



# ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program

## Request for Proposal



### 1. Overview Information

The European Society for Pediatric Nephrology (ESPN) and The Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC) have created a new joint research program to provide pilot program funding for researchers from each organization to conduct research on shared projects.

The decision to create a joint research program was born out of a desire to promote greater partnership and collegiality between Pediatric Nephrologists in Europe and North America and to improve the care of children with kidney disease through collaboration and research. Proposed projects may be clinical, basic, or translational research in design. The ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program will fund two \$10,000 awards in 2022. The award period to complete the proposed project will be 1 year (maximum up to 2 years). In particular, applications from early career researchers are encouraged.

### 2. Key Dates and Deadlines

Release of Request for Proposal (RFA): February 15, 2022

Deadline to receive application: May 1, 2022 (11:59 pm CET)

Start Date: July 1, 2022

Award Date: Awardee notified at the General Assembly of ESPN Meetings in even years of the award and at the Business Meeting of PNRC Fall meetings in odd years of the award.

### 3. Eligibility Information

Applicants must be active members in good standing of their respective organizations, the ESPN or the PNRC. A letter of support from a research mentor (where applicable) may be requested.

Members of the Joint Research Steering Committee and members of the respective board of directors or ESPN council are not eligible for grants.

### 4. Application Information

The ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program will accept projects, which may be clinical, basic, or translational research in design.

#### **4.1. Requesting an Application Package**

The application forms package specific to this opportunity is accessible through this link <https://pnrconsortium.org/espn/home>

#### **4.2. Components of the application**

##### **4.2(a) Face Page (see attached word document):**

The face page should include the Title, Names and designations of the ESPN-PI and PNRC-PI, their co-investigators and a personal statement describing their research interests and the impact of how the proposed collaborative research will advance the field (200 words maximum for each PI).

##### **4.2(b) Research Plan**

The application should be formatted using Arial Font no smaller than 11 point. One-inch margins should be used throughout, with no headers or footers. Paragraphs may be single or double spaced, with double spacing between paragraphs. The research project description should not exceed 2000 - words excluding references (this is ~3-4 pages of Arial Font 11 point with one-half inch margins with single spaced paragraphs).

We suggest the PIs follow the standard grant structure of: (a) Specific Aims, (b) Background and Significance, (c) Preliminary Studies/Evidence of Capability, (d) Research Design and Methods, and (e) Data and Statistical Analysis.

The References cited has no limit, and if needed PI can follow the JAMA format for the publications cited in the Research Plan.

##### **4.2(c) Budget and Budget Justification (see attached word document):**

The total grant award will be up to a maximum of \$10,000 for a period of one year. The proposed project should ideally be completed in 1 year, but Principal Investigators can request up to a maximum of 2 years in the initial submission if the scope of the proposed project should need a longer time frame (please provide justification for this in the budget page). Funded projects can potentially be extended as a no cost extension based on the progress made, and at the discretion of the ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Steering Committee for an additional year. The maximum period for the award will be 2 years. All unspent money at end of 2 years must be returned to their respective organizations.

The award will allow support for technician/ research assistant salary, supplies/resources, cell, animal or human studies, funds for travel to further collaborations and/or enable a presentation at international professional meetings. Unfortunately, due to the limited funds available, no salary support for either Co-Principal Investigator will be permitted.

The funds will be distributed based on the need of the project and does not mandate a 50:50 distribution between the ESPN:PNRC Co-Principal Investigators. The distribution of the funds to the respective sites must be specified in the budget and budget justification. Each organization will distribute the awarded funds to their respective awardees, and all distributions will conform with relevant regulations in the North American and the European continents.

Awards will not cover any indirect costs or cost for infrastructure.

#### **4.2(d) Biosketch/ Resume**

ESPN: The ESPN PI should submit his/her 2-page curriculum vitae as per their ESPN Research Grant guidelines.

PNRC: The PNRC PI should submit his/her 5-page NIH Biosketch as per their NIH guidelines.

#### **4.2(e) Additional Documents**

(i) Letter of Support from research mentor (where applicable): A letter of support from the research mentor is recommended if the ESPN or PNRC PI is within the first 5 years as a faculty member.

(ii) Protection of Human subjects/ Animals/ Stem Cell research: The ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program will require that the PIs adhere to their respective IRB/ IACUC/ IBC and other regulatory agencies that oversee and regulate these studies, and follow the guidelines regarding International Studies. If the PIs feel that these regulations will have an important negative impact on the success of their proposal, it is recommended that they address these issues at the time of submission, and provide the necessary justification as part of the proposal submission. Please provide 1-2 paragraphs to address key issues. If the review committee feels these issues need to be clarified and addressed, then documentation and clarifications will be requested prior to award being disbursed. No page limit.

(iii) Data sharing (including genomic data), sharing of bio-samples (serum, urine, DNA, mRNA, etc.), and Consent: These issues may have direct impact on the success of the proposal. It is recommended that PIs address and initiate work on these issues at the time of submission. It is not possible for the committee to be knowledgeable of all the local rules and policies that regulate these issues at each institute within the ESPN and PNRC consortiums. Please provide the necessary justification at the time of the submission of the proposal (1-2 paragraphs). If the review committee feels these issues need to be clarified and addressed,

additional documentation and clarifications will be requested prior to awards being disbursed. No page limit.

(iv) Vertebrate Animals: Description of how animal subjects will be treated as per the guidelines overseeing these studies at their local institute/ country. Please use the Vertebrate Animal Page for PNRC PI and institutional document for ESPN PI depending on the institute where the animal experiments are being performed.

## **5. Submission**

Please submit the completed application online at the PNRC-ESPN online web portal. Applicants must read and follow all application instructions in the RFA. Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be rejected.

## **6. Review Process**

All applications will be scored and ranked together by the ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program Steering Committee using a standardized form. This form will cover the following aspects that shall be scored upon:

- Innovative potential Contribution to improved collaboration between ESPN and PNRC
- Scientific significance/ /relevance to clinical practice
- Statistical design
- Problem definition, Hypothesis and Aims
- Work plan
- Investigator profile: potential to further career development
- Cost/benefit and feasibility in the proposed time
- Ethical profile

Reviewers will score each category listed above. Scoring will be combined to generate an overall final score for each application. In case of equal sums of multiple applications, the reviewer can give a personal recommendation for ranking. Reviewers are also requested to support their scoring by providing short written comments on the strengths and limitations of the applications in each scoring category.

Scores and rankings of all reviewers will be summarized by the ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program Committee, and the rank list presented to the ESPN and PNRC Board for final approval.

All applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will receive a written confirmation and reviewers' comments after the awardees have been declared at the General Assembly of

ESPN Meeting in even years of awards and at the Business Meeting of PNRC Fall meetings in odd years of the award.

## **7. Reports of Funded Projects**

The Co-PIs of funded projects will be required to provide written progress reports after 6 months and then annually until the project is complete. Reports will be presented to the ESPN and PNRC Boards. At the completion of the project a final project report is requested which should list publications and financial details of how the grant was used.

Funded projects are requested to acknowledge ESPN-PNRC Joint Research Program funding with indication of the grant number in any publication emerging from the project for 5 years after initial funding.