinars and Zoom meetings with NFEM program leadership.
- Submit two abstracts and one manuscript per year, where appropriate.
- Attend each NFEM Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the SAEM Annual Meeting.
- Present research near the conclusion of the program at the NFEM Annual Meeting.

Scholar Research Focus

NFEM does not prescribe specific research topics for this program. Proposed projects should:

- Be clearly grounded in Emergency Medicine, the emergency care system, or the populations Emergency Medicine serves.
- Address meaningful, answerable questions that advance the science, practice, quality, equity, safety, innovation, or delivery of emergency care.
- Include hypothesis-generating and/or hypothesis-testing approaches, as appropriate to the stage of inquiry.
- Support innovation and technology development relevant to Emergency Medicine (e.g., diagnostics, decision support, digital health, data science, care models), where such work has a clear path to improving patient care or systems performance.
- Contribute to a sustainable academic trajectory for the Scholar, with potential for future extramural funding and scholarly impact.
- Align with the strengths, resources, and strategic priorities of the participating institution's Emergency Medicine program.

Projects may be clinical, translational, health services, implementation science, education, policy, or data science-oriented, provided they are directly relevant to Emergency Medicine.

Eligibility Requirements

Institutions will be selected based on their demonstrated ability to meet the following criteria:

- Alignment of vision and mission with NFEM.
- Adequate research infrastructure, including active clinical research projects, research staff support, and access to regulatory, biostatistical, and administrative support.
- Demonstrated commitment to research and to the development of junior investigators.
- Availability of a research fellowship or other structured research training program (not required to be housed within Emergency Medicine) that supports the research development of Emergency Medicine faculty.
- Engaged junior and senior faculty who are willing and suitable to serve as Scholars and Mentors in the program.
- Willingness to provide the required match, including Chair-signed 20% protected time with 20% clinical buy-down, and to acknowledge NFEM support in resulting research products and grants.

Application Instructions

Application Opens	September 1, 2026
Due Date	February 1, 2027
Submission	Submit the application and required documents by email to the NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program Director.

Gentry Wilkerson, M.D.
Director, NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program
GWilkerson@som.umaryland.edu

Required Application Components

Please include the following four components in the application. NIH-format biosketches should be submitted for both the Mentor and the Scholar; separate lists of grants or peer-reviewed publications are not required.

1. Institutional Narrative

3–5 pages recommended

- Describe how the institution's research vision and mission align with NFEM.
- Describe the research and training infrastructure, including existing research programs, relevant fellowships or training opportunities, the potential pipeline of Scholars, and the mentoring environment.
- Explain how participation in the NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program will benefit the institution, the department, and the proposed Scholar.
- Confirm the institution's commitment to the required 20% protected research time through clinical buy-down and describe any additional institutional or in-kind support.

2. Mentor Information

Up to 2 pages, plus NIH-format biosketch

- Statement of mentorship experience, including prior mentees, their projects, and evidence of mentee success (e.g., academic appointments, grants, publications, leadership roles).
- Brief description of the Mentor's research experience and areas of expertise relevant to the proposed Scholar and project.
- Clear mentorship plan outlining meeting cadence, modes of engagement (e.g., one-on-one meetings, feedback on grants/manuscripts, networking support), and an approach to monitoring progress.
- Proposed metrics, goals, and milestones for the Scholar (e.g., abstract submissions, manuscripts, grant submissions, skill acquisition, independence milestones).
- Current NIH-format biosketch.

3. Scholar (Mentee) Information

Up to 2 pages, plus NIH-format biosketch

- Personal statement describing career interests, long-term goals, and commitment to a research-focused or research-intensive career in Emergency Medicine.
- Description of the primary research topic, including its relevance to Emergency Medicine, importance to patients or systems of care, and potential for scientific and clinical impact.
- Overview of the proposed research plan, including central hypothesis, specific aims, and a concise description of the methodological approach.
- Curriculum and training plan (e.g., coursework, workshops, certificates, seminars, methodologic training) that will support the Scholar's development.

- Description of additional mentors or collaborators, their roles, and how the mentorship team will support the Scholar's success.
- Summary of prior research experience and how NFEM Scholar/Mentor Program support will facilitate the next steps in the Scholar's trajectory toward research independence or a research-intensive academic career.
- Current NIH-format biosketch.

4. Proposed Budget and Budget Justification

Applicants must submit a two-year budget describing the proposed use of the NFEM award. The budget should:

- Show anticipated expenditures for Year 1 and Year 2.
- Clearly identify how the $50,000 annual NFEM award will be used.
- Provide a brief justification for each major budget category.
- Separately identify the institution's required contribution toward the Scholar's 20% clinical buy-down/protected research effort.
- Identify any additional institutional or in-kind contributions, if applicable.