



## **The Bonilla-Sullivan Research Grant**

The Joe Niekro Foundation is pleased to partner with the Bonilla & Sullivan families to present this research grant. This grant is to be used for projects directed toward aneurysm, arteriovenous malformation, and ischemic stroke research.

### **Overview**

#### **Purpose:**

To enable investigators (MDs, DOs, MD-PhDs or PhDs) to conduct projects that address a specific hypothesis and generate preliminary data in preparation for major grant applications to corporations, foundations and governmental agencies.

This grant is open to:

- 1) University-based or government medical facility-based investigators at all levels with academic appointments.
- 2) Investigators in a clinical practice not affiliated with a University or government medical facility.

#### **Nature of Projects:**

Any research related to brain aneurysms, brain arteriovenous malformations or fistulas, or ischemic stroke including, but not limited to:

- Applications of advanced technologies and sciences
- Development of diagnostic or therapeutic technology
- Morphologic and functional imaging that addresses biologic or clinical questions
- Comparative effectiveness analyses and/or outcomes analyses

It is the intention of the Grant to provide necessary and appropriate preliminary data for successful applications for further funding; therefore, emphasis will be placed on research deemed to have the most potential for future funding. A successful application will provide a timeline for project completion as well as plans for specific future funding application mechanisms

The successful project application will include a method of dissemination of project results (e.g., presentation at regional or national medical meetings and publication of results in a peer-reviewed medical journal).



## Eligibility:

The Joe Niekro Foundation funding is provided to US organizations only; individuals will not be considered. There are no pre-determined funding amounts; each application is reviewed separately.

## Deadline for Application:

Completed application must be received no later than December 1, 2019. Incomplete applications, applications that do not comply with the instructions, and/or those that do not have the appropriate executed signatures will not be reviewed.

## Selection Criteria/Review Process:

Applicants should propose research that advances the study of brain aneurysms, brain arteriovenous malformations or fistulas, or ischemic stroke. The application must contain a detailed research plan as outlined in the “Application Instructions and Guidelines.” A one-year budget for the planned research with all other funding sources identified must be included. All funds requested in the application must be fully justified. Failure to do either will result in deferral or disapproval of the application.

A letter from the department chair (for faculty applicants), fellowship director (for trainee applicants) or practice group chair (private practice physicians) must be provided. It is expected that the chair/director will comment on the merit of the project, describe the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant’s research in terms of funding and/or available facilities, and indicate a commitment to provide protected research time of the applicant during the research period.

A study section consisting of practicing physicians and PhD scientists with expertise in neurovascular research will review the application for scientific merit and appropriateness for funding. The final decision will be subject to approval by the Joe Niekro Foundation Board.

The proposed research project will be evaluated regarding its suitability for the applicant to obtain preliminary data with the anticipation of a future submission for additional funding from governmental agencies, corporations, or foundations. The evaluation will assess the following criteria:

- The significance, relevance and innovation of the proposed project to clinical care or the advancement of technology in the evaluation of neurovascular diseases;
- The hypothesis should be clear and well-developed, and the experiments designed to appropriately test the hypothesis;



- The proposed statistical analysis of the data must be defined;
- The project should be feasible within the allotted timeframe and budget; applicants are encouraged to include a project timeline with specified anticipated targets for larger funding applications;
- The application must demonstrate that the applicant has the appropriate experienced advisor(s) to guide them throughout the proposed project. A letter of support from the advisor/mentor is required;
- There must be a defined plan for the protection of human subjects (when applicable). There must be a defined plan for the protection and appropriate use of animals (when applicable). Investigators must address issues related to inclusion based on gender, minorities and children (when applicable); and
- Evaluate the facilities and commitment of the institution, the department and individual research labs where applicable to provide adequate support for the applicant.

## Grant Notification Process

Grant applicants will be notified of their status after committee review. Grant applicants will receive a score similar to NIH-reporting system, along with review sheets describing the strengths and weaknesses of their application.

## Rules and Conditions

### 1. Acknowledgement

All posters, publications, and oral presentations of the Joe Niekro Foundation-funded projects must contain appropriate acknowledgment of the Foundation's support. All poster, publications, and oral presentations of Joe Niekro Foundation-funded projects must contain appropriate acknowledgement of the Foundation's support.

Interim report should include the following:

- a) A summary statement.
- b) The specific aims/goals of the research and the results of the work toward each aim/goal.
- c) Disclosure of any deviations from the original research plan and justification.
- d) Outline of expenditures that have been made thus far.
- e) Any problems or delays that the applicant may have encountered.

Final report should include the following:



1. The applicant will address all points a) through e) under Interim Report (see above) and:
2. Indicate if the results from the research are being prepared for publication.
3. Indicate if the results from the research will be used as preliminary data to obtain additional funding.
4. Address the role the Joe Niekro Foundation grant had on your career.

## Application Instructions and Guidelines

Standard NIH grant formatting should be used (11-point Arial font, 0.5 inch margins).

Email completed applications to The Joe Niekro Foundation c/o Aimee Hass at

ahass@joeniekrofoundation.org no later than December 1, 2019.

## Section I: Title and Summary of Research Proposal

Provide a succinct description of the proposed project (< 1 page). The abstract should state the long-term goals of the research, potential clinical significance of the research, and the methods to be used to conduct the research.

## Section II: Investigator(s)

### **A. Applicant (Principal Investigator)**

Contact information: address, email, work phone, cell phone

Institution/Group Practice

Department

Current year of training, or faculty position/rank, or number of years post-training completion. If the applicant is currently in a training program, a letter from the Program Director must confirm status and ensure that the applicant will be provided appropriate time to complete the project.

Most recent copy of the applicant's Curriculum Vitae

### **B. Priority Statement:**

The applicant will describe his/her area of professional/scientific interest(s) and long-term career goals. A brief summary of the project (< 1 page) describing the relevance of the proposed research to the priorities of the departmental/practice group research programs will be included.

### **C. Scientific Advisor: to be completed by advisor for trainee applicants**



Name, degree(s), title/faculty rank

Provide description of the advisor's role as mentor for the applicant and CV

Describe the extent to which the applicant was responsible for developing and writing the research proposal

List the other investigators or advisors who will participate in the project and their role in the project

## Section III: Proposal

### **Research Plan:**

The research plan will not exceed five single-spaced pages, exclusive of the references. Standard formatting should be used (11-point Arial font, 0.5 inch margins).

### **Specific Aims**

List the objectives and goals of the specific research proposed. State the hypothesis, the specific problem to be solved, the development of new technology, etc.

### **Background and Significance**

Provide the background information leading to the proposed project. Review and analyze existing knowledge, and identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. How do the specific aims translate to achieving the long-term objectives? How will knowledge or clinical practice be impacted by the results of the research?

### **Preliminary Studies**

Provide information regarding the PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the application. If there are no preliminary data, then supporting evidence from the currently available literature must be submitted.

### **Research Design and Methods**

Describe the research design, conceptual or clinical framework, procedures, new methodologies, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe the applicant's specific roles in the project. Discuss potential limitations of the proposed project and alternative approaches to address the aims.

### **Timeline of Events**

Provide a sequence and timetable for the project.



**JOE NIEKRO  
FOUNDATION**

Bibliography (not included in the five-page limit)

Provide PI's preliminary studies pertinent to this application. If there is no preliminary data, then provide existing evidence from the literature.

## Section V: Signatures

Enter the names and contact information for each individual that will sign the completed, printed application. Electronic signatures will be accepted.

Department/Group Practice Chair or equivalent:

Scientific Advisor:

Grant Administrator:

Grant Applicant:

Please direct any questions to:

Joe Niekro Bonilla-Sullivan Research Grant Program

c/o Aimee Hass

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