



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2020 Medical Student Research Award



Description

Medical students are our junior colleagues and represent the future of our profession. The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) is offering Clinical Research Awards of up to \$5,000 to students enrolled in medical or doctor of osteopathy degree programs, to support short-term research experiences in gastroenterology and hepatology. **Awards support between 6 and 10 weeks of research, mentored by a member of the ACG.** Stipends include \$500/week of planned research and are to be used to defray living expenses associated with the research. Funds received by the student are not to be used for supplies or other costs associated with the research. Successful applicants are also eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses for attending the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting consistent with the policies of the College. Registration at ACG Annual Scientific Meeting will be covered by ACG (you must still pre-register). Travel costs of up to \$1,500 will be reimbursed after the submission of all requested travel expenses and receipts to the ACG Institute. The ACG Research Committee will determine the number and size of awards.

Objective

The mission of the **ACG Medical Student Research Awards** program is to promote interest in a career in gastroenterology or hepatology in promising students, by funding a mentored research experience in patient-oriented research. Project examples could include case series, quality improvement projects, retrospective cohort studies, meta-analysis, etc. 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, and (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, with direct applicability to clinical care. In general, studies involving animals will not be considered unless the work cannot be done in humans.

Eligibility

Applicants eligible for this mechanism must be actively enrolled in their 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of a medical degree at an accredited school of medicine or college of osteopathic medicine in the U.S. or Canada. While it is anticipated that most applicants will use this mechanism for research funding between their first and second year of medical school, this funding may be used to provide a research experience anywhere the school's curriculum allows. Students are not eligible to receive this award if they are concurrently receiving other funding supporting their research. Additionally, at least **one of the research mentors** for this award **must be an ACG member at the time of submission** of the grant proposal. Successful applicants must agree to acknowledge ACG support in any publications that result from the research and to submit a final report to the ACG Research Committee within 18 months of receipt of funding.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating the merits of an application, 50% of the weight of the score will depend on the scientific merit of the proposal. This 50% will be allocated in the following way: clinical significance (25%), feasibility (including the availability of adequate resources, such as personnel and facilities) (25%), and methods (50%). For purposes of judging the merit of the proposal, the committee will look for a clear announcement of study design, a demonstration that the research team has adequate power and sample size to address the question and has a plan for statistical analysis of the data. For the remaining 50% of the grant scoring, half (25% of total) will be based on the merit of the applicant (as evidenced by previous academic achievements, excellent training, and previous evidence of intellectual rigor), with the other half (25% of total) allocated to the evaluation of the mentoring team. Criteria for evaluation of the mentoring team include the previous mentoring record of the group, the publishing record of the group, and evidence of ability to support a new investigator.

Review Process

The ACG Research Committee will review the grant proposals, using its standardized process.

Deadline

Submit the application online by the **DEADLINE: Friday, December 6, 2019**. Submission instructions and a link to ACG's Online Grant Submission System will be available on the College's Web site at gi.org/research-awards in early September. Applicants will be notified by **March, 2020**. The award period will begin anytime after **May 1, 2020** (project must be completed during the summer).

Travel to ACG Annual Scientific Meeting

The ACG considers attendance at our national meeting a seminal experience for medical students with an interest in gastroenterology and hepatology. For that reason, awardees will be supported to attend this meeting in the year of their award. For those selected for funding this support will include: registration at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting will be covered by ACG (you must still pre-register), travel costs of up to \$1,500 will be reimbursed (e.g. hotel, coach airfare or train, mileage, parking, and/or taxi) after submission of receipts to: research@gi.org. For those selected for funding, further details on travel reimbursement and meeting registration will be provided in the award letter.

Application Overview

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. Format all pages with 1" 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. Type the page number in the upper left hand corner of each page. Limit proposal to 3 pages (excluding references and budget). FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL CAUSE THE GRANT APPLICATION TO BE RETURNED UNREVIEWED.

You will be required to provide the following information through ACG's online grant system:

- **Membership:** You will be required to enter your mentor's ACG member ID number in the online application form.
- **List the Student Investigator and the Faculty Mentor.** The mentor must be a faculty member who agrees to guide the mentee through the project and to be responsible for scientific and administrative oversight of the project. The mentor must be an ACG member at the time of the application. It is expected that for most applications, the mentor will be a faculty member at the home institution of the student.
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB) status** — If available, include the IRB approval letter in the application (section E below). IRB approval is not required for submission, however if the grant proposal is subsequently approved for funding, funds will not be released until the IRB approval letter is received by the ACG. If human subjects will be reimbursed, a copy of the IRB approved consent form is required prior to funding as well.
- **Conflict of interest**— A potential conflict of interest exists when the research involves a device from which any investigator(s) or a company may benefit. It also exists when the 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 share-holder in a company involved in the research. If applicable, select "Yes" and include a detailed letter of explanation (see section G below).

Application Components

A. RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL — Limit to 3 pages (excluding references and budget).

- **Specific Aims** — List as specific aims, the specific objectives for the research you propose to conduct. Consider the following questions: what is the hypothesis to be addressed? If your research is part of a larger project, briefly describe the goals of the overall-all project and how your proposed research is related. You will also want to describe how your project is independent from your mentor's work. Concisely state your specific role in the project, and the outcomes you expect for each specific aim.
- **Background/Significance** — State how the proposed work bears on prior work and indicate how it will extend the boundaries of current knowledge. Explain the importance of the problem motivating this research, here and elsewhere; indicate citations by number in parentheses, corresponding to their order of appearance in the References section.
- **Research Plan** — Based on your specific aims, describe the experiments/studies you intend to perform and the experimental and analytical methods to be used including the inclusion/exclusion criteria for enrollment, the kinds of data that are to be collected, and how these 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 6-10 week timeline identifying anticipated key points in the progress of your research.
- **Mentorship** — Describe the arrangements you have made with your mentor and lab associates (if applicable) for structured guidance.
- **References** — List citations numerically in the order in which they appear in the application (Be judicious in the use of references).

B. MENTOR SHIP RESPONSIBILITIES: The mentor responsibilities should be acknowledged in the faculty mentor letter of support. These include: statement of support for the applicant, certification the project can be completed in 6-10 weeks, agreement to oversee the IRB approval to ensure it is ready for the start of the project, and that proper HIPAA training is implemented. The mentor must agree to oversee the student's required reporting for project.

C. LETTERS OF SUPPORT:

- **Mentor letter** — A letter of support **from the mentor**, of not more than two pages in length, should accompany the grant. Include an assessment of the academic potential of the trainee, an acknowledgment of the mentor's responsibility for the successful completion of the project and the educational experience of the student, and the plan for mentoring the student through successful completion of the project. The letter of support should emphasize those aspects of the applicant's interest and preparedness that relate to his/her suitability to undertake and complete this project in 6-10 weeks. The mentor should describe past experiences that qualifies him/her as an appropriate mentor for this award.

D. MENTOR BIOSKETCH: The mentor should also include his or her NIH Biosketch (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)

E. APPLICANT CURRICULUM VITAE: Applicant should include his or her updated Curriculum Vitae (C.V.) or NIH Biosketch. For sample NIH format see the NIH Web page: grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm.

F. IRB APPROVAL LETTER: Include any available information (see above).

G. CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT: Include, if applicable (see above).

H. APPENDICES: Use (if needed) for data collection forms. Do not use to expand Research Proposal - Section A (above).

Applications Must Be Submitted Electronically

DEADLINE: FRIDAY DECEMBER 6, 2019 | gi.org/research-awards

QUESTIONS Phone: 301-263-9000 or email: research@gi.org