Eligibility Requirements:
1. Junior faculty
2. Senior fellows, residents, or post-doctoral researcher that are doing research and have a faculty appointment in place or confirmed, or
3. Basic and clinical investigators, without or with training awards (including K awards)

Documentation Required:

1. Letter of nomination from division or department chair
   - State whether the candidate is applying with or without a training grant
   - Include a description of the candidate’s work
   - Provide complete contact information for both the candidate and the nominator
   - Pledge to cover the costs for roundtrip airfare for attendance at the two workshops and a $600 registration fee for the full program if the candidate is accepted. The full program includes two Young Investigator workshops, with the participants spending two (2) days at each workshop
   - Confirm there will be internal institutional support for the candidate to pursue their research interests

2. Letter of support from an internal institutional research mentor
   - Indicate the support this person is providing, or will provide and type of guidance
   - Outline the plan for the mentorship, including how he/she will provide support for the candidate’s research project
   - If no institutional mentor is possible, at least a mentor in the same research area or with ability to guide applicant, stating the mentor will meet regularly with the candidate

3. One or two page document with program title
   - Outline of a proposed grant application, to include the question and specific aims
   - A brief description of design and methods
   - Make certain to include applicant’s name on every page of application

4. NIH Biosketch of the applicant
   - Include complete contact details
   - Discipline specialization and sub-specialty
   - Listing of publications

The completed application packet is due by July 15, 2013.

The application should be addressed to Young Investigators Initiative and e-mailed to usbji@usbji.org (preferred), or mailed to the USBJI address on the cover page of this letter.

E-mailed Applications
When e-mailing an application, in the Subject line, please state: Your Last Name - YII Applicant - and either With Training Grant, or, Without Training Grant - Letters, Proposal, CV.

Subject line example: Jones - YII Applicant - Without Training Grant - Letters, Proposal, CV
For filenames please state: Your Last Name, underscore, followed by content matter.
For example:
Jones_NominationLetter.doc
Jones_MentorLetter.doc
Jones_Proposal.doc
Jones.CV.doc
The Bone and Joint Decade is a worldwide campaign to advance understanding, prevention, and treatment of musculoskeletal disorders through education and research. To find out more visit the U.S. web site, www.usbji.org.

Facts in Brief is a taken from The Burden of Musculoskeletal Diseases in the United States
For more information: www.boneandjointburden.org

Musculoskeletal diseases are the most common health condition in the United States.

- Estimated U.S. cost for treatment of all persons with a musculoskeletal disease diagnosis and indirect lost wages was $950 billion annually for the years 2004 to 2006, 7.4% of the gross domestic product.  
- The aging boomer generation, persons aged 45 to 64, accounts for an increasingly greater proportion of total musculoskeletal disease treatment cost and lost wages, a trend that will continue for the next several decades.
- One in two adults reported a chronic musculoskeletal condition in 2008, nearly twice the rate of reported chronic circulatory (heart) or respiratory conditions.

Musculoskeletal diseases are frequent cause for seeking medical care.

- More than 30% of Americans require medical care because of a musculoskeletal disease.
- Back pain accounted for more than 45 million health care visits in 2007.
- Arthritis accounted for 50.3 million ambulatory care visits and 1.2 million hospitalizations in 2006.
- Musculoskeletal injuries accounted for more than 61 million health care visits in 2006, 61% of all injury treatment visits.

Musculoskeletal diseases are a major cause of disability and lost work time.

- 17 million adults, 7% of the adult U.S. population, report difficulty performing routine activities of daily living due to a musculoskeletal condition. More than one-third is between the ages of 45 and 64.
- Back pain was the cause of 671 million bed days and 385 million lost work days in 2008.
- Musculoskeletal disorders for work-related injuries account for one-half of days away from work.
- One in two women and one in four men over the age of 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in his or her remaining lifetime. Hip fractures are associated with chronic pain, reduced mobility, and increasing dependence, with a 20% mortality rate in the first 12 months.
- Although less frequent, millions of children and adults suffer from spinal deformities, musculoskeletal congenital conditions, and cancers of bone and connective tissue, reducing quality of life and longevity.