

Arkansas Children's Research Institute  
**Funding Opportunity: ACRI/ABI Postgraduate  
 Research Grant**



**Program Overview**

<b>Program Purpose</b>	This grant mechanism will support investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven (goal directed) research directed by trainees conducting pediatric research.
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	Eligible candidates include those with MD, PhD, MD/PhD, PharmD or PharmD/PhD degree who have completed their first year of postgraduate training by the award date.  All trainees must apply with a faculty mentor. Each application must include a detailed mentoring plan and mentor statement. Mentors will assume responsibility for the scientific integrity and conclusion of work proposed.

**Key Dates**

<b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b>	March 1 each year
<b>Application Due Date</b>	May 1 each year
<b>Award Date</b>	July 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>	Final funding decisions are contingent upon the institutional availability of funds.
<b>Award Budget</b>	\$15,000 total
<b>Award Project Period</b>	Up to 24 months

**Application and Submission Information**

Application Characteristics

- Describes original, investigator-initiated clinical/translational research that is hypothesis driven and has specific aims that can be successfully executed in a 24-month period.
- The proposed scope of work must be appropriate for time available to the trainee to enable completion of the project.
- The proposed project must be of sufficient scientific rigor to support development of a peer-reviewed scientific / professional publication.
- Personnel costs for UAMS faculty cannot be included in the final budget (excluding biostatistics).
- Support for a biostatistician cannot exceed 20% effort.
- 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.
- No preliminary data is 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.

### Letter of Intent

A LOI is due no later than 5 p.m. on March 1 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.

### Reporting Requirements

A progress report is due upon completion of the award. Failure to submit a final report 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:

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 for PI and 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 will or will 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% 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 (excluding biostatistics)  
Periodicals  
Professional Liability Insurance  
Subscriptions  
Telephone and Pager