

## **DR. ERNEST J. RING ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM**

### **PURPOSE**

The Dr. Ernest J. Ring Academic Development Grant Program is designed to provide support to junior faculty members early in their academic careers to allow time for the conduct of research. The goal of this program is to have the grant recipient subsequently obtain additional funding from other sources, e.g., National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants.

### **AWARD**

The grant of \$50,000 per year for a maximum of two years provides \$20,000 that may be used towards the applicant's salary. The remaining \$30,000 of the grant is anticipated to go directly to research expenses. The SIR Foundation (formerly CIRREF) will award up to two grants each year.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Grant awards will be made to junior full-time faculty members, with a M.D. and/or Ph.D., or equivalent degree in educational institutions in the United States and Canada. Applicants should be individuals who have not yet been recognized as independent investigators or recipients of major grant support (i.e., current grants exceeding 50,000). Those in residencies or fellowships or those generally considered advanced students in training rather than full-time faculty are not eligible for this program.

Applicants must be within the first five years of their initial faculty appointment after having completed all formal training. Only applicants holding a position up to and including the assistant professor level at the time of application are eligible. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have permanent resident status as recognized in the country in which they reside. Permanent residents should submit documentation of this status. The grant will

provide up to \$20,000 towards the applicant's salary and it is expected that the applicant will have a minimum of 40% dedicated research time. Only one applicant may be nominated in a given year from each institution. Backing by the applicant's chair is required. In addition, the applicant must have a mentor who will guide and supervise the applicant's research. The mentor should have documented research interests and accomplishments in the applicant's research area and must hold a position at the assistant professor level or higher.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

Applicants should propose research that advances the science of cardiovascular and interventional radiology. The application must contain a detailed research plan, including a one-year budget for the planned research with 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. Requests for continued funding beyond one-year require the submission of a new grant application. There is a maximum of two-years of funding on any given project. Three letters of recommendation are necessary, one of which should come from the Department Chair, explaining the reasons for selecting the applicant and detailing the plans for him/her beyond the period of the grant; the second should come from the applicant's mentor delineating the mentor's and applicant's interests and experiences in the proposed research area; and the third should come from someone outside of the applicant's institution who is knowledgeable about the applicant's qualifications and research interests. The application deadline

is December 15. Incomplete applications and those received after the deadline will be returned to the applicant without review. The original and five (5) copies of the application must be submitted.

### **REVIEW CRITERIA**

Completed applications will be distributed by the SIR Foundation Grant Review Committee to a review panel with expertise in the particular field of the proposed investigation. Applicants may suggest potential non-biased reviewers. Throughout the selection process, the review panel will take into consideration the following factors:

1. The quality of the research plan submitted for the period of proposed support;
2. General qualifications of the applicant – the commitment of the applicant to a career in academic interventional radiology;
3. Qualifications and research expertise of the mentor;
4. Evidence of faculty and institution support. In addition, letters of support from industry and/or memorandums of understanding with collaborators will be taken into consideration. The Grant Review Committee may choose to interview finalists as part of the selection process. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Grant Review Committee's decision.

### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

The application review process takes approximately twelve (12) weeks. The awarded funds will be transmitted to the institution for the support of the grant recipient and the program. Funds will be distributed in three installments over the one-year period: 50% at the start of the project, 40% upon receipt of the six-month progress report, and 10% upon receipt of the final report in manuscript format. SIR Foundation does not pay institutional indirect costs or overhead costs.

### **AWARD GUIDELINES**

The award is intended to replace only a part of the recipient's salary. The balance should continue to come from the medical institution or other sources. However, with

the support from the grant, the recipient is expected to be freed from routine responsibilities sufficiently to devote at least 40% of time to the research program. Budget expenses can be used for the applicant's salary (up to \$20,000), materials and supplies, equipment, service function charges (e.g., pathology costs or reasonable imaging machine time charges), and travel expenses for attendance at related conferences. Consulting expenses, institutional indirect costs, construction expenses, and secretarial or office expenses will not be funded. If the project involves the use of human subjects, animals, 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 Grant Programs.

### **REPORTS**

An interim progress report is required after the first six (6) months of the program. 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 program's completion. The final report must be in manuscript format using as a guide the publication information for authors for the *Journal of Vascular and Interventional Radiology (JVIR)*. In addition, it is anticipated that recipients will present their research results during the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Scientific abstracts and manuscripts resulting from SIR Foundation-supported research must be submitted first to the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting to be considered for presentation and/or to *JVIR* to be considered for publication. Five (5) reprints of each publication containing results of studies funded by the SIR Foundation should be sent to the Foundation. All posters, publications, and oral presentations must contain the appropriate

acknowledgment of the 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.

The request for the extension must be made in writing to the Vice-Chairman of the SIR Foundation at the Foundation's address before the expiration of the original grant period. The request must state the reason for the extension, the length of the extension (not to exceed twelve [12] months), and should be co-signed by the Department Chair or other authorized official. Other requests for changes to the terms of an award should be addressed to the Vice-Chairman of the SIR Foundation with similar documentation and institutional approvals.

### **MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF SUPPORT**

The SIR Foundation reserves the right to modify or terminate the amount of any funds granted under the terms of the Dr. Ernest J. Ring Academic Development Grant Program. Generally, such action would be based on the awardee's receipt of support from sources other than the SIR Foundation which might (1) limit the ability of the recipient to successfully complete the terms of the award or (2) obviate the recipient's need for funding from the Foundation. In the event that the awardee relocates to a different institution, a request in writing to relocate the grant must be made to the Vice-Chairman of the SIR Foundation at the Foundation's address. The Foundation will continue funding provided the awardee is guaranteed support and facilities from the new institution (i.e., letter from Department Chair, appropriate equipment and facilities, and IRB approval, if applicable).

### **GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT**

All the items detailed below must be included in the application before it will be considered. Incomplete applications will be rejected or deferred until the requested information is provided. Except where otherwise indicated, the application should be typed, single spaced on 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper. Margins should be no smaller than 1 inch all around, and the type should be no smaller than 12 pt.

#### **1. Title Page:**

- A. Title of research project.
- B. Name, faculty position, and department of principal investigator and mentor, as well as other professional personnel collaborating in the research project.
- C. Brief abstract (ten [10] to twenty [20] lines), with keywords underlined.
- D. Beginning and termination dates of proposed expenditures.
- E. Signatures of principal investigator, mentor, and department chairperson.

#### **2. Text of Application:**

##### **A. Description of Research Plan:**

(LIMIT—TEN [10] PAGES FOR SECTIONS 1–5) The applicant must present his/her research logically and clearly and show that the proposed research is meaningful.

- 1) **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 1/2 page).
- 2) **Background and Significance:** State why the work proposed 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).
- 3) **Preliminary Data:** This section is optional, but it can be used to provide any data or information the applicant and/or mentor have to strengthen the hypothesis and/or research methods or approaches. (Approximately 1–2 pages).
- 4) **Methods:** 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. Thus, it is not sufficient to state, for example, that a "variety of stent devices will be evaluated." The reviewers will want to know which type of stents and what techniques will be employed, as well as the rationale for using the particular devices. 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. (Approximately 4–6 pages).

5) **Potential Difficulties, Limitations, or Anticipated Problems:** Discuss any potential or anticipated difficulties, problems, or limitations and measures that will be taken to address or overcome them.

6) **Human or Animal Subjects and Biohazards:** Provide information regarding institutional approved human, animal, or biohazard protocols.

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

- a. Salary of principle investigator. Salaries of technicians, students, or support personnel working on the project must be well justified.
- b. Consumable supplies including animal costs.
- c. Equipment: Identify each item, show unit cost, and explain why it cannot be borrowed.
- d. Other expenses (only those costs essential to the conduct or reporting of the research).
- e. Total budget (not to exceed \$50,000).

8) **Other Support:** Describe any additional funding or facilities available to the applicant in support of the proposed

research. Include any funds the applicant is seeking from industry or other sources in support of the project that are relevant to the proposed research.

9) **Literature Cited.**

**3. Supporting Materials:**

A. Brief biographical sketch of all investigators. (Not to exceed two pages for each investigator). This should include a description of the applicant's and mentor's current positions, educational backgrounds, training, experiences, awards, honors, and publications.

B. A letter from the department chair that:

- 1) Indicates approval of 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 and/or available facilities. It is essential that the chair's letter indicate commitment to support the salary of the applicant during the research period.

C. 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.

D. A letter from an individual outside of the applicant's institution that is knowledgeable about the applicant's qualifications and research interests.

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

Please Send Completed Applications to:

Director of Research  
Society of Interventional Radiology  
Foundation  
10201 Lee Highway  
Suite 500  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Info@sirfoundation.org  
P - (703)691-1805  
F - (703)691-1855