



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY 2010 JUNIOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Description

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) Junior Faculty Development Awards provide support for junior investigators working toward independent careers in clinical research in gastroenterology or hepatology.

Objective

To assist promising clinical researchers to develop research careers that have a direct bearing on clinical gastrointestinal practice. This includes assistance to a junior faculty investigator to ensure that a major portion of the investigator's time is protected for research. A key mission of the ACG and its Institute for Clinical Research & Education is to fund innovative research awards that are patient-oriented. 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; i.e., have direct applicability to clinical care. In general, studies involving animals will not be considered unless the work cannot be done in humans.

Eligibility

Applicants must be physicians who hold full-time faculty positions at a North American (U.S. or Canada) university, medical school, or other health care institution at the time of funding of the application, should it be approved. Applicants also must be members of the ACG at the time of application. This award is not intended for fellows, but for junior faculty who have demonstrated unusual promise and have some record of accomplishment in research. Established investigators are not eligible. Individuals who hold an NIH grant (e.g., R01, R29, K08, K23), a VA HSR&D Career Development Award, or other career development award are not eligible. Those who are above the assistant professor level or those who have held an academic position for greater than 7 years are not eligible. This award is not intended to support laboratory or animal research projects. Candidates must devote at least 50% of their effort to clinical research related to gastroenterology or hepatology. A letter from the department chair and division chief must certify that the award will provide 50% protected time to the recipient in accordance with the terms of the award.

Awards and Requirements

Awards consist of \$75,000 per year for two years and are to be used for related expenses of the proposed research, including salary, supplies and equipment, but excluding travel. University overhead costs (i.e., indirect costs) are not allowed. Awardees must file a progress report, including division chief certification, on completion of the first year. A final progress report, that includes a financial statement is required on completion of the second year. All publications arising from work funded by this award must acknowledge support of an ACG Junior Faculty Development Award. Awardees are required to report to the Research Committee in person after Year 1 of the grant, and up to \$1500 of the award is reserved for travel costs related to attending the ACG Annual Meeting to make this report. Awardees are required to submit their work for presentation at the ACG Annual Scientific Meeting during the final year of the award.

Institutional Commitment

There must be a strong commitment from the candidate's division to support the candidate by protecting time for research and providing adequate access to needed resources, such as patients, endoscopic facilities, computers. These commitments must be clearly outlined in the letter from the candidate's division chief. The letter must certify that the award is being used to provide protected time to the recipient in accord with the terms of the award (see below). In addition, the candidate must have a letter of support from his/her preceptor, who will mentor him/her in the research (see below).

Selection Criteria

Awardees will be selected based on feasibility, scientific and clinical significance of the research proposal, attributes of the candidate including potential for independence, a well defined career plan based on the project(s) proposed, and strength of the institutional environment and commitment, including a well developed mentoring plan by the preceptor and statement from the division chief assuring 50% protected time if the proposal is funded. In general, the proposed research should be a series of linked projects developed around a common theme. The description of proposed projects should provide enough detail to assess the scientific merit, feasibility and analytic strategy. In evaluating the merits of an application, the Committee will consider two categories of criteria, each comprising 50% of the overall assessment: 1) Project Merit and 2) Individual Credentials/Institutional Support. The Project Merit component includes scientific and clinical significance (25%), feasibility (including availability of adequate resources, including personnel and facilities) (25%), and methods (50%). Methods includes the availability of preliminary data (25%), study design (50%), and power, sample size and statistical analysis (25%). The remaining 50% of the Committee's assessment is based upon the Applicant's Credentials, Institutional Environment and Mentor Credentials and Commitment.

Deadline

Submit the application through ACG's online grant application system by the **DEADLINE Friday, December 11, 2009**. Submission instructions will be available on the College's Web site at <http://www.acg.gi.org/physicians/research.asp> in early October. The award period will begin July 1, 2010.

Application Overview

Applicants are required to submit the following elements for their application. Documents can be uploaded through the online system, but must be formatted using 1" margins and a font no smaller than 11 point. For uploaded documents, put your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right hand corner of each page.

A. Research Proposal Limit to 8 pages (excluding references). Outline the proposed research. In general this should be a series of linked projects developed around a common theme. Please include:

Specific Aims — Provide a clear description of each project's objectives. What are the hypotheses to be addressed? What are the immediate objectives? What are the ultimate objectives? How will the proposed research help the candidate reach his/her overall career goals?

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.

Research Plan — Give the details of the research plan, including the inclusion/exclusion criteria for enrollment, methods, the kinds of data that are to be collected, and how these data will be analyzed. Provide detailed sample size estimates.

References — Create a separate document to upload references. Be judicious in the use of references.

Budget — Create a separate budget document to upload. Indicate how the funds will be allocated and justify each budget item. Salary support for the candidate will be provided. Salary support will be provided for other personnel (research nurse, computer programmer) if adequately justified. Support will also 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.

Curriculum Vitae — Provide these for the candidate, division chief, and preceptor. Use NIH format and adhere to the NIH 4-page limit. For sample format see the NIH Web page <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.doc>

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 candidate, Division Chief, and preceptor. Use NIH format.

Candidate's Statement — Create a document in which you describe the anticipated benefits of the award to your career development. Limit to 2 pages.

Letter of Commitment from Division Chief — This letter should indicate strong commitment from the division to support the candidate by protecting time for research and for providing adequate research facilities. The letter must certify that the award will provide 50% protected time to the recipient in accordance with the terms of the award. The letter should summarize the candidate's attributes and assess the impact of the training program on his/her career development. This letter should also indicate that the requirements of the sponsoring institution in applying for and receiving such funds have been met. Limit to 2 pages.

Letter from Preceptor — The preceptor is the individual who will mentor the candidate in her/her research and assist in career development. This letter should provide an overview of plans for the career development of the candidate. It should also state that the preceptor is prepared to devote the necessary time and effort to training and supervising the candidate. Limit to 2 pages.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

DEADLINE DATE: Friday December 11, 2009

Details on Electronic Submission Available Early October 2009

<http://www.acg.gi.org/physicians/research.asp>

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