



ACG CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

2021 “SMALLER PROGRAMS” CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD Request for Applications

This is a one-year pilot award for junior faculty at smaller training programs with a mentoring component.

 **DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020 AT 11:59 PM EDT**

 **APPLY: gi.org/acg-institute/research-awards**

 **Award Amount: UP TO \$35,000** (one-year award)

 **Award period/length of award: July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022**

The ACG Institute for Clinical Research and Education and the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) are proud to support smaller programs pilot projects of up to \$35,000 to encourage clinical research among junior faculty, to be funded from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. Smaller Programs Clinical Research Awards (CRA) do not require previous work or preliminary data, and do not cover randomized controlled trials. This award supports junior faculty at smaller institutions and is only available to ACG members.

All applications must be submitted online. The grant site will open to submissions in early September 2020, and close on Friday, December 4, 2020, at 11:59pm (Eastern time).

The goal of the Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award is to make the promise of a research career more broadly available by targeting investigators at smaller training programs, and encouraging junior faculty to pursue a research career and to remain in academics at these institutions.

This grant is designed to support research that is principally focused on digestive or liver diseases. The patient population or disease target should be principally related to the gastrointestinal tract, liver, biliary system, pancreas, or neuroenteric science, including any translational, clinical, social science, or health services research studies that pertain to managing such patients or conditions. For example, a study about microbiota would be appropriate if it pertains to a digestive disease. In contrast, a study that is principally about HIV would likely not be appropriate unless it directly relates to how HIV affects digestive health. (For questions on study relevancy, contact the grant administrator at research@gi.org.) Since its inception in 1994, the ACG Institute has provided over \$22 Million in funding for Clinical Research Awards to over 660 recipients.



GRANT OVERVIEW

A key mission of the ACG and its Institute for Clinical Research and Education is to fund innovative patient-oriented research awards. For the purposes of these awards, patient-oriented research is defined as:

1. Research conducted with human subjects
2. Research on new diagnostic and therapeutic interventions
3. Research on material of human origin, such as tissues and specimens While research that explores mechanisms of human disease is highly encouraged, the research projects should be translational in nature; i.e., have direct applicability to clinical care.

Note: Studies involving animals will not be considered unless the work cannot be done in humans.



The ACG Clinical Research Awards are a project of the ACG Institute and are supported by charitable contributions to the G.U.T. Fund.

✓ Applicants must meet all the following criteria:

- ACG Member* (Required at time of application)
- Physician (MD, DO)
- Faculty appointment at the assistant professor or clinical instructor level at a "qualifying academic institution"***
- Senior fellows may apply with a commitment in writing from the institution of a faculty position in the upcoming year.
- U.S. or Canadian-based
- Mentor required (e-mentoring is permitted if the expertise needed is not available from faculty at the applicant's institution., However, frequency and means of contact should be clearly outlined).
- No Pilot Data Required

✗ The following are not eligible to for this award:

- Established investigators
 - Individuals who are former or current principal investigators on R01, P01, U01, VA Merit Awards or Hughes grants
 - Individuals who hold the position of full professor at an academic institution.
- Projects that support laboratory or animal research projects.
- Award overlap: ACG does not provide duplicate funding [If part of larger study, must explain how funds are not duplicated].



ELIGIBILITY

***Important!** Please note that you must be an ACG member to apply for this grant. All member applications must be submitted by September 25, 2020 in order to be eligible for review at the October Credentials Committee meeting, which is the last opportunity to be approved for full membership prior to the grant application deadline. To Join ACG, [click here](#). For questions on ACG membership, please email membership@gi.org or call 301-263-9000.

****Qualifying Academic Institutions**—those with 15 or fewer full-time academic Faculty—Full Time Employees (FTEs) in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Sections throughout the healthcare system (Pediatric programs with 7 or fewer FTEs within the Pediatric department may apply). All faculty within the system count, even if located at different hospitals (e.g., a potential applicant from an academic institution with six faculty at the VA and 10 at a university hospital would be ineligible for the program.) The academic institution is defined as an institution that includes all the sites listed in the ACGME application for the site's fellowship program, or for sites without a fellowship program, all facilities where any faculty member in gastroenterology or hepatology works.



PREPARING THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

A complete application consists of two separate components:

1. A single Adobe PDF document comprising (but not limited to) the following: research proposal (limited to 5 pages), budget, biosketches for principal investigators and others involved in the proposed research, other support details, IRB forms, COI statement (if applicable), and any letters of support from responsible investigator, or collaborators.
2. Completion of required tasks via the online grant system: upload the completed research proposal PDF; provide confirmation of ACG membership; provide full contact information for all investigators; submit a 350-word abstract of the proposed research; indicate IRB approval status; list all investigators and any potential conflicts of interest. See “Submitting the Application” below for instructions and requirements.

Required elements for the full research proposal document (i.e., the PDF that will be uploaded to the online grant system):

A. FORMATTING—Format all pages with ½” margins and use a font no smaller than 11 point. All pages must include a page number in the left header. All pages must include the PI name and grant type in the right header, in the following format:

Last name, First name
Award Type

B. RE-SUBMISSIONS—The Committee requires applicants who have applied previously to provide additional information and resubmit the application. For re-submissions, in addition to selecting “Yes” in the re-submission field of the online system, you must provide a cover letter responding to the reviewer’s critiques/ outlining how you have updated your application. This should be included as the first section of your Research Proposal, as part of the PDF upload to the grant system. Limit to 2 pages.

C. RESEARCH PROPOSAL—Limit to 5 pages (excluding references). Outline the proposed research. This should include the following sections:

- **Specific Aims**—Provide a clear description of the study objectives. Consider the following questions: What is the hypothesis to be addressed? What are the immediate objectives? What are the ultimate objectives? How does the proposed research fit into an overall research program?
- **Background/Significance**—State how the proposed work bears on prior work and indicate how it will extend the boundaries of current knowledge.
- **Pilot Data/Previous Work**—Provide a summary of pilot data/previous work, if available.
- **Research Plan**—Provide a detailed research plan, including the inclusion/exclusion criteria for enrollment, detailed methods, and how data will be analyzed. Provide detailed sample size estimates. Grants without a statistical analysis section or sample size justification are unlikely to be successful. Include a discussion of the mentorship arrangements that have been made.

D. REFERENCES—Include a separate section for references. Be judicious in the use of references.

E. BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION—Include a separate section for the budget (not included in the page limit). This should include a budget table listing each expense for the grant period, followed by a budget justification, a written explanation of each expense and how it supports the work of the proposal. Indicate how the funds will be allocated and justify each budget item, including facility fees if funds are requested for this purpose. The budget of \$35,000 allows up to \$30,000 in direct research costs. Additionally, ACG will provide up to \$5,000 for support costs, which should be itemized and may include travel to work with the mentor (but no other travel), statistical consultation and secretarial support. Salary support will be provided for other personnel (research nurse, computer programmer) if adequately justified. Support will be provided for supplies and equipment. Costs not supported: major equipment acquisition; travel (other than mentoring-related travel described above) and manuscript preparation; indirect costs (i.e., university overhead); and salary support for principal investigators, co-investigators, and mentor.

F. INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD (IRB) STATUS—Include the IRB approval letter, or indicate if IRB approval is pending. If IRB approval is pending at the time of submission and the grant proposal is subsequently approved for funding, funds will not be released until the IRB approval letter is received by the ACG. If the proposal is requesting funds for reimbursement of human subjects, a copy of the IRB-approved consent form is required prior to funding as well.

G. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT—Include, if applicable.

H. BIOSKETCHES—Provide these for the principal investigator, mentor, and anyone critical to completion of the project. Use the NIH format and adhere to the NIH 5-page limit. (For sample format see the NIH webpage at grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm.)

I. OTHER RESEARCH SUPPORT—List this information on separate pages. List the title, funding agency, total direct costs, dates, including expected dates of notification of pending applications for all current and pending funding for Principal Investigator, Mentor, and any co-investigators. (Use NIH format: grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm.)



PREPARING THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

- J. LETTERS OF SUPPORT**—Provide a letter from the mentor about the candidate which also describes the mentoring plan and commitment to the academic development of the applicant. Provide letters from collaborators, such as those supplying patient referrals, or specialized expertise, if applicable. If you are a fellow-in-training, include a letter from your department that you will have a faculty/instructor appointment in July.
- K. FACULTY ROSTER**—Provide a current roster of academic FTEs in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology sections throughout the healthcare system of the principal investigator. See “qualifying academic institutions” above.
- L. APPENDICES**—May be included (if needed) for data collection forms. Do not use to expand Research Proposal.

 **All applications must be submitted online.** The online grant application site will open in early September; a link to the site will be available at gi.org/acg-institute/research-awards. The submission **deadline is Friday, December 4, 2020 at 11:59 pm Eastern Time**. This deadline will be strictly enforced, and no exceptions will be made.

Once you begin the online application process, you will be able to save your work and return to complete it until the submission deadline. As part of the online application process, applicants are required to provide information about others, such as institutional addresses and potential conflicts of interest for co-investigators, the responsible investigator, etc. We encourage applicants to gather all the necessary information early, and to not wait until the last minute.

The following tasks must be completed via the online grant system in order to successfully submit an application for grant consideration:

- A. INDICATE PROPOSAL TITLE AND SELECT GRANT TYPE**—The title should be concise and clearly reflect the proposed research. Select the “Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award” grant type. (Please note, the same project should not be submitted for multiple ACG grant types, and will not be considered if this occurs, i.e., do not submit the same proposal for the Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award and for the Clinical Research Award.)
- B. ACG MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION**—You must provide your ACG member ID. To look up your member ID number, log into gi.org/membership then click “My Contact Information” from the menu on the left. Member ID is listed below Date of Birth.
- C. ADD INVESTIGATORS**—List the PI, Co-Investigators, and Mentor. Enter their names, ACG member status (and year joined if available), titles, email address, role (PI, Co-investigator, Mentor), and institution names and addresses.
- D. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**—Indicate agreement to abide by the grant requirements, if awarded grant funding. This must be signed by the Responsible Investigator if the PI is a fellow-in-training. The grant system will prompt you to select a responsible investigator, who will receive an email to complete this form.
- E. INVESTIGATOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**—Provide PI’s position. Also state whether the PI is a trainee. Add the responsible investigator’s name, email, and state whether the principal investigator has an R01, P01, U01, VA Merit Award, or Hughes grant.
- F. RESEARCH PROPOSAL ABSTRACT**—Provide an abstract of no more than 350 words that summarizes the proposed research.
- G. RE-SUBMISSIONS**—For re-submissions, select “Yes” in the re-submission field of the online system.
- H. IRB STATUS**—Verify current IRB status.
- I. RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL PDF UPLOAD**—Format the file as required in the “Preparing the Research Proposal” section, including all required elements, and upload the file as directed. The file name should include the principal investigator’s first and last name.
- J. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**—A potential conflict of interest (COI) exists when research involves a device from which any investigator(s) or a company may benefit. It also exists when research involves a pharmaceutical agent that is not FDA-approved for any indication. A conflict of interest exists if any investigator holds or has submitted a patent on a device or pharmaceutical agent or is a major shareholder in a company involved in the research. If applicable, select “Yes” and include a detailed explanation within the grant system, including names of each investigator and their potential COIs.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION





APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

👁️ **Immediately following the application submission period, all applications are reviewed and scored by the ACG Research Committee**, following its standardized process. Each application is reviewed by 3 reviewers who will present on the grant at the Research Committee Grant Review meeting.

Reviewers consider the following when scoring applications: feasibility, scientific and clinical significance of the research proposal, as well as methods. In evaluating the merits of an application, the Committee will consider the following:

- Scientific and Clinical Significance (25%)
- Feasibility (including the mentoring plan, availability of adequate resources, personnel, and facilities) (25%)
- Methods (50%)
 - Availability of preliminary data (25%)
 - Study design (50%)
 - Power, sample size and statistical analysis (25%)

The same project should not be submitted for multiple grant types, and will not be considered if this occurs. If an individual submits more than one grant proposal, only one award can be made for a given Principal Investigator. If a given investigator submits both a pilot and a larger clinical research grant deemed worthy of funding, the larger grant will be funded.



AWARD NOTIFICATION AND GRANT REQUIREMENTS

🔔 **Notification of Awards will be completed by April 1, 2021.** Please do not contact ACG prior to this date to inquire about the status of your application.

- **Funding:** Awards consist of a total of up to \$35,000. Funds are to be used for related expenses of the proposed research, including supplies and equipment. Funds are not to be used for: salary, major equipment acquisition; travel (except for travel for mentoring) and manuscript preparation; or indirect costs (i.e., university overhead).
- **Required Progress Reports:** Awardees must file a final progress report and a financial statement by December 31, 2022, on completion of the project. Progress reports will be submitted online through the ACG website, gi.org/reporting-form-for-past-acg-grant-recipients and financial statements will be emailed to research@gi.org.
- **Abstract Presentation at an ACG Annual Scientific Meeting:** ACG encourages the selected awardee to submit any abstracts to the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting for presentation (see ACG abstract submission details for requirements). If an abstract related to your research project is selected, you may submit up to \$500 in travel expenses (airfare/hotel) for reimbursement.
- **Publication:** All publications arising from work funded by this award must acknowledge support of an ACG Clinical Research Award.
- **Award overlap:** ACG does not provide duplicate funding.



QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

For any questions about grant requirements, please refer to the [FAQs](#).

Prior grant application submitters must create a new login for the grant system each year, even if you have applied for an ACG grant previously.

Technical support questions about the online submission system: Contact CadmiumCD Technical Support using the **Technical Support link on the upper right corner** of the submission site's screen, via email at Help@ConferenceAbstracts.com, or via phone at **(877) 426-6323**.

For any questions not answered in the RFA or [FAQs](#), or reporting questions, contact us via email at research@gi.org.



IMPORTANT DATES

September, 2020	Application submission period opens
September 25, 2020	ACG Membership application deadline (only for applications who are not ACG members – see the Eligibility Section for further details)
Friday, December 4, 2020	Application submission period closes (11:59 pm Eastern time)
By/before April 1, 2021	Award notifications are sent
July 1, 2021	Award period begins / disbursement check provided
December 31, 2022	Final report and financial statement due

✓ APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

☑ Do you meet all of the following eligibility criteria (full criteria listed in eligibility section)?

- You are an assistant professor or instructor in the U.S. or Canada at a qualifying institution (see eligibility section above)
- You are an MD or DO.
- If you are a fellow-in-training, you have a letter from your institution indicating you will start as faculty/instructor in July 2021.
- Your project involves patient-oriented clinical research in the field of gastroenterology or hepatology.
- Your project does not involve animals (this type of research is not eligible).

☑ Are you a current ACG Member? Confirm that you are an ACG member in good standing prior to applying—this is different than applying for membership—you must have an ACG member number (see instructions in eligibility section).

☑ Have you created an account in the grant system, and is your application formatted as required (see requirements in formatting section above)?

- You have created an account in the ACG grant system (www.gi.org/acg-institute/research-awards).
- Application is formatted to include: ½" margin, headers with name, award type, and page numbers.

☑ Have you provided the following required information in the grant system?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Investigator information (membership ID, title, email, role for project, institution, address of institution) | <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Topic categories |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> COI |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> IRB status |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Re-submission status |

☑ Have you prepared all of the following Research Proposal components, and compiled them into a single PDF document, in the following order?

- If yours is a re-submission, double-check that you have responded to the reviewer's critiques, and that you have updated your proposal with any suggested changes.
- Project Description—The project description includes all the sections outlined above, adhere to the 5-page limit, and all tables and/or figures are labeled. Include pilot data if available.
- References—These are listed where applicable and citations are included in the project description.
- Budget & Justification—A budget table is included with a clear justification of costs. Costs covered by the institution vs. covered by the ACG Smaller Programs Clinical Research Award are clearly indicated. Any other costs needed for the project are clearly explained. By submitting the budget, you are verifying that there will be adequate resources to complete the project.
- The COI statement is included, if applicable.
- Confirmation of IRB approval is included, if available.
- Biosketches—A biosketch for each investigator is included, and all are in the NIH format.
- Information about other grant support, if applicable, is included.
- Letters of Support—Letter of support is included from your mentor. Letter of support outlining faculty/instructor appointment is included for any applicant who is a fellow at the time of application. Letters of support for any co-investigator or other relationship, where other expertise or referrals are needed to complete the project, are included.
- Faculty Roster—A current roster of academic FTEs in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology sections throughout the healthcare system of the principal investigator is included.

☑ Are the PDF Components in the correct order and have you uploaded the complete PDF of your Research Proposal to the grant submission site?