



## Adult Congenital Heart Association Research Grant Application

The mission of the Adult Congenital Heart Association is to empower the congenital heart disease community by advancing access to resources and specialized care that improve patient-centered outcomes.

These research grants will be awarded to proposals most likely to advance ACHA's goal of achieving best possible outcomes for people with congenital heart defects (CHD).

Proposals may involve basic, translational, population-based, clinical, or other forms of research. Establishment of registries/programs will also be considered, but the main specific research questions anticipated to be addressed should be explicitly stated and a rigorous research plan must be included. In addition, anticipated sources of funding to maintain ongoing registries or programs should be discussed.

Please direct any questions about this Research Grant Application to Danielle M. Hile, ACHA's Senior Director of Mission Delivery at [dhile@achaheart.org](mailto:dhile@achaheart.org).

### The Grant Application Process is as follows:

- Applicants shall complete the Research Grant Application and submit to ACHA by the due date. (11:59pm EST, March 24, 2023)
- Research Grant Proposals are reviewed by the grant review committee. (April 2023)
  - Each proposal will be reviewed considering the following aspects: overall impact on the understanding of and care for adults with CHD, significance and innovation, approach and methodology, PI track record and qualifications, institutional environment and support, and likelihood of future funding.
- After review, the Grant Review Committee will make its recommendations known to the Board of Directors, and ACHA shall distribute available funds to the highest rated project(s) as determined by the recommendation of the grant review committee and the Board of Directors.
- Funding Award (June 2023)
- Projects start (July 1, 2023)

### Eligibility:

- Grant Award Options:
  - **Each grant will provide up to \$20,000** for one year for direct costs with which to complete the research project, no indirect funding will be provided.
    - Applicants can submit multiple applications for any ACHA Research Grant.
  - No more than 30% of awarded funds for any given year can be used for personnel costs.
  - Grant funds cannot be used to support PI salary.
  - The proposing institution will be expected to commit to cover costs related to travel, conference presentation, or publication costs.
  - Investigators must hold a faculty position at a non-profit institution in the United States of America at the time of grant award. If a faculty position is not held at the time of application, a letter of



- 41 support from the relevant department/institution confirming this will be the case at the time of  
42 grant award should be submitted.
- 43 • Demonstration of the principal investigator's (PI) ongoing dedication to research related to adults  
44 with congenital heart disease
  - 45 • Post-graduate trainee in an ACGME accredited Residency or Fellowship training program in the  
46 United States of America with a specific interest in ACHD. Fellows in an Adult Congenital Heart  
47 Disease training program are encouraged to apply.
  - 48 • Funds may not be used for Fellow salary support, travel or publication costs. The letter of support  
49 from the Fellow's program director should include a statement of support for any such costs.
  - 50 • The applicant must have a stated commitment towards pursuing a career in advancing the  
51 understanding of and care for adults with CHD. A description of this commitment should be  
52 included in the Personal Statement.

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#### 54 **Grant Proposals:**

- 55 • *Research Grant Proposals are reviewed by the grant review committee. Each proposal will be reviewed*  
56 *considering the following aspects: overall impact on the understanding of and care for adults with CHD,*  
57 *significance and innovation, approach and methodology, PI track record and qualifications, institutional*  
58 *environment and support, and likelihood of future funding.*
- 59 • Grants will only be made in one-year commitments, with the opportunity to submit a grant for  
60 future/continued funding.
- 61 • Awardees will be invited/expected to present findings in oral or poster form at an ACHA Conference or a  
62 conference/other venue identified as appropriate by ACHA within 12 months of scheduled grant  
63 completion. Registration costs will be supported by ACHA. If invited/requested, the grant awardees will be  
64 expected to participate in one or two Webinars to disseminate knowledge to the ACHD community  
65 regarding ongoing research.
- 66 • At the time of application, the applicant must hold a post-baccalaureate degree and demonstrate ongoing  
67 engagement in ACHD research.
- 68 • **At the time of application, the applicant must be a current registered [Professional Member](#) of ACHA.**
- 69 • Ongoing engagement with the larger ACHD community, including patients and their families, is encouraged  
70 though it is understood the relevance and feasibility of this may vary between research projects.
- 71 • At the time of application, the applicant must have one of the following designations: United States citizen,  
72 permanent resident, pending permanent resident (any resident who has an approved I-765 form and has  
73 submitted an I-485 application with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services), E-3 - specialty  
74 occupation worker, H-1B Visa - temporary worker in a specialty occupation, O-1 Visa - temporary worker  
75 with extraordinary abilities in the sciences, TN Visa – North American Free Trade Agreement professional,  
76 G-4 or J-1 Visa - family member of or employee of international organizations.

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#### 78 **Evaluation Criteria (with estimated weight):**

- 79 • Significance & Innovation (40%): The research is in alignment with the mission of ACHA *which is to*  
80 *empower the congenital heart disease community by advancing access to resources and specialized care*  
81 *that improve patient-centered outcomes.* The research challenges existing paradigms and presents an  
82 innovative hypothesis and/or addresses a research gap, accelerates translational research, removes



83 barriers and/or catalyzes the development of the field of congenital heart disease (CHD), focusing on the  
84 adult population. The research develops or employs novel concepts, approaches, methods, tools and/or  
85 technologies.

- 86 • Approach and methodology (35%): The purpose of the research is clearly stated. The research rationale,  
87 methods, results, and implications must be presented in a logical manner. Conclusions are grounded in the  
88 results. The proposed methods are sound and likely to successfully address the questions posed.
- 89 • Investigator track record and qualifications (10%): The P.I. and team members are immersed in the field of  
90 CHD and have a record of successful research in the field.
- 91 • Likelihood of future funding (15%)

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93 **By submitting a proposal to ACHA, you, the principal Investigator, agree to the following:**

- 94 1. You accept full responsibility for the scientific and financial conduct of this project. You also attest that you  
95 will hold a faculty position at the time of grant award initiation.
- 96 2. If you leave the institution(s) listed in this Research Grant Application, you will immediately inform ACHA.  
97 ACHA will have full discretion to determine if the remaining funds will follow you to the new institution,  
98 remain with the project at the initial institution or be returned to ACHA.
- 99 3. Funding must be used for the specific purpose for which it is intended at an institution with “Not-for-Profit”  
100 status as determined by the United States of America Internal Revenue Service. Any funds not used  
101 specifically for the purpose of conducting this project shall be returned to ACHA at the end of the grant  
102 period.
- 103 4. For all Awards, you must submit semi-annual reports to ACHA. These reports should include an accounting  
104 for all funds used, along with a progress report which summarizes the research accomplishments based on  
105 the specific goals of the project and shall be submitted for review to ACHA. Abstracts or publications  
106 resulting from this funding must be attached to your status report as well. To knowingly falsify any data or  
107 report will result in immediate revocation of funds and reporting to appropriate regulators at the PI’s  
108 institution, as well as relevant governmental authorities.
- 109 5. Receipt of a grant award from ACHA shall in no way guarantee or obligate subsequent funding.
- 110 6. You will include the following statement shall be included in all publications, presentations, papers, etc.,  
111 referencing that the research was **“Supported by a research grant from the Adult Congenital Heart**  
112 **Association.”** All such presentations or publications must be listed on each progress report, and any such  
113 products of the research produced after the grant period will be submitted to the ACHA in a timely manner.  
114 This will be used both to document that ACHA funding was acknowledged and for publicity and fundraising  
115 purposes.
- 116 7. Applications must be completed on the provided forms using standard, black, Arial 11-point font with  
117 single-spacing and one-inch margins. All signatures should be in dark blue or black ink. Figures may include  
118 color, and Figure legends can have smaller font, but should be concise and easily legible.
- 119 8. If any part of the application is incomplete, formatting is not according to guidelines, or the application is  
120 submitted after the deadline, the proposal may not be reviewed.
- 121 9. ***If any part of the application is incomplete, formatting is not according to guidelines, or the application is***  
122 ***submitted after the deadline, the proposal may not be reviewed.***

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Individual	Printed	Signature	Date
<i>I agree to all of the terms and conditions stated above</i>			
<b>Principal Investigator #1</b>			
<b>Principal Investigator #2 (if needed)</b>			
<b>ACHD Fellow</b>			
I certify that if the Principal Investigator listed above is awarded a Research Grant, that I am the individual responsible for overseeing and tracking all grant money.			
<b>Financial Officer</b>			
As witness to signatures of Principal Investigator(s), ACHD Fellow and Financial Officer; I approve all facets of this Research Grant Proposal being performed by the above listed Principal Investigator(s)/ACHD Fellow.			
<b>Department Chairperson</b>			

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126 **Applications must be submitted in both Microsoft Word and PDF format to Danielle Hile, ACHA’s Senior Director**  
 127 **of Mission Delivery via email [dhile@achaheart.org](mailto:dhile@achaheart.org) accompanied with the following documentation, in the**  
 128 **following order:**

- 129       1. Cover Letter (1 page) on institutional letterhead.
- 130       2. Research Grant Application
- 131             • Total 9.5 pages maximum (+1 page for multicenter proposal):
- 132                 ○ Grant application cover sheet = 1 page
- 133                 ○ Lay Abstract = ½ page



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- Aims = 1 page
  - Research proposal = 6 pages
    - Hypotheses, aims, statistical approaches and power/sample size estimates should be explicitly described. Preliminary data can be included though is not required. The feasibility of the study (e.g., available equipment, expertise, or participants) within the study period should be defended.
  - Multicenter description, if applicable = 1 page
  - References: unlimited.
  - In addition to the Application (not included in the page limit listed above), applications from **Fellows** must also submit (1) a 1 page, personal statement describing anticipated career path and commitment to ACHD research, (2) a letter of support from the primary mentor for the proposed research project, and (3) a letter of support from the applicant's training program director (or equivalent person) detailing support and guaranteeing adequate time and resources to complete the proposed research within the year of funding. This includes documentation of support for salary, travel, and publication costs.
3. Detailed Budget: Must list all anticipated costs for project. It shall be the discretion of ACHA as to what shall be considered an allowable cost.
4. NIH Biosketch (current format; max 5 pages) for the principal investigator. For Fellow PIs, a biosketch should also be submitted for a Primary Mentor. The applicant may also include a biosketch for each of up to four additional selected key co-investigators or consultants (not required, at discretion of applicant to support the strength of the application).
5. Multicenter proposals should include a brief signed statement of anticipated participation from each proposed site investigator (no need for elaboration of support).
6. Proof of Tax-Exempt Status: Include the institution's 501(c)3 form.