

SIR Foundation Allied Scientist Training Grant

Purpose: The SIR Foundation Allied Scientist Training Grant is designed to provide support to trainees enrolled in graduate level training programs which are outside the clinical realm of Interventional Radiology but are still considered crucial to the future of Interventional Radiology. The goal is to create collaborative research training environments that benefit from the unique perspectives of established scientists and Interventional Radiologists.

Award: This grant provides \$20,000 a year for two years. The second year of funding is contingent on satisfactory review of a first year progress report.

Eligibility: Grant funding will be made to trainees enrolled in graduate level, degree seeking programs (Masters, Doctor of Philosophy or equivalent) at educational institutions in the United States or Canada. Applications from students enrolled in a wide variety of disciplines such as engineering, informatics, cellular and molecular biology will be considered. Applicants are encouraged but not required to be members of the Society of Interventional Radiology. However, the trainee's advisor or co-advisor must be an active member of the Society of Interventional Radiology (note the requirement of active membership status means that the advisor or co-advisor must be an Interventional Radiologist). Applicants enrolled in clinical residencies or fellowships are not eligible for this grant.

It is expected that the trainee will devote at least 75% of their time to the proposed research project.

Application Procedures: Applicants should propose research that advances the science of interventional radiology. The application must contain a detailed research plan, including a two- year budget for the planned research with all funding sources indicated. All funds requested in the application must be fully justified. Insufficient justification or failure to describe completely the sources and use of other funds available to the investigator will result in deferral or disapproval of the application.

Two letters of recommendation are necessary. One should come from the department chair indicating commitment to provide the required level of protected research time and additional salary support for the applicant. A second letter should come from the applicant's mentor delineating the mentor's and applicant's interests and experiences in the proposed research area.

The application must be submitted in pdf format at <http://www.tfaforms.com/219125> by December 14. Applications must be submitted in PDF format. Incomplete applications and those submitted after the deadline of December 15 will not be reviewed.

Award guidelines: The award may be used to cover the trainee's stipend. If the trainee's stipend is covered by other funding mechanisms, this award may be used to purchase research materials. These materials may include laboratory reagents, equipment, service

function charges (eg pathology costs, animal per diem charges, reasonable imaging machine charges) and travel expenses for attending project related conferences. Institutional indirect costs, construction expenses, and secretarial or office expenses will not be allowed.

If the project involves the use of human subjects, animals, radioisotopes, or biohazards, documentation of approval from the appropriate institutional review board(s) (IRB) must be provided before an award can be funded.

Grant recipients will not be eligible for concurrent support through other SIR Foundation Research Grants.

REVIEW CRITERIA Completed applications will be distributed to the members of the SIR Foundation grant review study section, and members will be assigned as primary reviewers based on their expertise in the particular area of the proposed investigation. All applications will be discussed and funding decisions will be made during a meeting of the study section to be held at the SIR Annual Scientific meeting. Funding decisions will be based on the following criteria: scientific merit, the innovative quality of the research proposal, relevance to interventional radiology, the qualifications of the applicant, and adequacy of the resources available to do the work. In addition, letters of support from industry and/or memorandums of understanding with collaborators will be taken into consideration. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Grant Review Sub-committee's final funding decision after the SIR annual scientific meeting.

Funding decisions are based on the following criteria:

1. The quality (scientific merit) of the research plan submitted for the period of proposed support, including the level of innovation and relevance to interventional radiology;
2. General qualifications of the applicant and the commitment of the applicant to a career in academic interventional radiology;
3. Qualifications and research expertise of the mentor;
4. Adequacy of the resources available to do the work;
5. Evidence of faculty and institutional support.

In addition, letters of support from industry and/or memorandums of understanding with collaborators will be taken into consideration. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Grant Review Subcommittee's decision.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The review process takes approximately 16 weeks. Once grant agreements have been submitted by successful applicants, awarded funds will be transmitted to the institution for support of the grant recipient and the project. Each year's funds will be distributed in three installments: 50% at the start of the project, 40% upon receipt of the six-month progress report, and 10% upon receipt of a cover letter and the final report in manuscript format.

REPORTS

An interim progress report is required after each six (6) months of the project. Six month reports will be due on January 1st. This report should be a one-page synopsis of the progress, unforeseen problems, and results to date. A final written report must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the project's completion, with an expected deadline of July 1.. Included with the report should be a cover letter that:

1. Indicates the significance/possible clinical impact of the results;
2. States whether the results will be submitted for possible publication, and if so, to what journal;
3. Indicates whether results will be used to apply for additional funding from other sources, and if so, the funding agency and date of application should be included;
4. States what impact the Allied Scientist Grant had on the recipient's future research/career goals.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS It is suggested that recipients submit their work primarily to *JVIR* or to the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting. All posters, oral presentations, and publications must contain appropriate acknowledgement of SIR Foundation's support. .

NO-COST EXTENSION

An extension of the term of the grant may be requested for up to twelve (12) months beyond the original ending date of the grant. The approval of an extension does not include the award of additional funds. A maximum of two 1- year extensions may be requested.

The request for a no-cost extension must be made in writing to the Grants and Research Associate at SIR Foundation's address before the expiration of the original grant period. The request must include the reason for the extension, the length of the extension (not to exceed twelve (12) months), and a brief project progress report, including to date findings, problems encountered, presentations/publications resulting from the work, and budget expenditures. The request must be co-signed by the department chair or other authorized institutional official. Requests should be sent to grants@sirfoundation.org.

Other requests for changes to the terms of an award should also be addressed to the SIR Foundation Grants and Research Associate with similar documentation and institutional approvals.

MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF SUPPORT SIR Foundation reserves the right to modify or terminate the amount of any funds granted under the terms of the Allied Scientist Grant. Generally, such action would be based on the awardee's receipt of

support from sources other than SIR Foundation which might (1) limit the ability of the recipient to successfully complete the terms of the grant or (2) obviate the recipient's need for funding from SIR Foundation.

In the event that the awardee relocates to a different institution, a request in writing to relocate the grant to the new institution may be made to the Director of Research at the Foundation's address. SIR Foundation will continue project funding provided the awardee is guaranteed support, protected research time, and adequate equipment/facilities from the new institution (i.e., letter from department chair) as well as IRB approvals, if applicable. If the new institution cannot provide the necessary support or IRB approvals for the project, the original institution may appoint a new principal investigator, with SIR Foundation's approval, to complete the project. If the project cannot be completed at the new or the original institution, then all unexpended funds must be returned to SIR Foundation.

GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT All the items detailed below must be included in the application before it will be considered. The format should follow the guidelines used for NIH applications and an example is posted on the SIR Foundation website.

I. Title Page:

- A. Title of research project;
- B. Lay statement of the proposed research project and its relevance to interventional radiology;
- C. Name, faculty position, and department of principal investigator and mentor, as well as other professional personnel collaborating in the research project;
- D. Brief abstract (ten (10) to twenty (20) lines), with keywords underlined;
- E. Beginning and termination dates of proposed expenditures; F. Total funding requested;
- G. Signatures of principal investigator, mentor, and department chairperson;
- H. Contact information (name, address, phone, fax, email) for the grants office at the principal investigator's institution.

II. Description of Research Plan: The applicant must present his/her research logically and clearly and show that the proposed research is meaningful. (LIMIT—TEN (10) PAGES FOR SECTIONS A-D)

- A. Specific Aims: State in a concise and explicit manner what is/are the specific aim or aims and hypotheses being tested by the research. (approximately ½ page);
- B. Background and Significance: State why the proposed work is important. Briefly identify what others have done and what gaps in existing knowledge will be filled by the results of the proposed research. (approximately 2 pages);
- C. Preliminary Studies: Applicants should provide data they have generated relevant to the application in a concise format (including references to published works by the applicant and co-investigators) to support the specific aims and convince the reviewers that the applicant is competent to conduct the proposed research;

(approximately 2 pages)

D. Research Design: Discuss the experimental design and procedures to be used to test the hypothesis or accomplish the specific aims of the project. Be complete with descriptions and relate individual methods and approaches to the specific aims previously described. While the applicant may safely assume that the reviewers are familiar with current methodology, reviewers will not make the same assumption about the applicant. The reviewers will want to know specific details of techniques/devices that will be employed, as well as the rationale for using them. The burden of proof is on the applicant to show, through a succinct explanation, that he or she understands and is capable of handling the research methodology. If new procedures and protocols are proposed, describe advantages over existing methodologies. Indicate what quantitative measures will be used to record and analyze the data. Indicate whether statistical considerations have been employed in designing the studies and/or in analyzing the data, and provide the specific statistical method(s). Include a discussion of the potential difficulties, limitations, and alternative approaches. (approximately 4-6 pages);

E. Human or Animal Subjects, Radioisotopes, and Biohazards: Provide documentation that the institution has approved all proposed human, animal, radioisotope, and biohazard use;

F. Budget Proposal: List budget items in the following main categories and give details and justification of the items in each category:

1. Salary of principal investigator. Salaries of technicians, students, or support personnel working on the project may be requested, but must be well justified;
2. Consumable supplies including animal purchase costs;
3. Equipment: Identify each item, show unit cost, and explain why it cannot be borrowed;
4. Other expenses including animal maintenance costs (only those costs essential to the conduct or reporting of the research);
5. Total budget (not to exceed \$20,000 per year).

G. Other Support: Describe all funding currently available to the applicant as well as any pending grant support, and describe the relationship these funds may have to the proposed research;

H. Literature Cited.

III. Supporting Materials

A. Resources: Describe the facilities available for conduct of the proposed research including lab space, equipment, computers, technical/statistical support, etc.

B. Brief biographical sketch of all investigators in NIH format (Not to exceed four pages for each investigator).

C. A letter from the department chair that:

1. Indicates approval of the application;
2. Comments on the merit of the project;
3. Explains the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant's research in terms of funding, level of protected research time, technical support, and available facilities. It is essential that the chair's letter indicate commitment to support the salary of the applicant during the research period;

4. If applicable (see "Eligibility" above), guarantees the proposed research will be completed if funded.

D. A letter from the mentor that:

1. Indicates a commitment to act as mentor for the applicant;
2. Describes the mentor's and applicant's interests and experiences in the research area;
3. Comments on the merits of the project and its relevance to interventional radiology.

E. Letter(s) of confirmation from company(s) providing materials needed to complete the proposed research.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN PDF FORMAT

AT: <http://www.tfaforms.com/219125>