

The National Pancreas Foundation

RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY
January 31, 2027

Guidelines and Policies for Grant Submission

About The National Pancreas Foundation

Founded in 1997, The National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing research and improving outcomes for individuals affected by pancreatic diseases. Through its research grant program, NPF has awarded more than $5 million to support over 130 innovative research projects aimed at advancing the understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of pancreatic diseases.

Beyond its research funding efforts, NPF actively advocates for increased awareness, research investment, and improved patient outcomes. The Foundation has contributed to national research priorities through participation on advisory councils and committees, including the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Advisory Council, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Gastrointestinal Steering Committee, and the Department of Defense Consumer Review process.

NPF has also supported initiatives that have helped advance millions of dollars in additional research funding through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Department of Defense (DoD), and other research institutions. Through these efforts, NPF continues to strengthen the pancreatic disease research community and accelerate progress toward better treatments and improved quality of life for patients.

Grant Eligibility Criteria

Applicant Criteria

1. **Institutional Affiliation:** Applicants must be employed by an institution engaged in health-related research.
2. **Education:** Applicants must hold an advanced degree (MD, DO, PhD, MBBS, or international equivalent).
3. **Eligible Career Stage:** Applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
    - Early-stage faculty members within five years of their first faculty or research staff appointment.
    - Postdoctoral associates or fellows.
4. **Exceptions to the Five-Year Eligibility Window:** An exception to the 5-year window may be granted for interruptions of work experience due to extenuating circumstances and clinical training. Applicants whose time on faculty exceeds the 5-year window and who believe they may be eligible should contact The NPF to confirm eligibility **before** submitting the application.
5. **Mentorship Requirement:** Applicants are required to cite a mentor on the project, whose NIH Biosketch and Other Support should be provided.
6. **Mentor Letter of Support:** Applicants must submit a letter of support from their identified mentor. The letter must describe the mentor's role, the mentorship plan, and how guidance and support will be provided throughout the project. The applicant is expected to take primary responsibility for the design, implementation, and conduct of the proposed research.

7. **Applicant and Research Location Eligibility:** Domestic applicants are eligible to apply. International applicants who are not U.S. residents are also eligible, provided that the proposed research will be conducted at a research institution, laboratory, or program located within the United States. Applicants whose proposed research will be conducted at an institution or laboratory outside the United States are not eligible. All grant funds must be used exclusively to support research activities conducted within the United States.
8. **Clinical Training Requirements:** Applicants currently enrolled in a clinical training program must submit a brief letter from their institutional supervisor (e.g., Fellowship Program Director) confirming that they are in good standing and have protected time available to conduct the proposed research. The research project is expected to be conducted at the applicant's home institution. Exceptions may be considered under rare circumstances and require prior approval from The NPF.
9. **Prior Research Funding Restrictions:** The NPF Research Grant is intended to provide one year of funding to support trainees and junior faculty seeking to establish a foundation in exocrine pancreas research. Applicants who currently hold or have previously received any of the following awards are ineligible:
    - Past NPF Research grant awardees
    - An R01, U01, R21, or equivalent research grant from another federal agency, as Principal Investigator (PI) or Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI).
    - A K award or equivalent career development award from a research foundation (e.g., American Gastroenterological Association, American Pancreatic Association, or Cystic Fibrosis Foundation).
10. **Application Limit:** Applicants may submit only one NPF Research Grant application per grant cycle.

Research/Grant Criteria

1. **Research Focus:** Proposed research must address the broad field of pancreatic diseases, including pancreatic physiology and function in both pediatric and adult populations. Research focused on pancreatic malignancy and all forms of pancreatitis is particularly encouraged. Applications addressing other areas are welcome, provided the proposal demonstrates a clear and meaningful connection to diseases of the exocrine pancreas.
2. **Eligible Research Areas:** Proposals may address basic, experimental, translational, or clinical research questions related to pancreatic diseases, including, but not limited to:
    - Acute and chronic pancreatitis
    - Pediatric and hereditary pancreatitis
    - Pancreatic cancer, including early detection, diagnosis, and treatment
    - Pancreatic cysts and cystic lesions
    - Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI)
    - Pancreatic physiology and function

3. **Institutional Changes:** Applicants or award recipients who experience an unexpected change in institutional affiliation while applying for or receiving NPF funding must notify The NPF promptly. Any change in institutional affiliation or research location will be subject to review and approval by The NPF to determine continued eligibility and the ability to complete the proposed research.
4. **Pilot Project Expectations:** NPF Research Grants are intended to support focused pilot projects that generate valuable preliminary data to support future research and applications for larger-scale funding. Applicants must clearly describe how the proposed research and NPF funding will advance their research program and help leverage additional funding opportunities.
5. **Appropriate Scope of Work:** The proposed research must be feasible within the one-year project period and appropriate for the requested funding amount. Applicants are encouraged to submit focused, well-defined pilot studies rather than large-scale, R01-level research proposals.
6. **Existing and Overlapping Funding:** Applicants must clearly disclose any existing or pending funding that supports, or may overlap with, the proposed research in the Other Support document. Applicants must identify any potential overlap in research scope, specific aims, activities, or budget and explain how NPF funding will support distinct research activities without duplicating existing funding.

Terms

1. **Project Period:** These grants are intended to support a one-year research project beginning September 1, 2027.
2. **Initial Award:** The maximum award is $75,000 in direct costs, plus up to 10% in indirect costs ($7,500), for a maximum total award of $82,500, subject to funding availability.
3. **Budget Requirements:** Applicants must submit a detailed budget outlining all proposed direct and indirect research expenses. Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the direct cost award. Grant funds are intended to support expenses directly related to the proposed research, with indirect costs permitted up to the stated maximum.
4. **Potential Renewal Funding:** Current NPF Research Grant recipients may be eligible to apply for an additional year of funding based on satisfactory progress toward established project milestones. Renewal awards will be $50,000 in direct costs, plus up to 10% in indirect costs ($5,000), for a maximum total award of $55,000. Renewal funding is not guaranteed and is subject to application review, approval, and funding availability.

Selection Criteria and Notice of Award

All applications accepted for review will be evaluated by The NPF Grant Review Committee, comprised of physicians and researchers with expertise in pancreatic diseases.

Proposals will be assessed based on scientific merit, feasibility, and relevance to pancreatic disease research. Following its review, the Committee will submit funding recommendations to The NPF Board of Directors, which will make all final funding decisions.

Applicants will be notified of the Board's decisions by email following the Board meeting. Funding decisions and award notifications are anticipated by the end of May 2027.

Non-Profit Statement

The NPF is a nonprofit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Funding may be awarded only to institutions that can demonstrate qualifying nonprofit status.

Preparation and Submission of Application

Application Submission Requirements

Applicants must complete the official NPF Research Grant Application provided by The NPF and submit the completed application as one electronic file in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format. Applications must follow the format and requirements outlined below, using the specified headings and page limits.

1. **Project Title and Investigators**
   Provide the project title, name, and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI) and all key investigators.
2. **Abstract (Maximum 300 Words):**
   - Provide a concise summary of the proposed research, including its objectives, approach, and relevance to pancreatic disease research.
   - Include 3–5 keywords or phrases that best describe the proposed research.
   - The abstract page does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.
3. **Research Proposal (Maximum 3 Pages)**
   The research proposal must not exceed three pages and must use 1-inch margins, Arial or a similar font, and a minimum font size of 11 points. Organize the proposal using the following headings:
   - Specific Aims
   - Background and Significance
   - Preliminary Data
   - Proposed Studies
   - Methods
4. **Project Milestones**
   - Include a statement of project milestones in a table or chart outlining key activities, anticipated timelines, and expected outcomes.

- This section does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.

5. Literature Cited

- Include references for all cited literature. This does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.

6. Budget and Budget Justification

- Submit a detailed budget that includes all proposed direct costs and indirect costs (up to 10% of direct costs).
- Provide a budget justification of no more than one page.
- Include detailed justification for salary support, supplies, equipment, and any other requested expenses.
- All individual budget items exceeding $1,000 must include a written justification.
- This section does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.

7. NIH Biosketch and Other Support

- Submit NIH-format Biosketch and Other Support documents for the Principal Investigator, mentor, and all other investigators listed in the application.
- Clearly disclose all current and pending funding, including any potential overlap in research objectives, activities, or budget with the proposed project.
- This section does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.

8. Career Development Statement

- Include one paragraph describing how the proposed research grant will support the applicant's career goals and professional development.
- This statement does not count toward the three-page research proposal limit.

9. Signatures and Required Attestations

- The application must be signed by both the Principal Investigator and the Institutional Administrator for Sponsored Programs before it will be accepted for review.
- The Principal Investigator must read and sign the required Attestation Statement included in the application.

Incomplete applications or applications that do not follow the specified formatting and submission requirements may not be accepted for review.

Submission
The complete grant application must be submitted as a single electronic file in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format and emailed to The NPF Program Manager at Carrie@pancreasfoundation.org.

Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt within 24 hours.

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NPF RESEARCH GRANT INFORMATION PAGE

Date: _____

Title of Project: _____

Principal Investigator: _____

Mentor Name: _____

Total Amount Requested (including indirect costs): $ _____

Principal Investigator (PI) Application Checklist
Please review each item and initial to confirm that the requirement has been met.

☐ **Eligibility:** I confirm that I meet at least one of the three eligibility criteria: (1) I am a faculty or instructor who meets the five-year eligibility window or have contacted The NPF and have obtained prior approval for an exception, or (2) I qualify as a Postdoctoral Associate or Fellow.
PI Initials: _____

☐ **Funding Disclosure:** I have disclosed all existing and pending funding sources and identified any potential overlap with the proposed research.
PI Initials: _____

☐ **Mentor Letter of Support:** I have included a letter of support from my identified mentor outlining their role and commitment to providing guidance throughout the research project.
PI Initials: _____

☐ **Fellow Applicants Only:** I have included a letter from my institutional supervisor (e.g., Fellowship Program Director) confirming that I am in good standing within my training program and have protected time available to conduct the proposed research.
PI Initials: _____

Principal Investigator:

Last name, first name, initial, degree

Title

Name of Institution

Department

Number and Street

City, State, and Zip Code

Telephone

Email Address

Signature _____

Date _____

Institutional Administrator for Sponsored Programs:

Last name, first name, initial, degree

Title

Name of Institution

Department

Number and Street

City, State, and Zip Code

Telephone

Email Address

It is the responsibility of the institution to assure that the activities funded by this grant are properly carried out in accordance with the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This assurance is verified by the signature of the Official signing below:

Signature of Administrator_____

Date _____

Budget

	$
Personnel	
Salaries	_____
Benefits	_____
Equipment	_____
	_____
Supplies (group in categories)	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____
Miscellaneous (list specifics)	
Indirect Costs (list specifics)	

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED
(MUST match amount on project information page)
Direct Costs: _____
Indirect Costs: _____

Total Amount Requested:_____

Attestation Statement Regarding Indirect Costs, Duplicate Funding, and Research Compliance

By signing below, I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the following requirements and conditions associated with funding provided by The National Pancreas Foundation (NPF).

Use of Grant Funds and Indirect Costs
I understand that NPF grant funds must be used to support the approved research activities and associated direct costs outlined in the proposal and approved budget. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the direct cost award and must be included within the total approved award amount.

Disclosure of Existing and Duplicate Funding
I certify that all existing and pending funding sources that support or may overlap with the proposed research have been fully disclosed in the application. I agree to immediately notify The NPF if additional funding is obtained for any portion of the proposed research. I understand that duplicate funding for the same research activities or expenses is prohibited. If duplicate funding is obtained, I agree to work with The NPF to resolve the overlap, which may require withdrawal of the application or adjustment or termination of the award.

Application Requirements
I understand that the application must be submitted using the official application form provided by The NPF and must comply with all application guidelines and eligibility requirements. If the application is made by a research organization, such organization must be exempt from federal taxation under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and must provide a copy of the determination letter issued by the Internal Revenue Service granting such exempt status.

Research Focus
I certify that the primary focus of the proposed research is pancreatic disease and that the project is intended to advance scientific knowledge, understanding, diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of pancreatic diseases.

Research Compliance and Institutional Oversight
I understand that the Principal Investigator's institution is responsible for ensuring that all research activities are conducted in accordance with applicable federal, state, and institutional regulations and ethical standards. This includes compliance with applicable U.S. Department of Health and Human Services requirements and other relevant federal guidelines governing human subjects research, vertebrate animal research, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid research, research misconduct, and financial conflicts of interest.

I further understand that all required institutional approvals, including Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approvals, must be obtained before the applicable research activities begin.

Budget and Financial Accountability
I agree to submit a detailed budget with the application, including justification for all individual budget items exceeding $1,000. I understand that grant funds must be used in accordance with the approved budget and that any significant changes to the budget or use of funds may require prior approval from The NPF.

Reporting Requirements
I agree to submit a final financial report and a written summary of research findings at the conclusion of the grant period. The research summary must include a list of publications, presentations, and other research outcomes resulting from NPF funding. I also understand that The NPF may contact me following the completion of the grant to request updates regarding career development, subsequent research funding, publications, and the continued impact of the funded research.

By signing below, I acknowledge that the information provided in my application is accurate and complete and that I accept responsibility for complying with the requirements outlined in this attestation.

_____

Principal Investigator Date