FUND FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN IMAGING (FCRI) GRANT

2023 Request for Applications (RFA)

PURPOSE

The FCRI Grant is designed for unique one-time investments in the most compelling, innovative research ideas that ultimately lead to the advancement of the practice of radiology.

AWARD

Funding for 20% FTE of PI effort (NIH salary cap, includes fringe + benefits) will be awarded; the ACR will develop the rest of the project budget, with funding needed to be sufficient to support ACR staff and infrastructure. Each project will be awarded for 12 months, with the option for a no cost extension to be requested. Funding is limited for up to two (2) PIs per project.

NATURE OF PROJECTS

Projects are typically pilot or seed grant-type projects that test a new idea or help support a new area or direction of clinical research in radiology. These grants generally address a specific hypothesis, and generate preliminary data that could be used to justify or strengthen subsequent comprehensive applications to national peer-reviewed funding agencies. Successful applications will require overall project sustainability and collaboration with the ACR. The project must outline a plan for future growth in science and funding. ACR is welcoming projects related to the domains of our Research Committees: Molecular Imaging, Pediatric Imaging, Cardiothoracic radiology, Neuroradiology, Head Injury, and Interventional Radiology.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be current, in good standing members of the American College of Radiology. Individuals or dual PIs may submit proposals. Grants are available to full-time faculty and trainees with an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree in educational institutions and private practices within the United States. Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and subsequently be invited to submit a full application.

LETTER OF INTENT AND APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

To be invited to apply, applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by 5pm ET on January 31, 2023 via email to Research@acr.org. Each LOI must be completed using the template attached to this RFA. Incomplete LOIs or those submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

Once the appropriate Research Committee provides project approval via review of the LOI, applicants will receive a letter inviting them to submit a full application via email to Research@acr.org by 5pm ET on May 5, 2023. Applications not submitted by this time or that are incomplete will not be considered.
REVIEW PROCESS

Following an ACR staff administrative review, project concepts in the form of a Letter of Intent (LOI) are then submitted to and vetted by Research Committee Chairs. All LOI applicants are notified of a decision and Chair-approved projects are invited to submit a complete clinical project application to the ACR. ACR staff conducts a preliminary review of submitted applications, and confirms they are complete and meet eligibility criteria. Feasible, eligible applications advance to the members of the FCRI Research Selection Committee (RSC), which includes ACR’s Chief Research Officer, ACR Research Commission Chair, and a board member. The RSC reviews eligible applications and makes recommendations on projects to fund. Applicants will be notified of the results of the RSC review process. Awarded applicants will be required to participate in a collaborative design process to further refine the design of the study and resources required. The design phase is expected to be completed over a period of approximately 1-2 months and is a critical step toward ensuring the success of the project. Final project design will be presented to ACR Foundation Board for approval to award the required funds to the awarded applicant.

Funding recommendations may be based on impact, feasibility, funding growth potential or other factors the RSC deems significant. The review process and scoring guidelines are modeled on the NIH scoring system.

1. **Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? Does the project align with the ACR strategic priorities?
2. **Investigators:** Are the investigators capable of performing the research described? Do they have the needed skills and expertise?
3. **Innovation:** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
4. **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Is the research approach rigorous?
5. **ACR Collaboration***: Is there suitable collaborative nature with the ACR; specifically, use and description of use of the ACR clinical trial services and infrastructure?

*ACR capabilities attached to this RFA to be used as a reference. Contact ACR Staff at Research@acr.org with any questions about ACR expertise and infrastructure available to proposed projects.

6. **Likelihood of future funding:** Assess description of the likelihood that the pilot data generated from this project could be used in application of federal or non-ACR foundation funding. Assess the likelihood of translation of this project into a larger funded project or trial.

In addition, the RSC will take the following factors into consideration:

- **Project Period.** Reviewers will consider whether the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.
- **Letters of Support.** Letters of support with collaborators will be taken into consideration; at least one is required.
PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon execution of a fully executed grant agreement, awarded funds are transmitted to the institution(s) for support of the PI(s) and other funds, if appropriate. Each project will be awarded for 12 months, with the option for a no cost extension to be requested.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The application must contain a detailed research plan for the planned research.

A complete application will include a Research Narrative limited to ten (10) pages, not including a one (1) page Executive Summary, Reference List, Letter(s) of Support and NIH Biosketches or CVs for Key Personnel.

The Research Narrative must include the following elements:

1. Title of the Activity/Project
2. Abstract
3. Background and Significance
4. Research Strategy
   o Specific Aims
   o Methods
   o Analysis Plan
5. PI Capabilities
6. Institutional Capabilities, if applicable
7. Project Timeline, including brief descriptions of major milestones
8. Financial Sustainability Plan: Describe plans for funding future project phases or expansion at conclusion of FCRI project period.
9. ACR Collaboration: Describe how this project will leverage ACR resources

Letter(s) of Support:

At minimum, include one (1) letter of support from the applicant’s Department Chair. Additional letters may be submitted at the applicant’s discretion.

Biosketches: NIH Biosketch for all Key Personnel or CV if Biosketch is not available.

Reference List

Format: 8.5x11 page size, at least 1.5 spacing, 1” margins, Times Roman font, 10 point size.

The application must be submitted electronically via email to Research@acr.org by 5 pm ET on May 5, 2023. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

NOTE: Applicants with questions are encouraged to reach out to ACR staff using Research@acr.org during the application period.
GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

1. Research Narrative limited to ten (10) pages, not including the Reference List
2. A one (1) page Executive Summary,
3. Letter(s) of Support
4. NIH Biosketches or CVs for Key Personnel

When uploading your application elements to Research@acr.org, you must save your files using the naming convention below.

2023_FCRI_<Element Name>_<PI First Initial Last Name>

- 2023_FCRI_Research Narrative_J Doe
- 2023_FCRI_Exec Summ_J Doe
- 2023_FCRI_LoS_J Doe
- 2023_FCRI.CV_J Doe