

ACG Clinical Research Awards

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Listed below are some commonly asked questions for the following ACG Clinical Research Awards:

- Junior Faculty Development Awards
- Established Investigator Bridge Funding Awards
- **NEW – Health Equity Research Award**
- ACG/ASGE Endoscopy ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy
- Clinical Research Awards
- Clinical Research Pilot Awards
- Medical Resident Clinical Research Awards (see separate section)
- Medical Student Research Awards (see separate section)

The questions are **organized by category:**

- [Membership / Eligibility Requirements \(pages 2-7\)](#)
- [Formatting and Grant Requirements \(pages 8-11\)](#)
- [Letters of Support \(page 12\)](#)
- [Budget \(page 13-14\)](#)
- [Junior Faculty Development Award Questions \(page 15-16\)](#)
- [NEW - Established Investigator Bridge Funding Questions \(page 17\)](#)
- [NEW- ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy \(page 18\)](#)
- [NEW – Health Equity Research Award \(page 19\)](#)
- [Medical Resident & Medical Student Research Award Questions \(pages 20-21\)](#)

For Technical Assistance Questions (login/grant site, etc.), please contact Cadmium directly by phone or email.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. EDT, Mon - Fri

Phone: (Direct) (410) 638-9239

Phone: (Toll Free) (877) 426-6323

Email: support@cadmiumcd.com

For Grant Content or Requirement Questions: Please refer first to the Grant Announcements and FAQs, as the information found there will answer the majority of questions.

If you need further clarification after you have reviewed the Grant Announcements and FAQs, please email your question to research@gi.org.

MEMBERSHIP/ ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Membership:

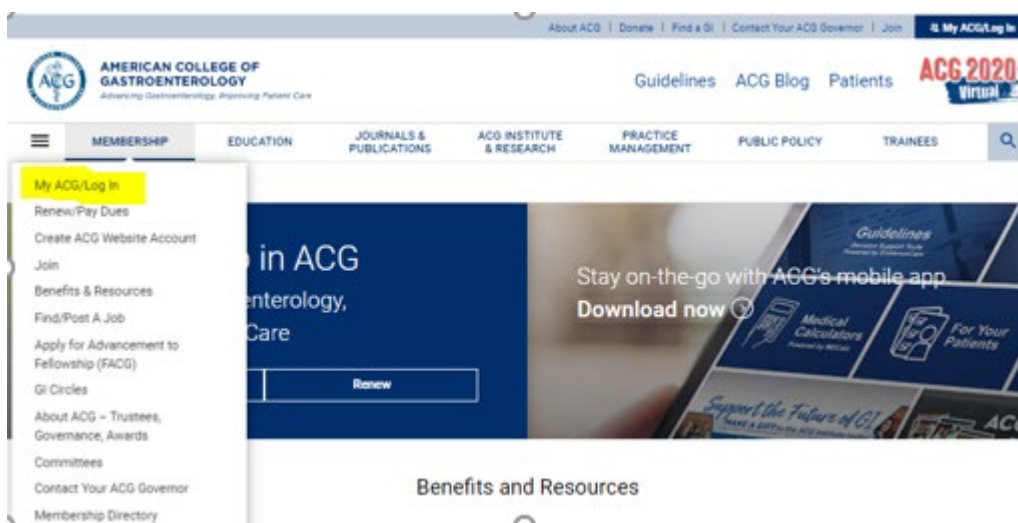
The grant application system requires your ACG member ID. To look up your member ID number, log into gi.org/membership then then click “My ACG/ Log In” from the menu. Enter your email and password to sign in. Select from the Menu **My ACG Membership** to see your membership information. Your Member ID is listed below Date of Birth. Enter the membership number into the grant application system.

Q: How do I find my ACG Member ID?

A: Follow steps listed below:

To FIND ACG MEMBER ID:

1. GO TO www.gi.org/membership
2. Click on ‘My ACG/ Log In’



3. Enter your email and password and click Sign In.

Gi.org / Membership / My ACG/Log In

My ACG/Log In

Member Log In

Email Address

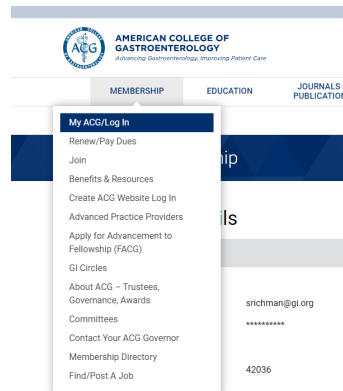
Password

[I forgot my password](#)

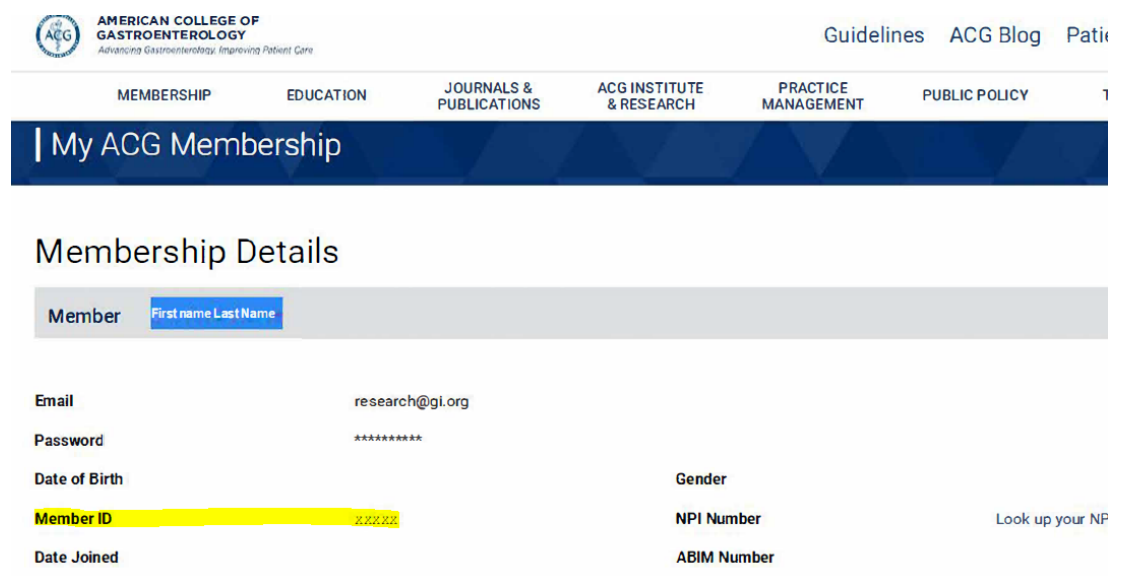
Sign In

[Create an ACG Website Account](#)

4. Select **My ACG Membership** from the menu on the left



5. Find **Member ID**



6. Enter **Member ID** into the online application.



MEMBERSHIP VERIFICATION

Continue

Please answer the field below to continue

Q: I am interested in becoming an ACG member. What are the deadlines for submitting membership applications?

A: For regular ACG membership (not a trainee), the deadline to submit an application is September 17, 2021, in order to be considered for the October 2021 review by the Credentials

Committee. The next membership review is held in January, after the December 3, 2021 grant deadline.

For ACG Trainee Membership, the application process takes at least two weeks. To submit your application prior to the 2022 ACG Clinical Research Awards deadline, Trainee Member applications are due by: **November 19, 2021.**

For more information: gi.org/join-acg

Q: I just applied for ACG membership. Am I eligible to apply for the ACG research awards?

A: For the Clinical Research Awards (including pilot programs), one of the investigators must be an ACG member at the time of application. If you have just applied for membership but have not yet received confirmation that it has been approved, you must include a co-investigator who is an ACG member. It typically takes one month to receive membership confirmation, which is separate from the confirmation that your membership application has been received.

For the Junior Faculty Development Awards, Established Investigator Bridge Funding Awards, and Health Equity Research Awards, you must be an ACG member at the time of the grant application.

For the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the principal investigator must be either an ACG or ASGE member at the time of the grant application. To look up your ASGE ID number, visit, www.asge.org click the Member/Account Log in to enter username/password. Once logged in, click on “Welcome, [name]” to go to your account information. The member ID is listed under your name on the landing page.

Q: My ACG membership has lapsed. Can I re-apply for membership?

A: Please contact ACG’s Membership Department to discuss your options. ACG phone: 301-263-9000 or email: membership@gi.org.

Q: I am not an ACG member. Can I apply for the Clinical Research Award?

A: For the ACG Clinical Research Award and the Clinical Research Pilot Award, the PI can be a non-member, however, one person on the team of investigators for the project must be a member of ACG at the time of the grant application. The ACG Member ID of one of the investigators must be entered into the grant system (Cadmium) as part of the application. The PI may submit the grant through the online system but is NOT required to be an ACG member.

Q: I am applying for the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy can you clarify the membership requirements?

A: For this award type only, the principal investigator must be either a member of ACG or a member of ASGE at the time of application (this is different than applying for membership). The principal investigator may have membership with ACG, ASGE or both. The grant system will ask for confirmation of Membership and Member ID. NOTE: Indicate the society for which you are providing your membership ID.

Q: For the Clinical Research Award or Pilot Award, does the PI have to be an ACG member?

A: One member of the team must be an ACG member though not necessarily the PI.

Q: I am in residency. Am I required to be an ACG member?

A: No, membership is not required for Medical Resident applications for the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award. However, your mentor must be an ACG member.

Q: I am a medical student. Am I required to be an ACG member?

A: No, membership is not required for Medical School or Doctor of Osteopathy student applications for the Medical Student Research Award. However, your mentor must be an ACG member.

Eligibility for Specific Grant Types:

Junior Faculty Development Award

Q: If I have received a Career Award, am I eligible for the Junior Faculty Award?

A: No, ACG's Junior Faculty Development Award is not intended for established investigators; rather, it is for junior faculty who are seeking to develop careers in clinical GI research. While certain NIH and career grants are specified in the grant announcement, other career awards do preclude you from applying.

Q: I received an NIH loan re-payment grant. Am I eligible for the Junior Faculty Development Award?

A: Yes, loan repayment does not compete with this award so you are eligible to apply.

Established Investigator Bridge Funding Award

Q: Am I eligible for the ACG Bridge Funding Award?

A: You must meet all the criteria below, in addition to what is requested in the RFA:

1. **Are you an ACG member at the time of submission?** If you have just applied for membership but have not yet received confirmation that it has been approved, you are **not** eligible. It typically takes one month to receive membership confirmation, which is separate from the confirmation that your membership application has been received. If your membership has expired/lapsed, contact ACG's Membership Coordinator at 301-263-9000 or at membership@gi.org.
2. **Are you a U.S. or Canadian physician with a faculty appointment and more than 8 years out of fellowship?** This award is not intended for fellows-in-training or early career faculty.
3. **Do you have evidence of recent concluded (within 2 years) federal program grant, such as NIH R01 or VA Merit Award? National Science Award, Department of Defense and CIHR multi-year project grant awards of equivalency [minimum direct costs of \$400, 000/year] will be considered.** Please Note: Career Development Grants from a state, provincial or federal agency are not considered qualifying awards for eligibility.
4. **Applicants must also demonstrate one of the following:**

- a. Evidence of ongoing application for renewal for federal funding (provide institutional evidence of application to a federal agency [i.e., eRA commons routing information] or letter of intent from institutional grant awards office)
 - b. Evidence of new federal application (scored but not funded research grant) to be re-submitted (provide summary sheets and scores)
5. **Do you have 50% protected time guaranteed by the Division Director?** This is required for all applicants.

Health Equity Research Awards

Q: For the Health Equity Research Awards, do projects which are studying gastrointestinal conditions, such as IBD, meet the eligibility requirements for this RFA?

A: The project must have a principal focus that seeks to accelerate clinical knowledge and further the management of unique GI and hepatology healthcare concerns of the underrepresented, such as racial/ethnic minorities, women and LGBTQ+ populations. For example, how will the proposed study further the knowledge and management of a specific disease state as it relates to health equity? What changes to the delivery of clinical care / education / the healthcare system will the proposed study provide actionable and meaningful data? Research related solely to understanding of a disease state would not qualify.

International & non-U.S. applicants:

Q: Does ACG consider proposals based overseas, for non-U.S. applicants?

A: Yes, overseas projects or collaborations are eligible to apply for the ACG Clinical Research Award (including Pilot Awards). However, one of the investigators must be an ACG member at the time of the grant application.

PhD eligibility

Q: Are non-medical doctors (PhDs) eligible to apply for this award with a co-investigator who is an ACG member?

A: Non-medical doctors (PhDs) are eligible to apply for the ACG Clinical Research Award or ACG Clinical Research Pilot Award grant categories.

However, the grant does require that “at least one of the investigators must be an ACG member or trainee member at the time of submission of the grant proposal.” This could be as a co-investigator or PI.

Fellows-in-training eligibility for grants

Q: If I am a GI fellow, is there a specific grant type I am eligible to apply for?

A: For gastroenterology or hepatology fellows, the Clinical Research Award or the Clinical Research Pilot Award are the best fits.

Medical Student Research Award

Q: If I am an international medical student, am I eligible for the new Medical Student or Medical Resident Awards?

A: No, these award types are limited to U.S. and Canadian applicants.

Animal Studies:

Q: Do the grants allow animal studies?

A: No, ACG only funds clinical research that involves human tissue. See the following language from the grant announcement:

“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
4. Research that is translational in nature, i.e., has direct applicability to clinical care.

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

Submitting to multiple grant categories

Q: I am submitting the same Junior Faculty Development Award project to another grant-making entity. Is this allowed?

A: An investigator should not submit the same project with minor budget modifications as an ACG Clinical Research Award AND a Junior Faculty Development Award. However, there is not a restriction on submitting the same project to ANOTHER grant-making entity, i.e., other foundations, K-Awards, etc.

Q: May I submit the same grant (science) to multiple ACG grant categories?

A: Applications utilizing the same science may not be submitted for two different ACG grant categories (for example the same project/science is submitted for both the Junior Faculty Award and Clinical Research Award with minor budget modifications) and if this occurs, they will not be evaluated by the Committee. Applicants are welcome to submit the same grant to different funding mechanisms (another funder), however the ACG will not provide duplicate funding. For example, if the application to the ACG pilot Award is part of a larger study, the applicant must explain how the funds requested from ACG are not duplicated.

Q: May I submit more than one grant application (different science) to the American College of Gastroenterology?

A: 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 application deemed worthy of funding, the larger grant will be funded.

Applicants are welcome to apply to other funding entities (example NIH funding, foundations, etc.) in addition to ACG.

FORMATTING & GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

Q: What is the duration of the funding for each type of Clinical Research Award?

A: The Junior Faculty Development Awards are funded for three years. Funding begins July 1st, 2022 and runs until June 30th, 2025.

The Bridge Funding Awards are funding for two years. Funding begins July 1st, 2022 and runs until June 30, 2024.

The ACG/ASGE ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy is funded over one or two years. Funding begins July 1st, 2022 and runs until June 30, 2023 (for a one-year award) or June 30, 2024 (for a two-year award).

The Clinical Research Awards (and Pilot and Health Equity Research Awards) are funded for one year. Funding begins on July 1st, 2022 and runs until June 30th, 2023.

The Medical Resident Awards are also funded for one year, with funding beginning on July 1st, 2022.

The Medical Student Research Award is a summer award, with funding beginning any time after May 1st, 2022 for the 6-10-week project. Funding must be used during the summer.

Q: Is an institutional signature or cover letter required?

A: No, the grant submissions do not require an institutional signature. Additional documentation is required for applications selected for funding.

Q: Where should I include the Application Checklist?

A: The Application Checklist should be included as the first page of the single PDF upload.

Q: I am re-submitting an application, where should I include the re-submission letter responding to the reviewer's feedback?

A: Include this as the second page of your application, after the Application Checklist.

Q: What is the pre-qualification application for the Bridge funding award?

A: This is to check your eligibility for this award type. It is an form completed online (separate from the grant system). It is strongly recommended to submit by November 1, 2021, to allow the reviewers time to respond before the application deadline for your full application (December 3, 2021).

To submit a pre-qualification application (for Bridge funding only): <https://bit.ly/33guW6k>

Q: Should the entire proposal be compiled into a single pdf?

A: Yes, all documents should be compiled into a single PDF, with the Application Checklist included as the first page. Review the individual grant announcements for specific

requirements for the PDF upload, including required elements and order. Listed below is an example of the documents required for the Clinical Research Award:

Applicants are required to submit a single Adobe PDF document comprising the complete grant submission. The single PDF document must be uploaded through the online application portal. This includes all required sections of the grant, in the order listed below, research proposal, budget, biosketches for principal investigator and others involved in the proposed research, other funding support details, IRB forms, COI statement (if applicable), and any letters of support from Responsible Investigator, or collaborators. Format all pages with ½" margins and a font no smaller than 11 point. Type your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page, and the page number in the upper left-hand corner of each page.

Q: Does the ½" margin include the applicant name/award type/ page numbers?

A: No, the applicant name/award type/ page numbers should be included in the header and is not part of the ½" margin. The additional instructions below are listed in the grant announcement:

Type your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page, and the page number in the upper left-hand corner of each page.

Q: What if the letterhead for my letter of support doesn't adhere to the ½" margin guideline?

A: Letterhead is not included in this requirement, as it is considered part of the page header or footer of the document. However, letters of support do need to adhere to any page limits listed in the grant announcement.

Q: For the recommended headers, how should these be listed in the document?

A: Bold the header – these are the required sections for your submission – and make sure to start each section on its own page (for example, the resubmission letter, grant proposal, references, budget, budget justification, IRB status, COI, and biosketches, should all start on their own page, and have a header at the top of the page, indicating what section is described below)

Q: Does the page limit for the proposal include references, budget, biographical sketches or research support?

A: No, the page limit for the proposal does not include references, budget, biographical sketches or research support. However, all of the sections of the grant proposal must be included in a single PDF document to upload to the grant system.

Q: If we are resubmitting an application, should we include a cover letter to address the changes made based on comments from last year's reviewers? Is there a place in the electronic submission process to identify that this is a resubmission?

A: Yes, this is a requirement for resubmissions. You must include a cover letter at the beginning of your proposal, responding to critiques from reviewers and outlining how you have revised your application. This letter should be included in the first section of your PDF upload to the grant system. The cover letter should be limited to 2 pages, except for Medical Student

Research Award applications which have a 1-page limit. This is separate from the proposal page limit.

For the online submission process, there is a drop-down menu under the section on Research Proposal Abstract, which asks whether this is a resubmission.

Q: Is the budget included in the proposal page limit?

A: No, the budget is not included in the page limit. It is a separate section.

Q: Is there a standard format or template for the budget?

A: No, you should submit a budget table with all costs (listing each cost and whether there is a rate/quantity for the cost) and the total amount requested from ACG. It should be clear whether other costs are being covered from another source. Include a budget justification for each cost requested, after the budget table.

Q: Is IRB approval required?

A: No, IRB approval is not required at the time of submission. You may include any available information on the IRB status in the grant application. The College understands that IRB approval requires time, and there are different requirements based on the research proposal.

If your grant is selected for funding, you must then submit either an IRB approval letter or a letter of IRB exemption to the College before funding will be released.

Q: Is a Conflict of Interest (COI) Statement required? Can you explain this requirement?

A: If you or any of the investigators participating in the proposed research have a COI, this information must be included in the grant system and as part of your single PDF upload. A COI is defined as:

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” in the grant system, and include a detailed explanation, including names of each investigator and their potential COIs.

Q: For the Biosketch, is there a page limit or specific format?

A: Yes, you should follow the NIH format, which has a 5-page limit:

grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

Q: I am currently in “trainee status” as an advanced fellow. However, I will be starting on staff at the university by July 2022. When submitting the proposal, should I indicate “trainee” or “faculty” status?

A: Recommendation: Because you have a faculty appointment in 2022, you should declare that you are “faculty,” when applying for the 2022 ACG Clinical Research Award. If you select “trainee,” the grant submission system will prompt an approval process from a Responsible Investigator.

The reason for this requirement is that trainees funded by the College need a “Responsible Investigator” who commits to oversee the work, ensure the final reports are made, and sees that funds are spent according to grant agreement, etc.

Since you will be full-time faculty at the time of the award, you can apply independently. In effect, you will be your own “Responsible Investigator” as Principal Investigator (PI).

LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

Q: Can the Institutional Commitment Letter (for the Junior Faculty Award) come from the Chair of the Department of Medicine (my department) instead of my Division Chief?

A: Yes, Division Chief and Division Director are interchangeable for the purposes of the grant application.

Q: For the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, how should applicants request a letter of support?

A: Contact GIQuIC directly by emailing research@giquic.org

Responsible Investigator

Q: I would like to apply for the ACG Clinical Research Award. I am currently a GI Fellow. However, I will be an Assistant Professor in March 2022. Will I need a responsible investigator?

A: No, as you will be an Assistant Professor during the grant period, you do not need a Responsible Investigator. For your letters of support, please provide a letter from your GI division confirming that you will have a faculty position in 2022 and make this clear in any supporting documentation/ letters of support.

Q: I am a gastroenterology fellow applying for a pilot grant as the PI. I have obtained letters of support from my Program Director and co-investigators/collaborators. Do I need a letter from the Responsible Investigator as well?

A: The Responsible Investigator is required to provide certification in the grant system. If you have a Responsible Investigator, it is recommended to include a letter of support for the reviewers.

Q: I am applying for the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award. How should my Program Director submit the letter of support, and to whom should it be addressed?

A: The Program Director's letter of support should be included in your application, which is uploaded as a single PDF document within the grant system. This includes the sections listed in the RFA. The letter should be addressed to the ACG Research Committee, which will be considering the applications.

Q: For the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award, what is the purpose of the Program Director's letter?

A: The purpose of this letter is to confirm there will be time within the program to complete the research, the capacity for residents to do a research project, and that the individual is supported by the institution.

BUDGET QUESTIONS:

Q: Is the budget included in the proposal page limit?

A: No, the budget is not included in the page limit. It is a separate section.

Q: Do the ACG Research Awards provide funding for indirect/overhead costs?

A: No, the ACG Clinical Research Awards do not provide funding for indirect/overhead costs. See the individual RFA for allowable costs for each grant category. For the Clinical Research Award:

Include a separate section for the budget and justification. The budget should be listed as a table, indicating all expenses for the grant period. The budget justification should be listed after the budget table, with an explanation for each budget item. Funding for this award will provide support of up to \$50,000 for research costs - salary support for other personnel (biostatistician or administrative coordinator) if adequately justified, and support for supplies and equipment. **Note: indirect costs (i.e., university overhead) and salary support for the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators will not be provided.**

Q: Are manuscript preparation costs allowed?

A: No

Q: What is the requirement for a budget table?

A: Include a table (i.e., an Excel table pasted into a word or PDF document) that lists the different costs being requested, the total amount requested for funding, and whether this amount differs from the total cost of the project. The budget justification should be included after the budget table and should explain each item (example: salary requested for statistician is X, this supports --- hours of work on the proposal at a rate of X and is necessary for ----).

Q: Please explain the travel costs for the Junior Faculty Development Award.

A: For the Junior Faculty Development Award, the grantee is required to travel to the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting to present their research project during the second year of their award funding. The College designates \$1,500 of the budget to be allocated for this travel, as it is a grant requirement. However, please note the \$1,500 comes out of the total budget for that year.

The PI's travel will only be supported once, during year two, to report to the Research Committee. No other travel costs are supported by this grant.

Q: Are lab costs allowed for the Junior Faculty Development Awards?

A: Yes

Q: For the Junior Faculty Development Award, can you clarify the leadership course component? How much should be allocated for this requirement?

A: This requirement can be met in a number of ways – including applying for the ACG Young Physician Leadership Scholars program (deadline July 2022), taking a leadership course offered by GI societies, institutional resources (leadership training programs in medicine), or another

institution. The intention is to gain further leadership experience which will help you progress in your career. Up to \$1,600 of your budget may be allocated for this cost.

Examples of courses include:

<https://womensleadership.hmscme.com/>

<https://gi.org/acg-institute/young-physicians/>

Q: For the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, how are the costs for data extraction, cleaning, and analysis for GIQuIC calculated?

A: Contact the GIQuIC staff to discuss your scope of work and to receive information on the cost for your project: research@giquic.org

Q: For the ACG Clinical Research Award is the award limited to the full \$50,000 or can applicants request funds as needed (\$40-45,000 etc.)?

A: When requesting Research Award support for the Clinical Research Award category, you may request a maximum of \$50,000. You should request as much as you need, up to that amount. The same guidance applies to the other grant categories.

Q: For the Medical Student Research Awards, do the funds go to the medical student or to the university?

A: The funds go to the medical student, as they are meant to defray living costs while completing a summer research experience.

JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARD QUESTIONS:

50% Protected Research Time

Q: Is the entire 50% protected research time to be devoted to the specific Junior Faculty Development Award research project?

A: Yes

Budget (lab costs, leadership course, and travel)

Q: Are lab costs allowed for the Junior Faculty Development Awards?

A: Yes

Q: Please explain the travel costs for the Junior Faculty Development Award.

A: For the Junior Faculty Development Award, the grantee is required to travel to the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting to present on the progress of their research project during the second year of their award funding. The College designates \$1,500 of the budget to be allocated for this travel, as it is a grant requirement. However, please note the \$1,500 comes out of the total budget for that year.

The PI's travel will only be supported once, during year two, to report to the Research Committee. No other travel costs are supported by this grant.

Q: For the Junior Faculty Development Award, can you clarify the leadership course component? How much should be allocated for this requirement?

A: This requirement can be met in a number of ways – including applying for the ACG Young Physician Leadership Scholars program (deadline July 2022), taking a leadership course offered by GI societies, institutional resources (leadership training programs in medicine), or another institution. The intention is to gain further leadership experience which will help you progress in your career. Up to \$1,600 of your budget may be allocated for this cost.

Examples of courses include:

<https://womensleadership.hmscme.com/>

<https://gi.org/acg-institute/young-physicians/>

Membership:

Q: I just applied for ACG membership. Am I eligible to apply for the Junior Faculty Development Award?

A: For the Junior Faculty Development Awards, you must be an ACG member at the time of application.

Eligibility:

Q: If I have received a Career Award, am I eligible for the Junior Faculty Award?

A: No, ACG's Junior Faculty Development Award is not intended for established investigators. Rather, it is for junior faculty who are seeking to develop careers in clinical GI research. While certain NIH and career grants are specified in the grant announcement, other career awards preclude you from applying.

Q: I completed my Advanced/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship in June 2021 and signed on as an instructor at a university with the intention of pursuing an academic research career. Unfortunately, the university classifies instructors as "exempt staff" and not faculty, and so will not proceed with my application without an exemption or clarification. Can you clarify whether I am eligible for this award?

A: Yes, this award is designed for early-stage investigators, and instructor level applicants can apply. The written criteria were meant to exclude advanced fellows who also sometimes have "instructor" titles (such as advanced IBD fellows or advanced endoscopy fellows). As some institutions appoint junior faculty as instructors, these applicants are appropriate, and this candidate meets the eligibility requirements to apply.

Q: I am submitting the same Junior Faculty Development Award project to another grant-making entity. Is this allowed?

A: An investigator should not submit the same project with minor budget modifications as an ACG Clinical Research Award AND a Junior Faculty Development Award. However, there is not a restriction on submitting the same project to ANOTHER grant-making entity, i.e., other foundations, K-Awards, etc.

Requirements

Q: Can the Institutional Commitment Letter (for the Junior Faculty Award) come from the Chair of the Department of Medicine (my department) instead of my Division Chief?

A: Yes, Division Chief and Division Director are interchangeable for the purposes of the grant application.

Established Investigator Bridge Funding Award Questions

Q: Am I eligible for the ACG Bridge Funding Award?

A: You must meet the following **three** criteria, in addition to what is requested in the RFA:

1. **Are you an ACG member at the time of submission?** If you have just applied for membership but have not yet received confirmation that it has been approved, you are **not** eligible. It typically takes one month to receive membership confirmation, which is separate from the confirmation that your membership application has been received. If your membership has expired/lapsed, contact ACG's Membership Coordinator at 301-263-9000 or at membership@gi.org.
2. **Are you a U.S. or Canadian physician with a faculty appointment and more than 8 years out of fellowship?** This award is not intended for fellows-in-training or early career faculty.
3. **Do you have evidence of recent concluded research funding or new anticipated funding?** Must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Recipient of a recently concluded (within 2 years) NIH R01, VA Merit Award or National Science Award
 - b. Evidence of an ongoing application for renewal for federal funding
 - c. Evidence of new federal funding (scored but not funded research grant) to be re-submitted

Q: I received Career Development funding from my institution, a federal agency or another organization, am I eligible for Bridge funding?

A: No, you must have other funding large (400k for direct costs) grant funding to be eligible for the Bridge funding award. This grant is intended for established investigators, not for those who have only received Career Development funding.

Q: How do I complete the pre-qualification application? Can you explain this requirement?

A: The pre-qualification application must be completed and is accessible at:

<https://bit.ly/33guW6k>. The application is required and confirms that grant seekers possess the unique qualifications for this award type. Similar to a Letter of Intent, this separate pre-qualification is submitted separately from the regular grant system. This will assist the Research Committee with the review of your application, and the Committee will provide a letter of approval that must be included as part of your grant submission. The inclusion of the letter of approval with your online grant submission affirms the eligibility of your application.

ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Q: I just applied for ACG membership. Am I eligible to apply for the ACG research awards?

A: For the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the principal investigator must be either an ACG or ASGE member at the time of the grant application. To look up your ACG member ID number, log into gi.org/membership then click “My ACG/ Log In” from the menu. Enter your email and password to sign in. Select from the Menu **My ACG Membership** to see your membership information. Your Member ID is listed below Date of Birth. To look up your ASGE ID number, visit, www.asge.org click the Member/Account Log in to enter username/password. Once logged in, click on “Welcome, [name]” to go to your account information. The member ID is listed under your name on the landing page.

Q: I am applying for the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy can you clarify the membership requirements?

A: For this award type only, the principal investigator must be either a member of ACG or a member of ASGE at the time of application (this is different than applying for membership). The principal investigator may have membership with ACG, ASGE or both. The grant system will ask for confirmation of Membership and Member ID. NOTE: Indicate the society for which you are providing your membership ID.

Q: For the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, how should applicants request a letter of support from GIQuIC?

A: Contact GIQuIC directly by emailing research@giquic.org

Q: For the cost to utilize GIQuIC for the ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, how is this information calculated?

A: Contact the GIQuIC staff to discuss your scope of work and to receive information on the cost for your project.

NEW Health Equity Research Award

Q: What are the eligibility criteria for this award?

A: For the full eligibility criteria – review the grant announcement. You must be a physician who has a faculty appointment at the time of appointment, or is practicing in a community gastroenterology or hepatology setting (not for fellows-in-training or earlier career physicians). Additionally, you must be an ACG member and practicing in the U.S. or Canada. This award is intended to support projects expanding our understanding of health equity in gastroenterology or hepatology.

Q: For the Health Equity Research Award, do projects which are studying gastrointestinal conditions, such as IBD, meet the eligibility requirements for this RFA?

A: The project must have a principal focus that seeks to accelerate clinical knowledge and further the management of unique GI and hepatology healthcare concerns of the underrepresented, such as racial/ethnic minorities, women and LGBTQ+ populations. For example, how will the proposed study further the knowledge and management of a specific disease state as it relates to health equity? What changes to the delivery of clinical care / education / the healthcare system will the proposed study provide actionable and meaningful data? Research related solely to understanding of a disease state would not qualify.

Medical Resident & Medical Student Research Award Questions

Medical Resident Clinical Research Awards

Q: I am in residency – am I required to be an ACG member?

A: No, membership is not required for Medical Resident applications for this award type. However, your mentor must be an ACG member.

Q: I am applying for the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award. How should my Program Director submit the letter of support, and to whom should it be addressed?

A: The Program Director's letter of support should be included in your application, which is uploaded as a single PDF document within the grant system. This includes the sections listed in the RFA. The letter should be addressed to the ACG Research Committee, which will be considering the applications.

Q: For the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award, what is the purpose of the Program Director's letter?

A: The purpose of this letter is to confirm there will be time within the program to complete the research, the capacity for residents to do a research project, and that the individual is supported by the institution.

Q: For the Medical Resident Clinical Research Award, can two residents apply jointly and split the grant and travel?

A: No, only one Resident PI is allowed per grant.

Medical Student Research Awards

Q: I am a medical student. Am I required to be an ACG member?

A: No, membership is not required for medical students for this award type. ACG does not currently offer medical student membership category. However, your mentor must be an ACG member.

Q: I am an international medical student. Am I eligible for the new Medical Student or Medical Resident Awards?

A: No, these award types are limited to U.S. and Canadian applicants.

Q: I will be a third-year medical student in rotations during the 6 to 10 weeks of the research. Will I need to solely dedicate 6 to 10 weeks to research, or am I able to complete both my required rotations as well as the research?

A: No, this time needs to be fully protected for research, and if awarded, we will need a confirmation letter from the Dean's office. This funding is designed for medical students between their first and second years who have a summer experience of research, or potentially a medical student who could take a research elective block and have fully protected time (such as the summer after their third year for a research block). This cannot be combined with rotational work.

Q: During what months is the medical student research going to occur in 2021?

A: As this is designed for a summer experience for medical students, the project time frame should be during the May through August time period.

Q: At the end of the 6 to 10 weeks, what are you looking for the students to accomplish?

A: Ideally, a student would complete a research project, generate a summary report, and have the ability to present this work at the ACG Annual Meeting. The student would also ideally conclude their project with a submitted manuscript to a scientific journal.

Q: I am a medical student currently in a gap year between my third and fourth years of medical school in a Master of Clinical Research program. Am I eligible for this award based on my gap year status?

A: Yes, you are eligible to apply.