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## 2024 SCA Research Grants

*Deadline: January 24, 2024*

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SCA supports cardiothoracic and vascular research projects. This is the basis for the creation of the **SCA Starter Grants, SCA Diversity and Inclusion Grants, SCA Mid-Career Grants, and the SCA In-Training Grant.**

The SCA is committed to promoting the representation of women and underrepresented minority investigators. Diversity is vitally important to advance scientific discovery. The SCA especially encourages individuals from all racial, ethnic, or gender groups to apply.

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### **Grants Information**

- Four types of grants will be awarded in 2024:
  - SCA Starter Grant – up to \$25,000 per year for two years.
  - SCA Diversity and Inclusion Grant – up to \$25,000 per year for two years.
  - SCA Mid-Career Grant – up to \$50,000 per year for two years.
  - SCA In-Training Grant - \$15,000 for one year.
- Applications will close on January 24, 2024.
- The awards will be announced during the 2024 SCA Annual Meeting & Workshops in Toronto, Canada. The grant period of 24 months can begin any time from July 1 to December 31 of the year granted. Grant recipients are required to present their work at a subsequent SCA Annual Meeting.

**Please Note:** The Starter Grant and the Diversity and Inclusion Grant request the same application information and formatting. ***At the time of application, the PI should identify if they are eligible for, and wish to be considered for, both the Diversity and Inclusion Grant and the Starter Grant, or for one or the other only.***

### **Eligibility**

1. Member, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists at the time of application.
2. MD or PhD or equivalent degree
3. Primary Investigators (PI) on active NIH grants or other (inter)national peer-reviewed grants with > \$50,000 per year are not eligible.
4. Previous Starter or Roizen Grant recipients are only eligible for Mid-Career Grants.
5. Grants will be judged relative to peers in the grant category submitted.
6. Eligible research projects should be completed within three years after the award of the grant.
7. **Starter Grant:** At the time of grant activation, PI must be within five years of finishing training (after terminal degree) and have an academic appointment at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. PI must not be enrolled in a training program (residency, fellowship, PhD, postdoc) at the time of grant activation.
8. **Diversity and Inclusion Grant:** The grant is open to PIs who are women or underrepresented minorities (as defined by the NIH: <https://diversity.nih.gov/about-us/population-underrepresented>), who are within **ten years** of finishing training (after terminal degree), and have an academic appointment at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor.
9. **Mid-Career Grant:** PI must be at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. Previous Mid-Career Grant recipients are not eligible for additional awards.
10. **In-Training Grant:** In-Training grant is targeted toward residents with a strong interest in cardiac anesthesia and cardiac anesthesia fellows in eligible training programs.



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11. For Starter or D&I grant PIs who no longer meet time-from-training criteria at the time of re-application for a Starter or D&I grant, one re-application is permitted for the same grant mechanism provided that the application is in the immediate subsequent year (i.e. a 2023 unfunded starter grant application can be re-submitted in 2024 [only], even if the PI is then >5 years after finishing training).

### **Formatting Requirements**

*Except for the Curriculum Vitae of the PI, Chair letter, Mentor letter, and the letters of support from co-investigators all other submitted documents must strictly adhere to the following additional formatting requirements:*

- Must be at least 12-point font.
  - Up to 10 points texts in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts is acceptable (as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%)
- Type density: Must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces).
- Application must be double spaced – must be no more than three lines per two vertical inches.
- Recommended font choices:
  - Arial
  - Georgia
  - Helvetica
  - Palatino Linotype
- Page size should be US letter 8.5" x 11."
- Page margins must be at least 0.5" throughout the application.
- Any figures or tables should be embedded within the PDF document, not included as separate pages.

### **Application Requirements**

#### **1. Online Application (fill in information on submission website)**

- Type of grant(s) applying for
- Title of research grant
- Proposed starting date.
- Applicant name, email address, postal address, telephone number, SCA member ID number, academic degrees, and faculty rank
- Sponsoring institution in which research will be performed.
- Responsible department chief name, email address, postal address, and telephone number
- Responsible financial officer of the sponsoring institution name, email address, postal address, and telephone name
- *Starter/D&I/In-Training Grants:* Primary mentor name, email address, postal address, and telephone number

#### **2. Acknowledgement of Other Requirements**

- It is understood that if awarded the grant, a satisfactory progress report will be due to the SCA (addressed to the SCA Research Committee Chair) by June 10 of the following year to obtain the second funding installment.
- The award recipient agrees to provide a report letting SCA know how they have capitalized on the research done because of the SCA grant.
- The award recipient agrees to write a paper and article for the SCA newsletter regarding the research done because of the SCA grant.



- It is understood that a final report will be due to the SCA (addressed to the SCA Research Committee Chair) by September 30 of the year of completion of the research.

**3. Letters included in the submission should be addressed to:**

Anne D. Cherry, MD, FASE  
SCA Research Grant Committee Chair  
SCA Headquarters  
1061 E. Main Street, Suite 300  
East Dundee, IL 60118  
[grants@scahq.org](mailto:grants@scahq.org)

**Application Materials to be Uploaded\*\***

\*\*You must have Adobe Flash Player installed to upload the file.

The main body of the application should be uploaded to the grant submission website as **PDF documents** with the following components:

- 1) **Title Page** (using the template provided on the SCA website):
  - Type of grant applying for
  - Research grant title
  - Name of applicant
  - Applicant's institution, academic degrees, and faculty rank
  - Mentor's name for Starter Grants
  - Names, academic degrees, and faculty ranks of any co-investigators.
- 2) **Response to Reviewers:** For previously submitted grants, a response to previous critiques must be provided (maximum 2 pages).
- 3) **Research Plan** (see pg. 4; maximum of 9 total pages).
- 4) **Budget:** The budget should outline all proposed expenditures for the project and indicate the amount and breakdown for specific items requested from the SCA, and, if applicable, the amount and breakdown for specific items provided by the institution as matching funds.
  - a) The budget may include salary support for technicians, research nurses, and other research personnel, equipment, and/or supplies. Other costs must be itemized and justified.
  - b) **Starter Grants (including the SCA starter, SCA Diversity and Inclusion grant, and In-Training Grant):** no part of the grant may be used for salary support of the PI, the PI's mentor, fellows, or residents. Travel or tuition expenses are not allowed.
  - c) **Mid-Career Grants:** up to 50% of the budget can be used for salary support of the principal investigator and co-investigators. Funds cannot be used for travel or tuition expenses.
  - d) Institutions should not request overhead costs as part of the budget.
  - e) No part of the grant may be used for patient care costs (except to pay for pertinent laboratory costs), consultant costs, alterations, and renovations.
- 5) **Budget Justification** (1 page). Include a brief description of projected costs for different components of the budget, i.e., supplies, animal costs, equipment, salary support.
- 6) **Study Approval** (1 page). Include a statement of approval for studies involving human or animal subjects by the appropriate institutional committee. (The application may be submitted before



approval is obtained, with a letter of explanation. However, no award will be made until notification of institutional approval is received).

- 7) **Related Studies** (1 page). Include a listing of all other studies being performed on the study population, if applicable.
- 8) **Other Grants** (1 page). All active and pending (applied for or received as an investigator or co-investigator) research support for all projects must be detailed. Include a statement of the relationship to the present grant.
- 9) **Curriculum Vitae of the PI & Biosketch** (5 page maximum; NIH Biosketch format required)
- 10) **Letter from the Department Chair indicating the following:**
  - a) Assessment of the applicant's research and other professional accomplishments.
  - b) Institutional/departmental matching funds, which may be salary support of personnel (excluding the principal investigator), supplies, animals, equipment, etc. The amount of all pledged funds should be specified in US \$.
  - c) The availability of suitable facilities and/or patients.
  - d) A guarantee that the PI will have at least 40% non-clinical(research) time, should the grant be awarded.
  - e) The agreement to return all unused funds if the project is not completed in three years.
- 11) **Starter Grant (including the SCA starter, SCA Diversity and Inclusion grant, and In-Training Grant): a scientific mentor is required.** A letter describing the track record of the mentor in regards to success of previous mentees, mentor's sources of research support, commitment of mentor's resources to the applicants' projects, and a mentoring plan must be submitted.
  - a) **Curriculum Vitae of the scientific mentor** (5 page maximum; NIH Biosketch format required).
- 12) **Starter Grants (including the SCA starter, SCA Diversity and Inclusion grant, and In-Training Grant):** A career development plan describing the Career Goals and Objectives and the Candidate's Plan for Career Development/Training Activities during Award Period (maximum 2 pages).
- 13) **Letters of support from all co-investigators.**

### **Research Plan**

The Research Plan must not exceed 9 total pages; lengths listed below do not include references. Failure to strictly follow formatting instructions for the Research Plan will result in administrative withdrawal of the application. Any figures or tables should be embedded within the PDF document, not included as separate pages.

1. Specific Aims and Research Hypothesis (1 page)
2. Research Strategy structured as follows (total 8 pages maximum, with a maximum of 1 page each for the significance and innovation sections):
  - a. Significance
  - b. Innovation
  - c. Approach
    - i. Introduction and Feasibility
    - ii. Preliminary Studies
    - iii. Research Design, which should include
      1. Definition of primary outcomes
      2. A reproducible sample size calculation (power analysis)
      3. Specific techniques, animal species, data sources etc. that will be used.
      4. Types of studies to be done, including any considerations to ensure experimental rigor



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5. Planned methods for statistical analysis.
6. Potential problems and limitations, and how they will be addressed.
3. References: Up to 50 references may be included starting on a new page. References will not be counted towards the maximum of 9 pages for the Research Plan (1-page Specific Aims and Research Hypothesis + 8 pages Research Strategy).