



**NASPGHAN FOUNDATION**  
**NASPGHAN Foundation Mid-Level Career Award**  
**Submission Deadline: July 1, 2021**

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This award is designated for NASPGHAN members at the mid-career level who are pursuing research in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition. Mid-level is defined as a faculty member who has held a faculty appointment for at least 6 years at the time of the application but has not yet reached full professor level. The goal of this award is to support and advance the success of investigators at the mid-level stage of their career.

Applications will be accepted for investigators to:

- Support a new project within an established area of research or
- Support investigation of a new or innovative research area which represents a departure from previously funded research

The proposal must include a focused project that has the potential to both directly enhance the applicant's ability to obtain further federal peer-reviewed research funding and to make a significant impact on pediatric gastrointestinal, nutrition and liver health. Basic, clinical, quality improvement, translational, epidemiologic, dissemination and implementation research are all encouraged. Although not mandatory, a preference will be given to applicants who have: 1) a track record of prior national federal (e.g. NIH) research funding; 2) currently have a gap in research funding; and 3) have demonstrated commitment to a long-term academic career in pediatric gastroenterology.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must:

- Hold an MD, PhD or equivalent degree (e.g. MB, ChB, MBBS, DO) and a full-time faculty position at a North American institution. Applicants who are at the Instructor, Assistant or Associate level are eligible. **Full professors are not eligible.**
- Be a NASPGHAN member in good standing **for at least two full years** at the time of the application deadline.
- Be at least 6 years out from the start of their first faculty position regardless of rank or academic track.
- Not have an active R01 (similar or equivalent CIHR or other independent investigator grant) at the time of application. Applicants holding a career development award, such as a K grant, can apply for this mid-career grant during the last two years of the career development award.

## **GRANT TERM AND STIPULATIONS**

The award will provide \$50,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years (total *up to* \$100,000). Institutional indirect costs are not allowed. If two years of funding are awarded a financial statement and brief progress report are required at the completion of the first year. A close-out report is required at the end of the funding period. All publications resulting from work supported by the NASPGHAN

Foundation must acknowledge support from this grant funding mechanism. The awardee must attend the 2021 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting to accept the award and must commit to attending the annual NASPGHAN meeting each year of the award with a presentation of the results of the research project at the 2023 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting. An annual amount of \$1000.00 should be budgeted toward travel expenses to meet this requirement.

Funds may be used for purposes that directly support the proposed research project. Budget items may be used for but are not limited to: e.g. salary (principal investigator, lab personnel, and/or research coordinators); supplies; subject compensation; animal care or procurement; imaging; and other costs which directly support completion of the proposed research project. Funds may not be used for support of unpaid leave of absence or housing.

## **REVIEW PROCEDURES**

- The NASPGHAN Research Committee and invited experts in the field will review the applications and score proposals using the National Institutes of Health scoring system. This scoring system uses a 9-point scale for the overall impact score and individual scores for (at least) five scored criteria (significance, innovation, approach, investigators, and environment).

Reviewers will also take into account:

- Potential of the proposed research project to make a significant impact on pediatric gastrointestinal, nutrition, and/or liver health;
- Scholarly excellence of the applicant as defined by publications and previous research funding;
- Potential for the award to have a notable impact on ongoing and future career success.

Members of the review panel will follow strict conflict of interest guidelines. Contact between the applicant or sponsors with committee members regarding applications is strictly prohibited and may lead to disqualification from further consideration.



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**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**  
**FAILURE TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THESE GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN TH**  
**DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR APPLICATION**

Completed applications must include the following.

1. NIH biographical sketch in NIH format of the principal investigator and if applicable, other key personnel. NIH biosketch format and instructions (non-fellowship) are posted at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.
2. The research plan structured according to the NIH format as outlined below with 1/2-inch margins. Times New Roman or Arial font no less than 11 point are required. Page limitations and style requirements are strictly enforced. (No application more than SIX single spaced pages will be reviewed. References are not included in this maximum page count).
  - Scientific Abstract (one page) suitable for use in the public domain should succinctly describe the scope of the proposed research, the study hypothesis, its scientific objectives and the potential for innovation. Relevance of the proposed research to pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition should be emphasized. The names and institutional affiliations of the principal investigator and all co- investigators should be tabulated at the end of this page.
  - Specific aims (one page)
  - Research Strategy (4 pages) including Significance, Innovation, and Approach
    - (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 capability, 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 if 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*
      - \* Provide preliminary data (preferred but not required) that supports the premise

for the work.

- \* Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- \* Discuss how both the environment and investigators are well suited to complete the proposal.
- \* Provide potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success for each of the specific aims.
- \* If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategies both to enhance feasibility and address 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.

- References (not counted towards page limit)

3. A detailed budget, accompanied by an NIH style budget justification.
4. Letter of support from the Division Director or the Department Chair outlining how they have and will continue their support for research career of the applicant.
5. Reprints of articles in press can be included as an appendix, but should only be included if material is directly relevant to the proposal. Additional articles, such as those already published or in preparation and any other additional documents are not necessary and may detract from the application.