



MedStar Health

2024 New Investigator Associate Giving Grant Fund Request for Proposals (RFP)

Background

We are pleased to announce the MedStar Health Research Institute (MHRI) *New Investigator Associate Giving Grant*. This funding opportunity is to support MedStar Health new investigators to help launch impactful research careers in any discipline or specialty that will advance health and create new knowledge. Early-Stage investigators are defined as investigators who are within their first 5 years of joining MedStar Health as an attending/faculty member. All funds come from MedStar Health associate and Board giving (when directed to MHRI).

The goals of the *New Investigator Associate Giving Grant* are to (1) support scientific research by a MedStar Health employed investigator that will advance health for patients in the communities we serve, and (2) provide seed funding that has a high likelihood of leading to external funding which ultimately contributes to the successful launch of a productive research career at MedStar Health.

Those awarded funding through this mechanism will receive funds to conduct their proposed study, have access to core expertise from MHRI (e.g., statistics, informatics, research coordinators) as part of the award, and advisory support.

2024 Funding Approach

Investigators can propose a project with a budget of \$20,000 to cover direct research team personnel, supplies, and services, as well as up to an additional \$10,000 for MHRI project support which may include expert consultation or services in statistics, informatics, data science, project coordination, research laboratory assays, and/or research associate time. The \$10,000 MHRI project support must be discussed with designated leaders of those MHRI cores/departments (contact info provided below) prior to proposal submission to ensure those services can be provided in the allocated budget.

In an effort to give applicants time to prepare a high-quality proposal there will be two funding cycles:

- Cycle 1: Proposals will be due May 31, 2024, with an anticipated project start date of Sept. 1, 2024
- **Cycle 2: Proposals will be due November 30, 2024, with an anticipated project start date of January 31, 2025**

Applicants can submit only one proposal per cycle as principal investigator, but can submit to both cycle 1 and 2.



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The request for proposal (RFP) process

Criteria for selection of successful grant applications include:

1. The applicant must be at a faculty/attending level (i.e., not in a training program), within 5 years of joining MedStar Health as a faculty/attending (i.e., as a MedStar Health employee) and eligible to serve as principal investigator of a future federal, foundation or investigator-initiated commercial research grant
2. Since the intent of these awards are to help those who have not yet launched their research careers and obtained independent funding, priority will be given to applicants who have not already received substantial external funding (e.g., R01 federal award or equivalent or other grants/contracts >\$100,000 or \geq 20% salary support in any one year).
3. The proposed research will provide pilot data or demonstrate feasibility crucial to a planned, subsequent extramural research or career development proposal, preferably an R-series or K-series award (or their equivalents).

Technical aspects for the New Investigator Associate Giving Grant

1. **Notification:** Identify your Scientific Center Administrator (SCA) from Exhibit A of this solicitation and notify them of your planned submission. This should be done as early as possible in the process. The SCA plays a critical role in helping you navigate MHRI administrative and regulatory needs.
2. **Timeline:** Cycle 1 applications will be due on May 31, 2024, and notification of decisions will be made by Sept. 1, 2024. **Cycle 2 applications will be due Nov 30, 2024, and notification of decisions will be made by January 31, 2025.**
3. **Review:** A scientific review committee will review all applications on their responsiveness to this RFP, feasibility, and scientific impact, placing the greatest emphasis on potential for future funding. The review committee will include MHRI senior investigators, members of the Georgetown- MedStar Scientific Council and *ad hoc* experts, as needed. All peer reviews will be fully confidential.
4. **Project Duration:** The investigative team is expected to start as soon as possible, with any needed IRB, IACUC, or required regulatory documents submitted no later than 6 weeks after funding notification. No more than 10% of grant funds may be expended prior to receipt of all approvals and funding will be forfeited if research approval and initiation require longer than 4 months from notification. The proposed effort should be completed in 12 months. It is expected that any resulting publications and new grant applications will be submitted within 9 months of project completion.
5. **Budget:** The proposed budget must not exceed \$20,000 for direct project personnel, supplies, and services plus \$10,000 in (approved) MHRI services. There are no indirect charges associated with this grant. To be 'approved' the detailed budget must be signed by the appropriate MHRI official for the \$10,000 MHRI services component. For biostatistical services this is someone from CBIDS (biostatistics@medstar.net). For coordinator services it



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would be your SCA from Exhibit A. Applicants should coordinate with the appropriate MHRI personnel and allow for 2-4 weeks to discuss and revise approach.

- 6. Application Process and Content:** Applicants must use the provided templates for all aspects of the submission. Please send applications to MHRI-Submissions@medstar.net as a single PDF file by 11:59 pm on May 31, 2024 for Cycle 1 proposals or **November 30, 2024** for Cycle 2 proposals, and include:
- 1) A cover page which should include:
 - a) Title of project
 - b) Principal Investigator and Project Team (names, current positions, and roles in project)
 - c) A description on how the investigator will ensure having the time to devote to the proposed project (see also #7, below)
 - 2) **Specific Aims:** an NIH-style one-page encapsulation of the project. State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research field(s) involved.
 - 3) **Research Strategy** (standard NIH R21/R03 format) of no more than 6 pages and should include:
 - a) Significance
 - b) Innovation
 - c) Approach
 - 4) NIH Biosketch (standard, current NIH format of up to 5 pages – see [template](#), [example](#), and [instructions](#)) for each investigator
 - 5) A proposed detailed budget and budget justification (see [NIH budget template](#)) for the \$20,000 direct personnel and supplies. A detailed budget signed by the appropriate MHRI official for the \$10,000 MHRI services component. Applicants should coordinate with the appropriate MHRI personnel, as follows:
 - Data Science, Informatics and Statistics: biostatistics@medstar.net
 - The CBIDS team can provide data from the electronic health record, REDCap database/survey creation and statistical analysis. Please allow 2-4 weeks before the deadline to allow for the CBIDS team to provide feedback and a statement of work for your project and any recommended revisions to your proposal.
 - Recruitment support: Wendy Enriquez (wendy.k.enriquez@medstar.net)
 - Research coordinators: MHRI manager of the coordinator
 - 6) A one-page or shorter description of the planned subsequent grant application that would follow completion of the proposed project and how this project would specifically increase the competitiveness of the planned grant
 - 7) A brief letter from the department chair or clinical service line leader describing the applicant's position/duties and ensuring that, if the applicant is funded, they will have adequate time to complete the proposed research; describing access to any other resources, collaborations, facilities, or resources that would be needed by the applicant and



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would favor success. A description on how the project aligns with the goals of the department, service line, and MedStar Health would be helpful.

8) Applications should be formatted in Arial font, 11 point, single spaced, with 0.5-inch margins

**Note:* The Cover Page, Specific Aims, Biosketch, Budget and Budget Justification, planned future funding description, and letter of support are not included in the Research Strategy 6-page limit

Questions about the application process should be directed to Raj Ratwani MHRI-Submissions@medstar.net.



EXHIBIT A LIST OF SCIENTIFIC CENTER ADMINSTRATORS (SCA's)

Scientific Center	SCA	Email
MedStar Cardiovascular Research Network	Petros Okubagzi	petros.g.okubagzi@medstar.net
MedStar Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Network	Amy Loveland	amy.loveland@medstar.net
MedStar Neuroscience & Rehab Research Network	Petros Okubagzi	petros.g.okubagzi@medstar.net
MedStar Healthcare Delivery Research Network	Amy Will	amy.m.will@medstar.net
MedStar Georgetown Cancer Research Network	Hiwot Guebre-Xabiher	hiwot.guebre-xabiher@medstar.net
Center for Biostatistics, Informatics, and Data Science (CBIDS)	Alexandra (Sacha) Burn	alexandra.c.burn@medstar.net
Medical & Surgical Research Network Note, this network covers many disease groups like diabetes, burn, women's health, mental health, HIV/AIDS, gastroenterology, dermatology, etc... This is not a complete list, but a good place to start if your area is not easily identifiable by the other network names.	Ron Miguez	ron.m.miguez@medstar.net