



ACG/ASGE Epidemiologic Research Award in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Application Deadline: 5:00 PM CST, Friday, December 11, 2020

Description

This Research Award provides support for projects involving studies on the use and outcomes of gastrointestinal (GI) endoscopy using the GI Quality Improvement Consortium (GIQuIC). This award is co-sponsored by the ACG and ASGE and should have the potential to impact the quality and outcomes of GI endoscopy.

Objective

To promote research in GI endoscopy using the GIQuIC data registry.

Statement of Need

In an effort to maximize the value of GI endoscopy, there is a critical need to objectively study the quality impact of relevant procedures using data repositories which represent “real-world” experience. This includes the indications for outcomes and impact of endoscopic procedures in the ambulatory and/or inpatient settings.

Eligibility

Candidate is required to be an ACG or ASGE member at the time of application, be a MD, DO, or PhD and be currently practicing in North America or Canada. If the candidate is a trainee, they must include a letter of support from a research mentor and there must be a letter from the trainee's Division Chief confirming the trainee's ongoing appointment and position at the institution for the duration of the grant. If the trainee applicant is not guaranteed an appointment for the duration of the grant, a contingency plan is required.

Awards and Requirements

1. Each award request may be up to \$50,000, with funds budgeted over one or two years. The number of awards selected in a given year will be jointly decided by the ACG and ASGE Governing Boards.
2. This RFA seeks to promote the use of the GIQuIC national registry. Applications must include the use of this repository in their research, although additional sources of data are allowed.



3. The budget and budget justification should be itemized, outlining its relationship to the research proposal. Budgets will be carefully scrutinized by the Research Committee and will be considered in the scoring of the grant. Inappropriate or poorly justified budgets may jeopardize the application. Additionally, the research committee may adjust the award amount if deemed appropriate.
4. Funding requests may include:
 - a. Personnel (e.g., research assistant and/or faculty salary support; this should include a percentage of effort up to NIH salary cap for the proposed study with appropriate justification).
 - b. Study supplies
 - c. Equipment essential for study
 - d. Data acquisition, cleaning, and analysis - These costs must include fees associated with data extraction from the GIQuIC repository. Applicants should contact research@giquic.org for information on costs related to these services for the GIQuIC database.
5. Funding will not be provided for:
 - a. Salary support for trainees
 - b. Computer purchases (unless a unique application is proposed)
 - c. Standard equipment and supplies needed for appropriate patient care
 - d. Indirect costs/ University overhead
6. In addition to the standard requirements for an ACG Clinical Research Award or ASGE Research Award, the application should include:
 - a. A letter of support from an appropriate designee from the registry(-ies) to be studied, which confirms the feasibility of the study proposal and acknowledgement of costs.
 - b. Detailed budget justification which includes the costs of data extraction, cleaning, and analysis. This should include the cost for all work related to GIQuIC data usage.
7. For grants spanning two years, the second year of continued funding is contingent on satisfactory study progress determined by the ACG and ASGE Research Committees after review of mandatory annual progress reports.



8. Studies which include more than one center will require institutional review board approval at all centers before dissemination of funds. The participating institutions and investigators should be specified in the application.
9. Progress reports must be submitted to the ACG and ASGE Research Committees via the Administrative Office every 12 months for the duration of the project (deadline is June 30). Progress reports must include a financial statement from the institutional grants or accounting office. Failure to submit a progress report by the stated deadline may affect future funding.
10. Requests for no-cost extensions must be submitted in writing to the ACG and ASGE Research Committees. This request should include a) a detailed summary regarding how grant money has been spent (or forecasted to be spent) up to the original award end date, b) a proposed budget describing in reasonable detail how the remaining funds will be spent in the upcoming year, and c) progress to date, including any challenges necessitating an extension. A change in PI for the upcoming award period may be proposed by and justified by the original PI, including changes of the PI-ship to the mentor.
11. Upon completion of the award, the ACG and ASGE require that a final scientific and financial report from the grants or account office be submitted. All publications and abstracts must acknowledge support from the ACG and ASGE.

Submission

Applicants are required to submit a single Adobe PDF document comprising the complete grant submission. ACG or ASGE Membership at the time of submission is a requirement of this award. Type your name (last name, first name) and the name of the award in the upper right-hand corner of each page. Type the page number in the upper left-hand corner of each page. Limit proposal to 5 pages (excluding references and budget). **FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL CAUSE THE GRANT APPLICATION TO BE RETURNED UNREVIEWED.**

Selection Criteria

Grants are awarded based on scientific merit (significance, innovation, and methodology), feasibility, investigative team, and environment. One overarching objective of these awards is for the principal investigator(s) to eventually submit larger extramural research proposals to federal or industry sponsors. Investigators having the highest potential to accomplish this will be given priority.



Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by the Research Committee (ACG/ASGE) and approved by the ACG and ASGE governing boards.

Grant Proposal Outline

Each application must have page numbers, be in Arial 11-point font, with 1" margins, and contain each of the following elements:

1. Cover letter
 - a. Cover letter should be limited to one page, and include a brief overview of proposed project, investigator team, and disclosure of any conflicts of interest.
 - b. Conflicts of interest include financial ownership, patent rights, or other relationship with industry that is pertinent to proposed research. Investigators should err on the side of complete disclosure. If conflicts exist, a plan for resolution of these conflicts should be delineated in the cover letter.
2. Impact statement: Include a brief summary of project and its potential impact on the field of gastroenterology and/or endoscopic practice (**maximum 3 sentences**).
3. Abstract - Include name, institution, project title, mentor name if applicable, and a one-page summary of the proposal including hypothesis and goals. Suggested headings include: Background; Aims/Hypothesis; Methods; Analysis; Timeline and Feasibility; Future Study. **Limit to one page.**
4. Grant Proposal - **Limit to five pages and include each of the following headers (excluding references):**
 - a. Title and Introduction
 - b. Hypothesis & Specific Aims - This should be a clear statement of the problem, the related hypothesis/question and a brief description of the proposed scientific plan. Provide a concise explanation in a few sentences.
 - c. Background and Significance to Endoscopic Practice- Justification regarding scope of the problem, and relevance to ACG and ASGE membership and the endoscopy community.
 - d. Innovation
 - e. Preliminary Data - Outline prior studies or your pilot work already completed in this area. If prior studies have not been done by your group, give brief details of pilot work done by others.



f. Approach - Describe the methods of collection and analysis of the data. A statistical data analysis plan, including sample size calculations, is required, even for retrospective studies. Be as specific as possible.

g. Pitfalls, alternatives, and future directions, with any plans for additional grant applications based on these results.

5. References - **Limit to two pages.**

6. Biosketches- Provide NIH-style biosketch for candidate, mentor and co-investigators that includes project specific personal statement, relevant prior publications, and all current funding (see example at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>). **Limit to five pages each.**

7. Budget and budget justification - Please justify all items (including % effort) with a separate budget justification page. For multiyear projects, budget for years 1 and 2 should be separated. **Limit to one page per budget year, and up to 2 additional pages for justification.**

a. The maximum request should be \$50,000. Grant support for this amount may be distributed over one or two years. If the grant is budgeted for two years, the second year of continued funding is contingent on satisfactory progress, as demonstrated in the mandatory yearly progress reports.

b. The budget request should be detailed, and all items should be clearly related to the research proposal, which includes the costs of data extraction, cleaning, and analysis. Applicants will need to work directly with GIQuIC (research@giquic.org) for information on cost of data extraction, cleaning and any other services related to use of the database.

c. Funding will only be considered for allowed items (see "Awards and Requirements" section numbers 3-5).

8. Resources and Environment - List facilities, equipment, and available personnel required to complete this project. Be aware that reviewers may not be aware of the resources and/or patient volumes of your center. **Limit resources statement to one page.**

9. Institutional Review Board - Attach IRB approval and/or IACUC approval if applicable. Alternatively, attach proof of exempt status, if applicable. This is particularly important for human subjects research that involves invasive testing and/or procedures that are not standard of care. For multicenter studies, IRB/IACUC approval must be provided from all participating sites. If not available at time of application, and the application is funded, no funds will be released until IRB approval is received.



10. Supporting letters. A letter of support is required from GIQuIC, and for any other data sources being utilized, which confirms the feasibility of the study proposal and acknowledgement of the costs. Letters of support are also requested for co-investigators, particularly those from other institutions for multicenter proposals, and the PI's Division Chief in the case of a trainee PI.