Looking for high risk/high payoff basic research? Yes. Playing field is level in YFA.

How are topics developed?
- Fill gaps in programs at DSO, BTO, & MTO? Yes. Topics are also chosen as potential areas for new programs. Management and funding of YFA rotates among the 3 offices.

Helpful to contact PMs with ideas pre-announcement? No contact post-announcement?
- How to engage PMs, independent of YFA?
DARPA funds are program-specific, so most $ are spent on existing or already identified programs, and less is available for new starts. Informal contact with PM (e.g., 1 paragraph describing idea) is best, rather than submitting WP to open BAA.

Program review documents posted on-line? No Annual program review meetings open to PIs? No
- How to find priorities or key challenges? Open BAAs for each office have research needs. Also, view office links on darpa.mil.

Profile of YFA awardees -- common characteristics? More mature in their careers, with more time to have developed research programs. YFA goal is to develop a solid research career and plan. Key element of proposal: explain impact of research: Why does it matter? How will your approach revolutionize current SOA? Also, don’t oversell relevance to DoD missions; use 1 paragraph to describe potential applications – not operations.

When will next YFA solicitation be published? Topics are usually solicited from PMs in spring/summer, and BAA is published in fall.

How many awards annually? ~30. Total YFA budget is $6-7M.

Suggestions to encourage YFA applications

Other programs besides YFA that you manage? EQUIPS. Fariba works between the areas of dynamics & control and computation.