

Arkansas Children's Research Institute  
**Funding Opportunity: Marion B. Lyon New Scientist  
 Development Award**



**Program Overview**

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Program Purpose</b>          | This grant mechanism is intended to support a highly promising beginning scientist in their efforts to become an independent investigator. Grant applicants must present proposals that show hypothesis-driven research that addresses a problem of true relevance to child health.  |
| <b>Eligibility Requirements</b> | <p>Eligible candidates must have an academic faculty appointment in the UAMS College of Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health, Health Professions, or Nursing. Applicants should be full-time faculty/staff based on an AC campus and their research performed or directed from ACRI. They should be initiating independent research careers, usually at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor (or their equivalents).</p> <p>At the time of award, an applicant must not hold or have held any of the following awards: NIH R01, NIH Physician Scientist Award, NIH Independent Scientist Award, NIH Mentored Clinician Scientist Development Award, or NIH FIRST Award.</p> <p>Priority will be given to investigators who have a record of scholarly achievement, and have a high probability of success in acquiring extramural research support.</p> <p>Investigators who receive this award are required to submit all future grant applications through ACRI.</p> |

**Key Dates**

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Letter of Intent Due Date</b> | December 8         |
| <b>Application Workshop</b>      | Early January, TBD |
| <b>Budget Due Date</b>           | February 16        |
| <b>Application Due Date</b>      | March 2            |
| <b>Award Date</b>                | May 1              |

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

**Award Information**

|                             |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Award Budget</b>         | \$75,000 total (\$37,500 per year) |
| <b>Award Project Period</b> | up to 24 months                    |

**Letter of Intent**

A LOI is due no later than 5 p.m. on December 8. The LOI should be submitted via REDCap <https://redcap.link/IntramuralGrant>. The LOI will include the following components:

1. Principal Investigator: Name/Title/Contact Information
2. Collaborators: Name/Title/Organization

3. Project Title
4. A brief description of the proposed research (500 words or less)
5. Scholarly Oversight Committee Members (if applicable; see below)
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 receiving the LOI, the information will be reviewed. Applicants will be contacted and invited to apply with a full submission.

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

## **Application and Submission Information**

### Application Characteristics

- Personnel costs will be limited to no more than 10% effort for the principal investigator.
- Personnel costs will be limited to no more than 5% effort for each co-investigator listed as key personnel.
- Personnel costs will be limited to no more than 20% effort for other personnel (nurse, research assistant, biostatistician, etc.) listed on the project.
- Extensions beyond the original award period of 24 months are not allowed.
- No preliminary data are required, but may be included if available.
- Successful applicants will receive 50% of the total award amount at the initiation of the project; remaining funds will become available upon evaluation of a formal progress report and demonstration that all study milestones have been met.
- The Research Plan will follow the NIH R03 format and should not exceed 6 pages.
- The applicant must demonstrate that their home department supports their efforts to become an independent scientist (through a letter from department chair).

### Scope

- Exploratory, novel studies that break new ground or extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications.
- High risk high reward studies that may lead to a breakthrough in a particular area, or result in novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models or applications that will impact biomedical, behavioral, translational (T2 – T4), or clinical research.

### Application Review and Selection Process

A panel using current NIH criteria will review grants. 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.

### **Scholarly Oversight Committee**

The formation of a scholarly oversight committee is required for any new investigator who is within three years of their initial faculty appointment. 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.

### **Application Package**

Please see [Attachment 1](#) for a complete listing of the required forms and instructions for preparing the Research Strategy. Application forms will be provided to applicants when invited to submit a full application.

### **Award Notification**

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

Initial IRB/IACUC submission is expected within 2 months of notification of the award, unless otherwise approved and reported through Monica La Mar-Coleman. Awardees cannot begin their funded project until IRB/IACUC has been approved, and submitted to Monica La Mar-Coleman ([lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org](mailto:lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org)). Applicants must provide IRB/IACUC updates upon request.

### **Reporting Requirements**

A written progress report is due approximately every 6 months and/or upon request. At this time, the awardee and mentor will meet with the ACRI president to discuss the progress of the project. Failure to submit timely reports or reply promptly to meeting requests may jeopardize future funding.

### **Application Submission Contact Information**

Monica La Mar-Coleman  
ACRI Grant Development Specialist  
Telephone: 501-364-2712  
Email: [lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org](mailto:lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org)

## Attachment 1 – Application Materials & Research Strategy Requirements

On or before 5 p.m. on the deadline date, an applicant must upload a combined PDF copy of their application to REDCap. Instructions will be provided at time of invitation.

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 at least 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. 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.
2. Specific Aims (1 page)
3. 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

#### 4. References/Bibliography

#### 5. ACRI Intramural Research & Related Budget Form

#### 6. ACRI Intramural Budget Justification Form

#### 7. NIH Biographical Sketch for all Key Personnel

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.

#### 8. 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](#).

#### 9. 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.

#### 10. Letters of Support

- The applicant must demonstrate that their home department supports their efforts to become an independent scientist (through a letter from department chair).
- Provide a LOS for non-key personnel collaborators/vendors/core laboratories, etc. (if applicable)

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

## **Attachment 2 – Approved and Not Approved Expenses**

This attachment provides guidance regarding expenses that this program will or will not cover. The list is not all inclusive; please contact Monica La Mar-Coleman ([lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org](mailto:lamarcolemanms@archildrens.org)) with any questions.

### **Approved Expenses**

#### Salary/Fringe of Principal Investigator

- base salary not to exceed current NIH salary cap
- minimum of 1% effort
- Maximum 10%

#### Salary/Fringe of Co-Investigators

- base salary not to exceed current NIH salary cap
- minimum of 1% effort
- Maximum 5%

#### Salary/Fringe of research personnel (coordinators, assistants)

- base salary not to exceed current NIH salary cap
- minimum of 1% effort
- Maximum 20%

#### Salary/Fringe of statistical support personnel

- base salary not to exceed current NIH salary cap
- minimum of 1% effort
- Maximum 20%

Computer/Software (with clear justification they are needed for the proposed research)

Indirect Costs on Subawards up to 10% MTDC

Equipment

Office Supplies (research related only)

Publication Costs of Publishers

Supplies for Research Project (actual research costs)

Travel

### **Not Approved Expenses**

Any Expense Not Directly Related to Research Activity

Any Personal Professional Fee

Board Exam Fees

Board Review Courses

DEA #

Lab Coats

Medical Licenses

Membership Dues to Societies and Professional Organizations

Periodicals

Professional Liability Insurance

Subscriptions

Telephone and Pager