

Arkansas Children's Research Institute  
**Funding Opportunity: ACRI/ABI Nursing and Allied  
 Health Research Grant**



**Program Overview**

<b>Program Purpose</b>	This grant mechanism will support investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven or goal-directed (in the case of qualitative studies) research directed by nurses and allied health professionals on the ACH campus.
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	<p>Eligible candidates include those with a terminal professional degree (for example respiratory therapy) required for their respective discipline. Successful applicants will be full time employees of an institution in the ACH Health System.</p> <p>In the event that the applicant is pursuing a graduate degree, each application must include a detailed mentoring plan and mentor statement by an ACH staff member who will take responsibility for the oversight of the work. Mentors will assume responsibility for the scientific integrity and conclusion of work proposed. Mentors must practice on the ACH campus.</p>

**Key Dates**

<b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b>	August 1 each year
<b>Application Due Date</b>	October 1 each year
<b>Award Date</b>	December 1 each year

If a date falls on the weekend, documents will be accepted until 5pm the next business day.

**Award Information**

<b>Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards</b>	Funds supporting this program are enabled by funds available to Arkansas Children's Research Institute (ACRI) through the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI). It is anticipated that up to four awards will be made per cycle. Final funding decisions are contingent upon the institutional availability of funds to support the program and a clear demonstration that the trainee can complete the proposed work during his or her tenure at ACH.
<b>Award Budget</b>	\$5,000 total (\$2,500 per year)
<b>Award Project Period</b>	Up to 24 months

**Application and Submission Information**

Application Characteristics

- Describe original, research that is either hypothesis driven or goal directed (for qualitative research) and has specific aims that can be successfully executed in a 24-month period.
- A statement of innovation and significance is part of the grant application. Only projects that stand to produce new knowledge that is generalizable and can improve the care of children will be considered to be competitive.
- The proposed scope of work must be appropriate to enable completion of the project. This provision will be considered in any final funding decision.
- Personnel costs for UAMS faculty cannot be included in the final budget.

- Support for biostatistical support cannot exceed 20% effort of the biostatistician.
- With approval of the ACRI President, a single, 6 month no-cost-extension is allowed for work not completed at the end of the 24 month period provided that the trainee remains in his/her fellowship program.
- No preliminary data are required, but may be included if available.
- The Research Plan will follow the NIH R03 format and should not exceed 6 pages. This format includes a detailed timeline for project conduct, completion, analysis and eventual publication.
- The proposed project must be of sufficient scientific rigor to support development of a peer-reviewed scientific / professional publication.

### **Review Criteria and Process for Prioritization for Funding**

All proposals will receive scientific peer review by a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) constituted by ACRI. This panel will be drawn from individuals within ACH/ACRI, UAMS and from other institutions as required to insure that appropriate scientific expertise is present for all applications reviewed by the SEP. It will also contain one or more members who have specific expertise in qualitative research if required based upon the proposals submitted. The SEP will be chaired by the ACRI President or his appointed designee. Each application will have 2 reviewers. The NIH scoring system for R-series awards will be used. Each grant application will receive an overall priority score and ranked accordingly. Final funding decisions will be made by the ACRI President who will consider scientific merit and value of a given application to the strategic mission of ACH and ACRI as regards research.

#### Letter of Intent

A LOI is due no later than 5 p.m. on August 1st of each year. The LOI should be submitted to Anne McMains ([McMainsAM@archildrens.org](mailto:McMainsAM@archildrens.org)) via email.

The LOI should be no longer than one page in length and include the following components:

1. Principal Investigator: Name/Title/Contact Information
2. Faculty Mentor: Name/Title/Organization
3. Project Title; and
4. A brief description of the proposed research.

Upon receiving the LOI, the information will be reviewed. Upon approval by the ACRI President, applicants will be contacted and invited to apply with a full submission.

Each applicant may only submit one Letter of Intent per grant cycle.

#### Application Package

Grant application forms may be downloaded from the ACRI website:

<https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers/intramural-grant-overview#a>. Please see Attachment 1 for a complete listing of the required forms and instructions for preparing the Research Strategy.

#### Application Review and Selection Process

Grants will be reviewed by a Special Emphasis Panel (SEP) using current NIH criteria. This SEP will be constituted by the ACRI President who will have oversight responsibility for the grant program. All proposals will be scored by the SEP and prioritized for funding by the ACRI President with final funding decisions endorsed by the ACRI Board.

#### Reporting Requirements

A final progress report is due upon completion of the award and upon request. Failure to submit a final report or respond to additional request for reporting may jeopardize future funding.

### **Application Submission Contact Information**

Anne McMains, ACRI Grant Development Specialist

Telephone: 501-364-5143

Email: [McMainsAM@archildrens.org](mailto:McMainsAM@archildrens.org)

## Attachment 1 – Application Materials & Research Strategy Requirements

On or before 5 p.m. on the deadline date, an applicant must upload a PDF copy of their application to the Proposal Management System found here:

<https://apps.uams.edu/ClinicalTranslationalScienceAward/Account/Login.aspx>

### Application Materials

The final application should include the following items (please contact Anne McMains at [McMainsAM@archildrens.org](mailto:McMainsAM@archildrens.org) for packet information):

1. ACRI Intramural Funding Application Form
2. ACRI Intramural Research & Related Budget Form
3. ACRI Intramural Budget Justification Form
4. Study Summary Form (for applicants whose proposals include human subjects clinical trials)
5. NIH Biographical Sketch (include a biosketch for the project mentor)
6. Specific Aims (1 page)
7. Research Strategy (6 pages or less, not to include reference citations)
8. Detailed Mentoring Plan and Mentor Statement
9. Relevant institutional resources necessary to support the research
10. Letters of support from collaborators (if applicable)

### Research Strategy Requirements

The research strategy should not exceed 6 pages (not including reference pages). Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages. For font, use an Arial typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. Do not include headers, footers or page numbers.

The research strategy should include the following sections:

a. *Significance*

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capacity, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed in the proposed aims are achieved.

b. *Innovation*

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

c. *Approach*

- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.
- Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

- If research on Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs) is proposed but an approved cell line from the NIH hESC Registry cannot be identified, provide a strong justification for why an appropriate cell line cannot be chosen from the Registry at this time.
- Identify anticipated problems/pitfalls and proposed solutions/alternatives.

If an applicant has multiple Specific Aims, then the applicant may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for each Specific Aim individually, or may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for all of the Specific Aims collectively.

## **Attachment 2 – Approved and Not Approved Expenses**

This attachment provides guidance regarding expenses that this program may or may not cover. The list is not all inclusive; please contact Anne McMains ([McMainsAM@archildrens.org](mailto:McMainsAM@archildrens.org)) with any questions.

### **Approved Expenses**

Biostatistical Support/Data Analysis – no more than 20% of the biostatistician's effort  
Computer/Software (with clear justification they are needed for the proposed research)  
Equipment  
Office Supplies (research related only)  
Publication Costs of Publishers  
Salary/Fringe of Principal Investigator  
Salary/Fringe of research personnel (coordinators, assistants)  
Supplies for Research Project (actual research costs)  
Travel (exceeding no more than \$1,000 for presentation of research at a national meeting)

### **Not Approved Expenses**

Any Expense Not Directly Related to Research Activity  
Any Personal Professional Fee  
Board Exam Fees  
Board Review Courses  
DEA #  
Lab Coats  
Medical Licenses  
Membership Dues to Societies and Professional Organizations  
Personnel Costs for UAMS Faculty  
Periodicals  
Professional Liability Insurance  
Subscriptions  
Telephone and Pager