

STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT

PURPOSE

The Student Research Grant is designed to foster an interest in research by funding a summer research project conducted by a student in an area identified by SIR Foundation as important to the advancement of interventional radiology and patient care.

AWARD

Awards of up to \$3,000 will provide salary support for students conducting summer research projects that test a new idea or help support a new area or direction of research in interventional radiology.

ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to undergraduates and medical students currently enrolled in a MD, DO, or equivalent degree program in medical institutions within the United States and Canada. Applicants must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have permanent resident status therein. Permanent residents must submit documentation of their status.

In addition, the applicant must designate a project advisor who will mentor the student for the duration of the research project

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applicants should propose research that advances the field of interventional radiology. The application must contain a detailed research plan and a project budget for the planned research with all available funding to support the project indicated. Failure to describe completely the sources and use of other funds available to the investigator will result in deferral or disapproval of the application.

A letter from the Chairman of the department in which the study will be conducted must be provided that indicates approval of application, comments on the merit of the project and its relevance to interventional radiology, and explains the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant's research in terms of funding and/or available facilities. It is important that the letter indicate the institution's commitment to provide the necessary space, equipment, and facilities to the applicant during the research period.

A letter from the designated project advisor must also be provided that indicates the advisor's willingness to mentor the student for the duration of the research project and comments on the project's merit and relevance to interventional radiology.

The application must be submitted electronically to grants@SIRFoundation.org by February 1. Applications must be submitted in PDF format. Incomplete applications and those submitted after the deadline of February 1 will not be reviewed.

AWARD GUIDELINES

This grant is intended to provide salary support for the student conducting the research. The award may not be used for any other purposes.

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 Grant Programs.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Completed applications will be reviewed by each individual member of the SIR Foundation Grant Review Subcommittee. Funding decisions will be based on the following criteria: scientific merit, innovative quality of the research proposal, relevance to interventional radiology, qualifications of the applicant and designated advisor, and adequacy of the resources available to do the work. Applicants will be notified in writing of the Grant Review Subcommittee's funding decision.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Funds will be available by May 1, following submission of a successful application. The awarded funds will be transmitted to the institution for support of the grant recipient and the project. Funds for this grant will be distributed in one installment.

REPORTS

A final written report must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the project's completion. This report should be a synopsis of the project's progress, unforeseen problems, and results. Included with the report should be a detailed description of the project that:

1. States the specific aims/goals of the research project(s) and summarizes the results relating to each specific aim/goal (all supporting data should be included);
2. Indicates the significance/possible clinical impact of the results;
3. Describes any unforeseen issues that were encountered and how they were resolved;
4. Indicates whether data from the project(s) has been or will be submitted for presentation at the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting;
5. States whether the results will be submitted for possible publication, and if so, to what journal;
6. 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;

7. States what impact the Medical Student Grant had on the recipient's future research/career goals.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

Scientific abstracts resulting from SIR Foundation-supported research are strongly encouraged to be submitted to the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting to be considered for presentation. All posters, oral presentations, and publications must contain appropriate acknowledgement of SIR Foundation's support. Five (5) copies of all publications containing results of studies funded by this grant should be sent to the Foundation.

NO-COST EXTENSION

One extension of the term of the grant may be requested for up to two (2) 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 a no-cost extension must be made in writing to the Director of Research 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 two [2] months), and a brief project progress report, including to-date findings and problems encountered. The request must be co-signed by the Department Chair, designated advisor, and an authorized institutional official.

Other requests for changes to the terms of an award should also be addressed to the SIR Foundation Director of Research 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 Student Research 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 award or (2) obviate the recipient's need for funding from SIR Foundation.

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. The format should follow the guidelines used for NIH applications and an example is posted on the SIR Foundation website.

1. 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 student's designated advisor and any 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. Signatures of medical student and student's designated advisor.

2. Text of Application:

Description of Research Plan: (LIMIT—FOUR (4) 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 goals and objectives of the research project. Provide specific aims and hypotheses being tested to meet these goals and objectives (approximately ½ 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 1 page);
3. Preliminary Studies: Applicants should provide any 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 ½ to 1 page)
4. Research 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 your 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 analyzing the data, and provide the specific statistical method(s) Include a discussion of the potential difficulties, limitations, and alternative approaches. (approximately two pages);
5. Human or Animal Subjects, Radioisotopes, and Biohazards: Provide documentation that the institution has approved all proposed human, animal, radioisotope, and biohazard use;
6. Budget: A detailed budget should be provided that describes anticipated expenses as well as all available funding for:
 - a. Consumable supplies including animal purchase costs;

- b. Equipment: Identify each item, show unit cost, and explain why it cannot be borrowed;
 - c. Other expenses (only those service costs essential to the conduct or reporting of the research);
 - d. Total budget.
- 7. Literature Cited.

- 3. Supporting Materials:
 - A. Resources: Describe the facilities available for conduct of the proposed research including lab space, equipment, computers, technical/statistical support, etc.;
 - B. An updated copy of the medical student's CV;
 - C. Brief biographical sketch of student's designated advisor and all other investigators in NIH biographical sketch format (To view a template, go to: <http://www.sirfoundation.org/resources.shtml>);
 - D. A letter from the Chair of the department in which the project will be conducted that:
 - 1. Indicates approval of application;
 - 2. Comments on the merit of the project and its relevance to interventional radiology;
 - 3. Explains the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant's research in terms of funding, technical support, and available facilities.
 - E. A letter from the student's designated project advisor that indicates the advisor's willingness to mentor the student for the duration of the research project and comments on the project's merit and relevance to interventional radiology;
 - F. Letter(s) of confirmation from the company(s) providing materials needed to complete the proposed research.

**COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED IN PDF FORMAT TO:
GRANTS@SIRFOUNDATION.ORG**