FUND FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN IMAGING (FCRI) GRANT

2021 Request for Applications

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
Total available funding up to $400,000. More than one proposal may be funded but the total for all awards is limited to $400,000. We invite applications up to $200,000 total budget (including indirects, capped at 15%).

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 collaboration with ACR and overall project sustainability. The project must utilize ACR staff expertise or systems and must outline a plan for future growth in science and funding.

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must be current, in good standing members of the American College of Radiology. Individuals or groups may submit proposals. Grants are available to full-time faculty and trainees with an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree in educational institutions within the United States. Applications must have support from the Chair of an ACR Research Committee*. ACR has research committees or institutes in the fields of Radiation Oncology, Oncologic Imaging, Molecular Imaging, Pediatric Imaging, Cardiothoracic radiology, Neuroradiology, Interventional Radiology, and Head Injury.

*ACR Staff will facilitate introductions of grant applicants to ACR Research Committee Chairs for a Letter of Support (LOS). Contact ACR Staff at Research@acr.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
Applicants are to submit their complete application via email to Research@acr.org.

Applications must be received by ACR by 5 pm ET on January 13, 2022. Applications not submitted by this time or that are incomplete will not be considered.
REVIEW PROCESS

Submitted applications are first reviewed by ACR staff to confirm they are complete and meet eligibility criteria. Complete, eligible applications advance to the members of the FCRI Research Selection Committee (RSC). The RSC reviews eligible applications and makes recommendations on projects to fund. Applications are reviewed and ranked in priority order. Applicants will be notified of the results of the RSC review process. Applicants submitting the highest ranked proposals that fit within the RSC funding allowance for this cycle will be required to participate in a collaborative design process to further refine the design of the study, resources required, and budget. The design phase is expected to be completed over a period of approximately 2 months and is a critical step toward ensuring the success of the project. Final project design and budget will be presented to ACR Foundation Board for approval to award the required funds.

Funding recommendations may be based on impact, feasibility, funding growth potential, ACR collaboration degree 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. **Use of ACR Infrastructure**: Is there suitable use and description of use of the ACR expertise and infrastructure?

*Contact ACR Staff at Research@acr.org to learn about ACR 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:

- **Budget and Project Period**: Reviewers will consider whether the budget and 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 two are required.
PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon submission of a fully executed grant agreement, awarded funds are transmitted to the institution(s) for support of the grant recipient(s) and the project. The project period is 12 months, and applicants can request an extension of an additional 12 months with no additional funding.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The application must contain a detailed research plan and a budget for the planned research with all budget needs indicated.

A complete application will include a Research Narrative limited to ten (10) pages, not including a one (1) page Executive Summary, Reference List, Letters of Support, Budget 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

Letters of Support:

At minimum, include two (2) letters of support with one being from the applicant’s Department Chair and another from the project’s corresponding ACR Research Committee 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

Budget: A project budget is required and must account for all that is necessary to run the project. The budget should include funds for ACR staff expending direct effort on the research project. Budget expenses can be
used for materials and supplies, equipment, services, travel expenses, consulting expenses, salary support for staff working on the proposed project, and publication costs.

To maximize direct funding to research and project collaborators, indirect cost reimbursement is capped at 15% of direct costs on projects funded through this mechanism. This indirect cost rate is consistent with ACR policy for other similar grant funded programs.

Applicants must work with their Research or Contracts Office to create their project budget. This ensures its accuracy and completeness.

**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 January 13, 2022. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

**NOTE:** Applicants with questions or those wishing to take advantage of advice from ACR’s Research Development team 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. Letters of Support
4. Budget
5. 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.

2021_FCRI_<Element Name>_<PI First Initial Last Name>

- 2021_FCRI_Research Narrative_J Doe
- 2021_FCRI_Exec Summ_J Doe
- 2021_FCRI_LoS_J Doe
- 2021_FCRI_Budget_J Doe
- 2021_FCRI_CV_J Doe