Benefiting Research Innovation Development Growth and Education (BRIDGE) Award

Preparing Application Materials

The Research Foundation of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons developed the Benefiting Research Innovation Development Growth and Education (BRIDGE) Grant Program. The objective of the BRIDGE Grant Program is to encourage the advancement of research related to colorectal diseases by supporting researchers in their efforts to obtain sustainable funding by providing funding to (i) acquire key data or publications to enable competitive application as a faculty member transitions from a foundation career development award (i.e. RF of the ASCRS CDA/LPG type award) to an extramural award (i.e. NIH K or R type award), a competitive Foundation Award (i.e. American Cancer Society, Damon Runyon, etc), Department of Defense Award; and to (ii) provide a viable means to support attainment of multiple-year, sustained research funding in colorectal diseases.

Eligible institutions must complete and submit a Program application though the Foundation's web-based application platform available at: https://fascrs.org/my-ascrs/research-foundation.

Applicants will be asked to enter or upload the following information in the web-based portal (list is not inclusive). When submitting the required application documents, please ensure that all items are consolidated into a single PDF. Applications that do not include the required documents in the correct order and format may not be reviewed or considered for funding. Thank you for your understanding and adherence to the submission guidelines.

Step 2: Title/Body

- **Title of Project** (Open text box)
- **Project Summary** (PDF upload, limit 500 words): The project summary description is meant to serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work when separated from the application. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the health relatedness of the project. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be informative to other people working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person. **State how this one-year award will promote the acquisition of data, and analyses that will result in the acquisition of a successful sustained research application.**
- **Relevance** (PDF upload, no more than one/two sentences): Describe the relevance of this research to public health. In this section, be succinct and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.
- **Research Plan** (A. Specific Aims/Hypothesis; B. Significance/Innovation; C. Preliminary Studies; D. Experimental/Project Design and Methods; E. Describe Your Plans for Subsequent Funding; F. Human Subjects; G. Vertebrate Animals; H. Literature Cited. (PDF upload)
    - Preparing Research Plan Document: name on all pages, numbers on all pages, use Arial or Times New Roman font, minimum font 11pt, margins: top 1", sides 0.5", bottom, 0.75" and single spaced.
    - Be specific, informative, and avoid redundancies. Brevity and clarity are encouraged.
    - Organize A-E to answer these questions:
        - What do you intend to do?
        - Why is the work important?

- What has already been done on this subject?
- How are you going to do the work?

A. Specific Aims/Hypothesis (1 page):
   - Concisely, in one page, outline what the research described in this application is intended to accomplish and/or why hypothesis is to be tested.
   - Include 2-3 sentences which outline how this award will promote the acquisition of data and analyses that will result in the acquisition of a successful sustained research application.

B. Significance/Innovation (1.5 pages):
   - Briefly outline background material to the present proposal, critically evaluate existing knowledge. State concisely the importance of the research by relating it to specific long-term objectives.
   - Present the novel aspects of the proposal and how the current proposal will therefore advance the field.

C. Preliminary Studies (1 page):
   - Briefly outline any preliminary studies you have performed that support your hypothesis and/or demonstrate the feasibility for methods described below.

D. Experimental/Project Design and Methods (2.5 pages):
   - Discuss in detail the experimental design or outline of your research and the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe protocols to be used and provide a tentative sequence or timetable. Include means of data analysis and interpretation.
   - Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of your project, and possible alternatives to achieve your aims. Make every attempt to be succinct in this section.
   - Address how the BRIDGE grant will enable the acquisition of data/analyses which will support future work and address current needs to assist in the transition from a current source of support to the next desired level of support

E. Describe your plans for subsequent funding **-** State how this one-year award will promote the acquisition of data, and analyses that will result in the acquisition of a successful sustained research application. (.5 page)

F. Human Subjects – If you intend to use human subjects during your project follow only instructions as outlined below. While translational and demographic data may be used during the period of the award, clinical trials are not permitted. Be sure to include certification by the institutional review board from your institution with this application, and briefly describe the following:
   - Describe the characteristics of the subject population, e.g. anticipated number, age ranges, sex, ethnic backgrounds and health status. Identify criteria for inclusion or exclusion. Explain the rationale for the use of special classes of subjects.
   - Identify sources of research material obtained from individually identifiable living human subjects in the form of specimens, records, or data. Indicate whether the material will be obtained specifically for research purposes or whether use will be made of existing specimens, records or data.
   - Describe plans for recruitment of subjects and the consent procedures to be followed, including the circumstances under which consent will be sought and obtained, who will seek it, the nature of information to be provided to prospective subjects and the method of documenting consent. The consent form must have institutional review board approval.
   - Describe any potential risks – physical, psychological, social, legal, or other – and assess their likelihood and seriousness. Where appropriate, describe alternative treatments and procedures that might be advantageous to the subjects.
   - Describe procedures for protecting against, or minimizing any potential risks, including risks of confidentiality, and assess their likely effectiveness. Where appropriate, discuss

provisions for insuring necessary medical or professional intervention in the event of adverse effects to the subjects. Also, where appropriate, describe the provisions for monitoring data collected to insure the safety of subjects.
        - Discuss why the risks to subjects are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits to subjects and in relation to the importance of the knowledge that may reasonably be expected to result.
    G. Vertebrate Animals:
        - If vertebrate animals have been identified in the application, justify their use, state the species, strains, ages, and numbers of animals involved. Describe procedures for adequate maintenance and veterinary care of any animals. Describe procedures to avoid unnecessary discomfort, pain, or injury to the animals, such as surgical anesthesia, post-trauma analgesia, tranquilizing drugs, and comfortable restraining devices. Provide evidence of Animal Welfare Assurance.
    H. Literature Cited
        - Please list all citations of literature at the end of the research plan, in the order in which they are cited in the proposal. Each complete citation must include the names of all authors, the complete title of any article, the name of the book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication. Please compile a relevant and current bibliography. It need not be exhaustive.
- Identify Type of Research (Basic, Translational, Clinical, Health Services or Other) (Drop down box)
- Administrative official to be notified if award is made (name, title, address, telephone, fax, and email) (Open text boxes)
- Official Signing for Applicant Organization (name, title, address, telephone, fax, email, and organization) (Open text boxes)

Step 3: Properties

- Resources (Open text box)
- Other Support (Open text box): List support that will be received from any other sources including government, non-government, and institutional. If none, state "none". Include for each percent overlap with the current proposal. (Active support, Applications or proposals pending review of funding, Applications and proposals planned on being prepared for submission)
- Budget for entire Proposed Period of Support (PDF upload)
- Letter from Chairman of the applicant's department or responsible superior (e.g., Chief). If more than one letter, compile into a single PDF for upload (PDF upload)
    - Provide evidence for departmental and institutional support for applicant's research proposal. This should include a specific description of protected time of at least 25% non-clinical time, lab space, and necessary support personnel as may reasonably be required to pursue and/or conduct and complete the eligible research.

Step 4: Applicants

- Senior/Key Personnel and Other Significant Contributor (Open text boxes)
    - Conflict of Interest Statement/Disclosures
    - Affiliation
    - Role on Project (principal investigator, co-principal investigator, co-investigator, mentor, co-mentor, collaborator, researcher, statistician, other)
    - Major Subdivision
- Biographical Sketch. Biographical sketches are required from senior/key personnel and other significant contributors (i.e., principal investigator, co-investigators, mentor, collaborator). Biographical sketches should be no greater than five (5) pages in length. Be sure page numbers are at the bottom of each page.
    - Compile all biographical sketches into a single PDF for upload. (PDF Upload)

Step 5: Disclosures

- Applicant Organization Certification and Acceptance (applicant organization hereby represents, warrants and acknowledges, required) (Check box)
- IRB Approval. Compile all documents into a single PDF for upload. (PDF Upload)
    - Evidence of IRB approval is necessary for all human subject research. If you have questions about your specific proposal and if this applies to you, please email.
    - IRB approval for human studies is important; unapproved studies can cause delays. To that end, the absence of an IRB at the time of submission will be taken into consideration by the BRIDGE Task Force during the grant review.
- Vertebrate Animals: Compile all documents into a single PDF for upload. (PDF Upload)

    - Evidence of Animal Welfare Assurance approval is necessary for all projects where live vertebrate animals are involved. If you have questions about your specific proposal and if this applies to you, please email.
    - Evidence of Animal Welfare Assurance approval is important, unapproved studies can cause delays. To that end, the absence of an Animal Welfare Assurance number at the time of submission will be taken into consideration by the BRIDGE Task Force during the grant review.
- Upload the required application documents, please ensure that all items are consolidated into a single PDF. Applications that do not include the required documents in the correct order and format may not be reviewed or considered for funding. Thank you for your understanding and adherence to the submission guidelines.

    The required documentation must be in the following order, and the PDF should be uploaded in Step 5: Disclosures of the application.
    - Project Summary
    - Relevance
    - Research Plan
    - Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Support
    - Letter from Chairman of the applicant's department or responsible superior
    - Biographical Sketches
    - IRB Approval, if applicable
    - Vertebrate Animals, if applicable
- Confirmation: Confirm that all required documenents have been compiled in to one PDF. Failure to include the required documents in the specified order and format may, not be reviewed or considered for funding. (Check box)

Step 6: Review & Submit

- DON'T FORGET TO CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON. If you exit the system without submitting, the submission will appear in the "Draft" section of your "View Submissions" page when you re-enter the system.

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