

# Competitive Catalyst Renewal Grant

## Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be one of the eighteen Principal Investigators of the AHA Discovery or AHA Pathway Grant programs.

## Key Dates

RFA Posted:	January 5, 2017
Application Deadline:	March 1, 2017
AHA Peer Review:	April, 2017
Notification of Awards:	April 15, 2017
Award Start Date:	May 1, 2017

## Award Objectives and Characteristics

The purpose of the Competitive Catalyst Renewal is to provide an opportunity for the most highly meritorious Discovery Grant and Pathway Grant awardees to catalyze their research and expand the scientific impact of the work. Applicants must provide a detailed plan of how their research will further precision cardiovascular medicine and how any developed tools will benefit the overall scientific community on the AHA Precision Medicine Platform.

Duration: One year. The Competitive Catalyst Renewal Grant will not consider requests for no-cost extensions.

Award Amount: The maximum budget amount an applicant may request is \$250,000. The Institute Executive Committee reserves the right to determine the final award amount for competitive projects based on need and potential impact.

Number of Awards: Two grants will be awarded.

### Appropriate Budget Items:

- Salary and fringe benefits of the Principal Investigator, collaborating investigator(s), and other participants with faculty appointments.
- Project-related expenses, such as salaries of technical personnel essential to the conduct of the project, supplies, equipment, travel, and publication costs in accordance with institutional and AHA policies.
- 10% institutional indirect costs may be claimed by one institution.

The Awardee will be responsible for overseeing the total budget for his/her grant. If awarded, the principal investigator and the institution assume an obligation to expend grant funds for the research

purposes set forth in the application and in accordance with all regulations and policies governing the grant programs of the American Heart Association.

Interim Assessment: Awardees must report progress on a written bi-annual basis. Progress may take the form of written reports, video conferencing, phone calls, and/or face to face visits. Reporting will be focused on achievement of stated milestones as indicated in the project timeline.

Final Assessment: Upon completion, awardee will be evaluated on the extent to which the project has addressed the selected question. Assessment will occur in a format of the AHA's choosing.

### **Application Submission**

Applications must be submitted using the AHA's online submission portal available at [Grants@Heart](#). The application requires the following documents.

1. Final progress report from Discovery Grant (2 page limit) or Interim progress report from Pathway Grant (2 page limit)
2. Research Proposal (5 page limit, not including literature cited)  
Include the following information:
  - Explain how the initial grant objectives were met, the initial grant's contribution to science, and how a Competitive Catalyst Renewal Grant would benefit the scientific impact of this study.
  - What is the significance of this area of study? What approach and methods are being used?
  - Hypothesis, expected outcomes, deliverables, timeline;
  - Innovation of science and/or technology;
  - A detailed plan of how the proposed research and tools will strengthen the AHA Precision Medicine Platform (preliminary data is preferred);
  - Proposed areas of collaboration with other Institute grantees, if applicable. Collaboration is highly encouraged.
3. Literature Cited (no page limit)  
List all literature citations for your Research Plan. There is no page limit for literature references cited.

Citation references should be limited to relevant and current literature; be concise and select only those references cited in the Research Plan. Standard abbreviations are acceptable with two exceptions: full titles and full paging must be provided.

Each reference must list:

- Authors in the same order as they appear on the paper (list all or up to 15)
  - Title
  - Name of the book or journal
  - Volume number
  - Page numbers
  - Year of publication
4. Biosketch (5 page limit)  
*Use of the NIH biographical sketch is required for AHA programs.* Use the NIH **General** Biographical Sketch Format.

## Peer Review Criteria

*An applicant is prohibited from contacting AHA peer reviewers. This is a form of scientific misconduct and will result in removal of the application from funding consideration and institutional notification of misconduct.*

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.

**Impact on AHA Institute for Cardiovascular Precision Medicine Mission:** How successful was the applicant in meeting the Challenge or Pathway Grant program objectives with the initial AHA funding? What is the justification for continuing the project in relation to and support of the mission of the AHA Institute for Precision Cardiovascular Medicine? How will continued funding accelerate a high impact project and test a measurable improvement in return on investment?

**Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, analyses, milestones and goals in the detailed research plan adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned, feasible and appropriate to address the proposed research question? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? How will the team leverage and strengthen the AHA Precision Medicine Platform through this research? How will the team consider collaboration with other grantees? (highly encouraged)

**Innovation:** How will this opportunity accelerate the applicant's research and expand the scientific impact of the work. Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools or technologies to address the proposed research question?

## Relevant Policies

Open Science Policies:

**Public Access:** The AHA requires that all journal articles resulting from AHA funding be made freely available in PubMed Central within 12 months of publication. It will be the responsibility of the author to ensure this occurs.

**Open Data:** Any research data that is needed for independent verification of research results must be made freely and publicly available in an AHA approved repository within 12 months of the end of the funding period (and any no-cost extension). The programs that are currently exempt include Undergraduate Fellowships, Medical Student Research Fellowships, Pre-doctoral Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Mentor/AHA Mentee Awards and Mentored Clinical and Population Research Awards. Please see AHA's Open Science Policy:

[http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/AwardsPolicies/UCM\\_461225\\_Open-Science-Policy-Statements-for-AHA-Funded-Research.jsp](http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/AwardsPolicies/UCM_461225_Open-Science-Policy-Statements-for-AHA-Funded-Research.jsp)

The projects described can have no scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded work. Any inventions, intellectual property, and patents resulting from this funding are governed by the AHA Patent, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Policy. The applicant/awardee and institution are responsible for compliance with all American Heart Association research award policies and guidelines for the duration of any awards they may receive. Go to Policies Governing All Research Awards to review AHA policies at

[http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/AwardsPolicies/UCM\\_320256\\_Policies-Governing-All-Research-Awards.jsp](http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/AwardsPolicies/UCM_320256_Policies-Governing-All-Research-Awards.jsp)

## **Award Selection and Other Policies**

Final funding recommendations will be approved by the AHA Institute Executive Committee. For all other relevant policies and Frequently Asked Questions, please see the [Application Information website](#).