

**NASPGHAN FOUNDATION YOUNG INVESTIGATOR DEVELOPMENT AWARDS**

**Submission Deadline: July 1, 2021**

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**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE**

The Young Investigator Development Awards are two-year awards available to junior faculty (see eligibility requirements below) to support research activities that have the potential for evolution to an independent research career in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology or nutrition.

- NASPGHAN Foundation/NASPGHAN George Ferry Young Investigator Development Award  
This grant is awarded to support a meritorious clinical, quality improvement, translational or basic science research project related to diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, liver, pancreas or nutritional disorders of children.
- NASPGHAN Foundation/Nestlé Nutrition Research Young Investigator Development Award  
This grant, generously supported by Nestlé Nutrition Institute, is awarded to support a meritorious clinical, quality improvement, translational or basic science research **project relating to nutrition** in infancy, childhood or adolescence.

***NOTE: Investigators may apply for both grants, as long as the proposed studies adhere to all criteria for each grant.***

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must:

- Be a NASPGHAN member in good standing for at least two years. Have or will complete pediatric gastroenterology, advanced fellowship training, or basic post-doctoral training within 5 years of the application due date for this award. Concurrent completion of advanced fellowship training is not allowed for this award.
- Hold a full time faculty position below the rank of Associate Professor in an academic institution within the United States of America, Mexico or Canada and hold an MD, DO, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent degree at the start of the award.
- Not currently hold or previously been awarded an NIH mentored grant such as a K08, K23, an NIH RO1, PO1 (or similar), or an or equivalent Canadian or Mexican grant mechanisms. Those with concurrent or previous institutional career development awards (KL2, K12, or similar) or Foundation grants are eligible to apply if the proposal does not have scientific overlap.
- Not currently hold another NASPGHAN Foundation grant.

## GRANT TERM AND STIPULATIONS

- Awards are **\$75,000** in direct costs per year for up to two years of support.
- Institutional indirect costs are not permitted.
- The supporting institution must provide the applicant with at least 75% protected time to conduct the proposed work and career development.
- All publications resulting from work supported by the NASPGHAN Foundation must acknowledge support by the relevant funding mechanism.
- A complete financial statement and scientific progress report are required annually. The recipient will be required to indicate how the funds were used; the accomplishments achieved during the project and how the additional training contributed to his/her research career development.
- The awardee must attend the 2021 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting to accept the award. He/she must present the results of the research project at the 2023 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting.
- If during the period of the award, an independent NIH (R01, P01, or similar) or a CIHR Operating grant is awarded, or a K-series or equivalent grant is awarded, Foundation monies may be retained but only after official notification to the Foundation and provision of a plan to address any potential scientific overlap. In cases of significant overlap the Foundation may require the funds (or a portion thereof) be relinquished.

## REVIEW PROCEDURES

The NASPGHAN Research Committee members and invited *ad hoc* experts (as invited by the Research Committee Study Section Chair) 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).

Primary emphasis is given to scientific strength and innovation of the proposed work, qualifications of the applicant, and commitment of the applicant's Division and Department. Competitive applicants are expected to have potential for a successful career as a physician - scientist. A career development plan should also be presented as part of the proposal as this will be considered during the review.

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 prior to grant review and will lead to potential disqualification.

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**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

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

Completed applications must include the following.

1. A biographical sketch of the principal investigator and sponsors. NIH biosketch format and instructions (non-fellowship) are posted at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.
2. Candidate information and **career development goals**. This is a description of the candidate's background and commitment to a research career. It should include a mentorship/career development plan that will be followed in the context of the proposed research project and which will help lead the applicant toward an independent research career. This may be structured into the following sub-sections (Limit TWO pages).
  - Applicant's personal statement outlining interest in a research career.
  - Proposed research skills development including: a portrayal of goals; a statement of the scientific or clinical underpinnings of the training experience; and detailed role of the mentor/mentorship plan.
  - Long-term career plans and how the proposed research will facilitate achievement of these plans.
3. 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 research plan 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 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 strategies both to enhance 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.

- References (do not count towards page limits)

4. A detailed budget. There are no *a priori* restrictions on how the grant is used with the exception that indirect costs are not allowed.
5. Two letters of recommendation are required.
  - One letter should be from the individual responsible for the applicant's research training (mentor) which should describe the applicant's potential for an independent research career, and describe how the environment will ensure the candidate's success.
  - The second letter should be from the applicant's academic division or department leader (Section Chief or Department Chair). This letter should clearly delineate a commitment of 75% effort dedicated to research, as well as an adequate assignment of space, equipment and resources for the proposed research.
6. 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.