



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
2020 Medical Resident Clinical Research Award
The ACG Future Leaders Program



Description

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) is offering Clinical Research Awards of up to \$10,000 for original clinical research performed by trainees at the **resident level**. The purpose of these awards is to recognize and support promising trainees as they develop a career in clinical research in gastroenterology and hepatology. Additionally, these awards will support attendance at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting where the recipients will be recognized. 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. Awards will be based on the merit of the project, as well as the qualifications of the applicant and her/his mentor(s). The ACG Research Committee will determine the number and size of awards.

Objective

The mission of the ACG Future Leaders program is to promote the study of clinical aspects of gastroenterology and hepatology among promising researchers at the resident trainee level. To be eligible for this award, the project must be patient-oriented research. Project examples could include 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. These grants are not meant to partially fund an established lab or clinical research unit, instead they are designed to be independent projects for the trainees. In addition to funding the proposed research, the successful applicant will also receive complimentary registration at ACG's Annual Scientific Meeting in October and is eligible for reimbursement for travel expenses, consistent with the policies of the American College of Gastroenterology.

Eligibility

Applicants eligible for this mechanism must fulfill one of the following criteria:

- 1) An internal medicine resident in their first or second year of training in the U.S. or Canada
- 2) A pediatrics resident in their first or second year of training in the U.S. or Canada

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, submit a mid-project progress report, and submit a final online 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. The same project should not be submitted for multiple grant types, and will not be considered if this occurs.

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 one-year award period will begin July 1, 2020.

Travel to ACG Annual Scientific Meeting

The ACG considers attendance at our national meeting a seminal experience for residents 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. 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 Principal Investigator and all Co-Investigators,** and indicate their ACG member status (e.g., Trainee Member, Member, Fellow "FACG") and the year in which each investigator joined the ACG. **ACG Trainee Membership is not required,** however all successful applicants will be awarded a one year trainee membership.
- **Mentorship** — At least one mentor must be identified. The mentor must be a faculty member who agrees to guide the mentee through the project and be responsible for scientific and administrative oversight of the project. The mentor must be an ACG member at the time of application.
- **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 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.
- **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 explanation within the grant system, including names of each investigator and their COI.
- **Abstract:** You will be asked to submit an abstract of no more than 350 words in the online system. Use the abstract to summarize the proposed research.

Application Components

A. RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL — Limit to 5 pages (excluding references and budget).

- **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** — No preliminary data are required. However, if either the mentor or the mentee have prior data pertinent to the present application, it should be briefly presented here. References to published work are preferred to detailed descriptions of published manuscripts.
- **Research Plan** — Give the details of the research plan, including the inclusion/exclusion criteria for enrollment, methods to be used, 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. Please provide a timeline for the project, which should be completed prior to the applicant's graduation from the residency program.
- **References** — Include a separate section for references (not included in page limit). Be judicious in the use of references.
- **Budget & Budget Justification** — Include a separate section for the budget (not included in 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. Note that salary support for the Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators will not be provided. Salary support will be provided for other personnel (research nurse, computer programmer) if adequately justified. Support will be provided for supplies and equipment. In general, major equipment acquisitions are not supported. Travel and manuscript preparation costs are not supported. Indirect costs (i.e., university overhead) are not provided.

B. MENTOR BIOSKETCH AND OTHER SUPPORT: Please include the mentor's biosketch in the NIH format. Also, please include the mentor's other support. For other support, list the title, funding agency, total direct costs, dates (including expected dates of notification) of all active awards and pending funding. Use NIH format. (To learn more: grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/othersupport.htm) Indicate whether any scientific or budgetary overlap exists, and if so, indicate how this will be addressed.

C. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

- **Mentor Letter** — A one page letter from the Resident's mentor, should accompany the grant. This letter should include an assessment of the academic potential of the trainee, an acknowledgement of the mentor's responsibility for the successful completion of the project and the educational experience of the resident, and the plan for mentoring the resident through successful completion of the project. The mentor should describe past experience that qualifies him/her as an appropriate mentor for this award.
- **Residency Program Director Letter** — A letter of support from the primary residency program director is required. In that letter, the program director should confirm that the resident will have adequate time and support allocated to allow completion of the project.
- **Additional Letters of Support:** Provide letters from any other collaborators, such as those supplying patient referrals, if applicable.

D. APPLICANT CURRICULUM VITAE: Use NIH format and adhere to the NIH 5-page limit. For sample format see the NIH Web page: grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm. The applicant statement section of the biosketch should explain how receipt of this award fits into the trainee's larger career trajectory.

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

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

G. 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