

Arkansas Children's Research Institute
**Funding Opportunity: ACRI/ABI Nursing and Allied
 Health Research Grant**



Program Overview

Program Purpose	This grant mechanism will support investigator-initiated, hypothesis-driven or goal-directed (in the case of qualitative studies) research directed by nurses and allied health professionals on an ACH campus.
Eligibility Requirements	<p>Eligible candidates include those with a terminal professional degree (for example respiratory therapy) required for their respective discipline. Successful applicants will be full time employees of an institution in the AC Health System.</p> <p>In the event that the applicant is pursuing a graduate degree, each application must include a detailed mentoring plan and mentor statement by an ACH staff member who will take responsibility for the oversight of the work. Mentors will assume responsibility for the scientific integrity and conclusion of work proposed. Mentors must practice on an ACH campus.</p>

Key Dates*

Letter of Intent Due Date	June 1
Application Workshop	TBD
Budget Due Date	August 1
Application Due Date	September 1
Award Date	November 1

**If a date falls on the weekend, documents will be accepted until 5pm the following business day.*

Award Information

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	Funds supporting this program are enabled by funds available to ACRI through the Arkansas Biosciences Institute (ABI). Final funding decisions are contingent upon the institutional availability of funds to support the program.
Award Budget	\$5,000 total (\$2,500 per year)
Award Project Period	Up to 24 months

Application and Submission Information

Application Characteristics

- Describe original research that is either hypothesis driven or goal directed (for qualitative research) and has specific aims that can be successfully executed in a 24-month period.
- A statement of innovation and significance is part of the grant application. Only projects that stand to produce new knowledge that is generalizable and can improve the care of children will be considered to be competitive.
- The proposed scope of work must be appropriate to enable completion of the project. This provision will be considered in any final funding decision.
- Personnel costs for UAMS faculty cannot be included in the final budget.

- Support for biostatistical support cannot exceed 20% effort of the biostatistician.
- No preliminary data are 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.
- The proposed project must be of sufficient scientific rigor to support development of a peer-reviewed scientific / professional publication.

Review Criteria and Process for Prioritization for Funding

All proposals will receive scientific peer review by a panel constituted by ACRI. This panel will be drawn from individuals within ACH/ACRI, UAMS and from other institutions as required to insure that appropriate scientific expertise is present for all applications reviewed. It will also contain one or more members who have specific expertise in qualitative research if required based upon the proposals submitted. The panel will be chaired by the ACRI President or his appointed designee. Each application will have 2 reviewers. The NIH scoring system for R-series awards will be used. Each grant application will receive an overall priority score and ranked accordingly. Final funding decisions will be made by the ACRI President who will consider scientific merit and value of a given application to the strategic mission of ACH and ACRI as regards research.

Letter of Intent

A LOI is due no later than 5 p.m. on August 1st of each year. The LOI should be submitted via REDCap's [NAH Letter of Intent](#).

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. Scholarly Oversight Committee Members (if applicable; see below)
4. Project Title
5. A brief description of the proposed research.
6. Three (3) Recommended reviewers based on ACRI's Conflict of Interest criteria:
 - a. The reviewer is not named on the application in any role
 - b. The reviewer has no direct or indirect financial interest in the proposal
 - c. The reviewer is not planning to collaborate with the PI or mentor in the next year
 - d. The reviewer has not published, collaborated or mentored any of the proposed Key Personnel
 - e. The reviewer is not providing a letter of support for the application
 - f. The reviewer is not serving as a member of an advisory board/scholarly oversight committee for the project under review
 - g. The reviewer has not served as a member of an advisory board/scholarly oversight committee for any proposed Key Personnel during the past one year
 - h. The reviewer is not listed as Senior/Key Personnel, mentor, collaborator or Scholarly Oversight Committee member for a competing application

Upon review of the LOI, eligible applicants will be contacted and invited to apply with a full submission.

Each applicant may only submit one Letter of Intent per grant cycle.

Scholarly Oversight Committee

The formation of a scholarly oversight committee is required for any new investigator who is within three years of their professional degree/certification. The scholarly oversight committee will consist of the applicant's mentor(s) and at least two additional faculty members who are not direct mentors of the applicant, but have significant expertise to contribute to successful completion of the project and/or the career development of the applicant. The purpose of the committee is to provide additional guidance to the applicant in study design, project execution, approach to obtaining external funding, and career development. The committee is required to meet quarterly throughout the project period and must provide written reports detailing the applicant's progress on the project and career development goals as outlined in the mentorship plan and any recommendations by the committee.

Application Package

Please see [Attachment 1](#) for a complete listing of the required forms and instructions for preparing the required documents.

Application Review and Selection Process

Grants will be reviewed by a panel using current NIH criteria. This panel will be constituted by the ACRI President who will have oversight responsibility for the grant program. All proposals will be scored by the panel and prioritized for funding by the ACRI President.

Award Notification

Applicants will receive a copy of reviewer comments related to their proposal. Notifications of funding will be made by the ACRI President via a letter to the principal investigator / program director. ACRI will facilitate establishment of an account and provide oversight for all post-award functions.

Awardees cannot begin their funded project until receiving IRB/IACUC approval. Please notify Karla Whiffen (Whiffenkm@archildrens.org) when IRB/IACUC approval is received or with questions.

Reporting Requirements

A progress report is due upon the completion of the first year and upon completion of the award. The release of year 2 funds is contingent upon review and approval of the year one (1) progress report. Failure to submit a report or respond to additional request for reporting may jeopardize future funding.

Application Submission Contact Information

Karla Whiffen, ACRI Grant Development Specialist
Telephone: 501-516-2800
Email: Whiffenkm@archildrens.org

Attachment 1 – Application Materials & Research Strategy Requirements

On or before 5 p.m. on the deadline date you will be instructed to email your application to your Grant Development Team partner.

Forms will be provided at the time of invitation to submit a full application and are available on the ACRI website: <https://www.archildrens.org/research/resources-for-researchers>.

Application Materials

Use 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.** Captions on tables or figures must be no smaller than Arial 8-point font.

The final application must include the following items in order:

1. ACRI Intramural Funding Application Form
2. ACRI Intramural Budget Form (New Form)
3. ACRI Intramural Budget Justification Form
4. Project Summary/Abstract (limit: 30 lines of text)
State the application's broad, long-term objectives, making reference to the pediatric health relatedness of the project. Briefly describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Be sure that the project summary reflects the key focus of the proposed project.
5. Specific Aims (1 page)
6. Research Strategy (6 pages or less, not to include reference citations)

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.

D. Future Directions

- Describe how the completion of the project will support the development of the applicant as an investigator and career plans in next 3 to 5 years
- Describe the next set of investigations that is expected to emerge from the project
- Describe plans to obtain extramural funding

7. References/Bibliography

8. Biographical Sketch for all Key Personnel – NIH Format

Section A of the biosketch should detail the expertise of the investigator relative to applicant's proposed project and the role they will serve in its execution.

9. Detailed Mentoring Plan and Mentor Statement (if applicable)

The mentor(s) must describe their role and willingness to participate in the project, and explain how they will contribute to the development of the candidate's research career. Each statement should include all of the following:

- The plan for the candidate's training and research career development. Include information not only about research, but also about other developmental activities, such as seminars, scientific meetings, training in RCR, and presentations. Discuss expectations for publications over the entire period of the proposed project. Define what aspects of the proposed research project the candidate will be allowed to continue to pursue as part of his/her independent research program.
- The nature and extent of supervision and mentoring of the candidate, and commitment to the candidate's development that will occur during the award period.
- A plan for transitioning the candidate from the mentored stage of his/her career to the independent investigator stage.
- Describe the mentor's previous experience as a mentor, including type of mentoring (e.g., graduate students, career development awardees, postdoctoral fellows), number of persons mentored, and career outcomes.

10. Statistical Plan

Describe your plan for statistical support including expertise required and statistical collaborators for your proposal (1 page). Include a letter of support from your biostatistician (if applicable). Link to Biostatistical Team [Here](#).

11. Facilities and Resources

Describe how the scientific environment in which the research will be done contributes to the probability of success (e.g., institutional support, physical resources, and intellectual rapport). In describing the scientific environment in which the work will be done, discuss ways that the proposed studies will benefit from unique features of the scientific environment or from unique subject populations or how studies will employ useful collaborative arrangements.

12. Letters of Support (LOS)

- Provide a LOS for non-key personnel collaborators/vendors/core laboratories, etc. (if applicable)
- Provide a LOS from each Scholarly Oversight Committee member detailing the expertise they provide to the applicant and their commitment to serve on the committee.
- Provide a LOS from biostatistician (if applicable).

Application Checklist

✓		Item	Notes
	1.	ACRI Intramural Funding Application Form	Form will be provided at the time of invitation to submit a full application
	2.	ACRI Intramural Research & Related Budget Form	Form will be provided at the time of invitation to submit a full application
	3.	ACRI Intramural Budget Justification Form	Form will be provided at the time of invitation to submit a full application
	4.	Project Summary/Abstract	Limit: 30 lines of text
	5.	Specific Aims	Limit: 1 page
	6.	Research Strategy	Limit: 6 pages
	7.	References/Bibliography	No page limit
	8.	Biosketches (All Key Personnel, NIH Format)	Limit: 5 pages each
	9.	Detailed Mentoring Plan and Mentor Statement	If applicable
	10.	Statistical Plan	Limit: 1 page
	11.	Facilities and Resources	No page limit
	12.	Letters of Support	

Attachment 2 – Approved and Not Approved Expenses

This attachment provides guidance regarding expenses that this program may or may not cover. The list is not all inclusive; please contact Karla Whiffen (Whiffenkm@archildrens.org) with any questions.

Approved Expenses

Salary/Fringe of Principal Investigator (base salary is not to exceed current NIH salary cap)
Salary/Fringe of research personnel (coordinators, assistants); (base salary is not to exceed current NIH salary cap)
Biostatistical Support/Data Analysis – no more than 20% of the biostatistician's effort
Equipment
Travel (exceeding no more than \$1,000 for presentation of research at a national meeting)
Computer/Software (with clear justification they are needed for the proposed research)
Office Supplies (research related only)
Other Supplies for Research Project
Publication Costs of Publishers

Not Approved Expenses

Any Expense Not Directly Related to Research Activity
Personnel Costs for UAMS Faculty (excluding biostatistics)
Any Personal Professional Fee
Board Review Courses
Board Exam Fees
DEA #
Medical Licenses
Membership Dues to Societies and Professional Organizations
Professional Liability Insurance
Subscriptions
Periodicals
Lab Coats
Telephone and Pager
Indirect Costs on Subawards above 10%