NephCure - PNRC
Pediatric Glomerular Disease
Accelerator Grant Program

Request for Applications

Overview

The "NephCure and PNRC Pediatric Glomerular Disease Accelerator Grant Program: *Delivering Cures in a Decade"* was born out of a desire to promote and support bench, translational, and clinical research focused on pediatric glomerular disease. This program is intended to stimulate novel collaborative research within the pediatric nephology community that will lead to measurable evidence-based improvements in the care of children with glomerular disease. This NephCure-PNRC collaborative effort will create the Pediatric Glomerular Accelerator Grant Program to fund research in the years 2022-2024.

Eligibility

- Grant applications must include investigators from at least two different institutions.
- Grant applications are open to Pediatric Nephrologists or Ph.D. Pediatric Nephrology Scientists with at least 50% appointments at medical or research institutions where the work will be performed.
- All applicant investigators must be Full Members of the PNRC prior to submission of the grant application.

Awards

- Proposed projects may be basic science or clinical/translational research in design.
- Total grant awards will vary as funds and needs dictate.
- This program will fund multiple $10,000-$20,000 (Small Awards) and $50,000-$75,000 (Medium Awards) awards each year until at least 2024.
- Two awards will be given in each category: Basic Science and Clinical/Translational
- Each award can support eligible research activities that include research supplies needed to accomplish the research project, salary support for investigator research effort and/or staff research effort, and travel to present research results at national and/or international professional meetings.
- Support for equipment will not be allowed.
- Indirect rates will be capped at 8% and must be included in the total budget allotted for each award level.

Scientific Review Committee

The scientific review committee will be comprised of 5 reviewers, including 1 reviewer recommend by the grant funder. The Scientific Review Committee will review applications based on criteria set forth in the RFA, and then score and rank each application. These recommendations will then be forwarded to the Advisory Review Committee for final determinations of award funding in each year.

Advisory Review Committee

The Advisory Review Committee will be comprised of 6 members, 3 from the PNRC and 3 from NephCure. The purpose of the Advisory Review Committee is to assure the awardees' proposed research adheres to the scope and purpose of the grant program. The Advisory Review Committee will review and make final funding decisions on all applications. One member from each organization will co-chair the Advisory Review Committee.

Award Announcements

All awardees will be announced at the Fall PNRC Members meeting each year. After the announcement, all applicants will receive written notification of their funding status, along with reviewer comments.

Reporting

The Co-Chairs of each committee will report at least annually to their respective organizations regarding the activities of the Pediatric Glomerular Accelerator Grant Program.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- Release of Request for Proposal (RFA): February 29, 2024
- Deadline to receive application: June 21, 2024 (11:59 PM EST)
- Awards announced: September 2024
- Award Date: Awardee notified at the Business Meeting of PNRC Fall meetings.

Requesting an Application Package

The application forms package specific to this opportunity is accessible through this link **acceleratorgrant@pnrconsortium.org**

Components of the Application

Face Page **(see attached word document):**

The face page should include the Title, Names and designations of the 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).

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 6 pages or 2000 words, excluding references (this is ~3-4 pages of Arial Font 11 point with one- inch margins with single spaced paragraphs). Any number of figures and tables can be included in the research plan but would contribute toward the page limit. Smaller font sizes are allowable in figures, diagrams, and tables, as long as they are legible when the page is viewed at 100%.

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.

Budget and Budget Justification (see attached word document):

The proposed project should ideally be completed in 1 year, but Principal Investigators can request up to a maximum of 3 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). Indirect costs are restricted to 8% and must be included in the total award amount.

Funded projects can potentially be extended as a no cost extension based on the progress made, and at the discretion of the Advisory Review Committee for an additional year. The maximum period for the award will be 1 year. All unspent money at end of 2 years must be returned.

The award will allow support for investigator/research assistant salary, supplies/resources, cell, animal or human studies.

The funds will be distributed based on the need of the project. For collaborative projects, the distribution of the funds to the respective sites must be specified in the budget and budget justification. All distributions will conform with relevant regulations in the United States.

Biosketch/ Resume
The PI should submit a NIH Biosketch as per NIH guidelines (5 page limit).

Supporting Documents

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

- Protection of Human subjects/ Animals/ Stem Cell research: The 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.

- <u>Data Sharing (including genomic data), sharing of bio-samples (serum, urine, DNA, mRNA, etc.), and Consent:</u> 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 across all applicant bodies. 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.

- <u>Vertebrate Animals:</u> 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 and institutional document depending on the institute where the animal experiments are being performed.

Application Submission

Please submit the completed application to AcceleratorGrant@pnrconsortium.org Applicants must read and follow all application instructions in the RFA. Applications that do not comply with these instructions may be rejected.

Submission documents must be combined into 1 PDF in this order:

    a) **Proposal Face Page**

    b) **Grant Application Form**

    c) **Budget Page(s)**

    d) **Biosketch/ Resume for the PIs**

    e) **Supporting documents (if applicable)**

Review Process

All applications will be scored and ranked together by the Scientific Review Committee using a standardized form. This form will cover the following aspects that shall be scored upon:

- **Innovative Potential:** Delivering innovations in understanding and or treatments for pediatric glomerular disorders

- **Scientific Significance:** Delivering meaningful progress towards cures for pediatric glomerular disorders in the next decade

- **Hypothesis and Aims, Problem Definition:**

- **Approach/Feasibility:**

- **Publication/Future Grant Potential:** Likelihood of subsequent national grant application, or ability to result in a peer-reviewed publication.

Reviewers will score each category listed above. Overall scores will be based on category scores, but categories will not need to be weighted equally. 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. Additional aspects will be considered as strengths and weaknesses, but will not be scored: statistical design, cost/benefit, ethical profile.

Scores and rankings of all reviewers will be summarized by the Scientific Review Committee, and the rank list presented to the Advisory Committee final approval.

All applicants (both successful and unsuccessful) will receive a written confirmation and reviewers' comments after the awardees have been declared by the Advisory Committee.

NephCure/PNRC Grant Award Guidelines

a. Award Budget:

• Each award can support eligible research activities that include research supplies needed to accomplish the research project, salary support for investigator research effort and/or staff research effort, and travel to present research results at national and/or international professional meetings.
• Support for equipment will not be allowed.
• Indirect rates will be capped at 8% and must be included in the total budget allotted for each award level.
Grant Funds must be used solely for the research project that was submitted and awarded. Additional funds cannot support other programs or projects.

b. Terms and Conditions:
• Presenting at PNRC Meeting

In addition to reporting requirements as outlined below, there is also an expectation to present at the PNRC Meeting (preferably In-Person but could present virtually if necessary) on grant progress and updates.

• Reports

The PIs/Co-I's of funded projects will be required to provide written progress reports after 6 months in alignment with the Spring PNRC Meeting and then annually in alignment with the Fall PNRC Meeting until the project is complete. Reports will be submitted to AcceleratorGrant@pnrconsortium.org.

c. Grant Award Payment Schedule:
• Grant monies will be disbursed in two installments.

- First ½ of award will be distributed after award acknowledgement, budget pages, and banking information/payment forms have been submitted successfully to the PNRC (AcceleratorGrant@pnrconsortium.org.)

- Second ½ of award will be disbursed after completion of the 6 month interim report sent to the PNRC (AcceleratorGrant@pnrconsortium.org) at the conclusion of the Spring PNRC Meeting and approval by Committee-Chair of respective grant program.

Reports of Funded Projects

The PIs/Co-I's of funded projects will be required to provide written progress reports after 6 months in alignment with the Spring PNRC Meeting and then annually in alignment with the Fall PNRC Meeting until the project is complete. Reports will be submitted to AcceleratorGrant@pnrconsortium.org. The PNRC executive director or designee will submit to the Advisory Review Committee via email for review. 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 funding from both NephCure and the Pediatric Nephrology Research Consortium (PNRC), with an indication of the grant number in any publication emerging from the project for 5 years after initial funding.