

National Innovative Research Grant

Award Activation: January 1, 2012

Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

Objective

To support highly innovative, high-risk, high-reward research that could ultimately lead to critical discoveries or major advancements that will accelerate the field of cardiovascular and stroke research.

Research deemed innovative may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. The Innovative Research Grant (IRG) promotes new ideas; therefore, proposals need not include preliminary data. However, a solid rationale for the work must be provided. Proposed work should not be the next logical step of previous work, but should have a high probability of revealing new avenues of investigation, if successful. This program aims to provide pilot or seed funding that should lead to successful competition for additional funding beyond the pilot period.

The principal investigator (PI) is responsible for clearly and explicitly articulating the project's innovation and the potential impact on cardiovascular and stroke research.

Science Focus

Research broadly related to cardiovascular function and disease and stroke, or to related clinical, basic science, bioengineering or biotechnology, and public health problems, including multidisciplinary efforts.

Disciplines

Proposals are encouraged from all basic disciplines as well as epidemiological, behavioral, community and clinical investigations that bear on cardiovascular and stroke problems.

Target Audience

At the time of application, the applicant must:

- Hold an M.D., Ph.D., D.O. or equivalent doctoral degree.
- Meet institutional requirements for grant submission.

Eligibility for the Innovative Research Grant is not restricted based upon experience level or seniority. Seniority will not be used as a criterion in evaluating an application's merit.

At the time of award activation, must:

- Have a faculty (or faculty equivalent) appointment. This award is not intended for postdoctoral fellows or others in research training positions.

Citizenship

At time of application, must have one of the following designations:

- U.S. citizen
- Permanent resident
- Pending permanent resident. Applicants must have applied for permanent residency and have filed form I-485 with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and have received authorization to legally remain in the United States (having filed an Application for Employment Form I-765).
- E3 - specialty occupation worker
- H-1B Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation
- J-1 Visa-exchange visitor. Note: You must have an H-1B or equivalent by the award activation date. If the H-1B or equivalent is not received by the award activation date, the award must be relinquished.
- O-1 Visa - temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences
- TN Visa - NAFTA professional

Awardee must meet American Heart Association citizenship criteria throughout the duration of the award.

Location of Work

National programs are open to all affiliates.

American Heart Association research awards are limited to non-profit institutions, including medical, osteopathic and dental schools, veterinary schools, schools of public health, pharmacy schools, nursing schools, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals and other non-profit institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research.

Applications will not be accepted for work with funding to be administered through any federal institution or work to be performed by a federal employee, except for Veterans Administration employees.

Applicants are not required to reside in the United States for any period before applying for American Heart Association funding.

Exception: An investigator may be allowed to request approval to conduct work outside the United States temporarily.

Budget/Annual Award Amount

Salary/Fringe: up to 50% of the total annual award amount may be requested for salary/fringe of the PI, collaborating investigator(s), and others with faculty appointments.

Indirect: not to exceed 10 percent (up to \$6,818 included within total annual amount).

Project Support: for project-related expenses such as salaries of essential technical personnel, supplies, equipment, volunteer subject costs, publication costs.

Travel is not to exceed \$3,000/yr; international travel must have prior AHA approval.

Total Annual Award Amount: \$75,000

Award Duration: Two years

Abbreviated Proposal

The Innovative Research Grant's abbreviated proposal format is not the same as those used for traditional grants-in-aid. The text for the proposal is limited to five pages (does not include literature/references cited).

Peer Review Criteria

To judge the merit of the application, reviewers will comment on the following criteria. Please be sure that you fully address these in your proposal.

- 1. Innovation:** Assessment of project's innovative nature should account for 40 percent of the overall score.
Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms and present an innovative hypothesis or address a critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?
- 2. Significance:** Assessment of project's significance to the field of cardiovascular or stroke research should account for 20 percent of the overall score.

Does this study address an important problem directly related to cardiovascular disease or stroke? If the aims of the application are achieved, will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be significantly impacted? Will there be an effect on the concepts, methods, and technologies that drive this field?

3. **Approach:** Assessment of project's approach should account for 20 percent of the overall score.

Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?

4. **Investigator:** Assessment of principal investigator should account for 10 percent of the overall score.

Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?

5. **Environment:** Assessment of scientific environment should account for 10 percent of the overall score.

Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Does the proposal demonstrate that resources will be available to complete the project? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

Applicants should never contact reviewers regarding their applications. Discussing scientific content of an application or attempting to influence review outcome will constitute a conflict of interest in the review. Reviewers must notify the AHA if an applicant contacts them.

Restrictions

- An applicant may submit one National IRG application and one other National application per deadline.
- The IRG may be held concurrently with an Association Fellow-to-Faculty Transition Award, Clinical Research Program Award, Beginning Grant-in-Aid, Scientist Development Grant, Established Investigator Award or Grant-in-Aid. The Innovative Research Grant is non-renewable, but may be held more than once by a single investigator provided the projects are separate in nature and concept.

- Awards are not intended to supplement or duplicate currently funded work.
- The project submitted can have no scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded work.
- The extent to which the focus of the project is related to CVD and/or stroke is an important factor that will be considered. However, the applicant is not required to be a part of cardiovascular/stroke-oriented laboratory, clinic or department.
- Postdoctoral fellows and others in research training positions are not eligible, unless they obtain a faculty appointment by the award activation date.