

**AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS SECTION ON  
CARDIOLOGY AND CARDIAC SURGERY  
2023 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARD**

**Sponsored by The Children's Heart Foundation**

**APPLICATION DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Dear Applicant:

The Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery is pleased to announce the availability of the Research Fellowship Award, made possible by an educational grant from the Children's Heart Foundation. The purpose of the Award is to promote understanding of cardiovascular disease in children. The grant will provide research support for an individual who has demonstrated aptitude for basic science or clinical science research during their pediatric cardiac fellowship. Training Fellows in a U.S. pediatric cardiology or cardiac surgery training program (including 4<sup>th</sup> year fellowships and adult congenital cardiology fellowships are eligible.

Please answer the questions on the title page, then collect the information asked for in subsequent pages. Do not exceed specified page limitations. Then upload your documents using the link below or on the website.

<https://form.jotform.com/Subspecialty/SOCCSResearchGrant>

**Please note the submission deadline is July 1, 2023.**

Sincerely,

Stuart Berger, MD, FAAP  
Chair, Executive Committee  
Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of the Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery (SOCCS) Pediatric Cardiology Research Fellowship Award is to promote high quality research related to advancement in the understanding and treatment of congenital heart diseases. This \$35,000 award will provide funding for a trainee who has demonstrated aptitude for basic, translational, or clinical science research. The winner will also be offered a position on the SOCCS research committee

The award will be judged on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Aptitude of the applicant for research
- Research and training environment in the institution
- Potential for future funding

Applications will be reviewed by members of the SOCCS Research Committee.

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**SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**

**The Award**

The Award is designed to provide funding for investigation by a trainee a U.S. pediatric cardiology or cardiac surgery training program (including 4<sup>th</sup> year fellowships and adult congenital cardiology fellowships) involving hypothesis driven basic, translational, or clinical research that will lead to improved understanding of a basic mechanism of or an improved evaluation or treatment modality for congenital heart diseases. It is the express intention of this award to support trainees who are in the process of developing investigative, academic careers.

**The Investigator**

The investigator should be a trainee who has demonstrated aptitude for clinical or basic science. The applicant must be a pediatric cardiology, adult congenital disease or cardiothoracic surgery resident/fellow in an accredited U.S. training program for the period of the award. The investigator must have a PhD, or an M.D., D.O. degree or foreign equivalent. The Investigator must be a U.S. Citizen or have a permanent visa. A letter from the Mentor/Sponsor (see Preparation of the Application) must address the applicant's program for the year of funding. In addition, the Chief of Pediatric Cardiology, Cardiology or Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery letter of support must include a commitment of sufficient time to allow completion of the project during the year of support. Applicants whose projects are limited to bench research will be expected to spend a minimum of 75% of their time in the laboratory. The recipient and mentor/sponsor must be members of the Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery at the time of award presentation (October 2024). We encourage investigators from underrepresented racial and ethnic backgrounds to apply for this award.

The awardee is required to attend the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in October 2023 in Washington, DC to accept the award and the American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition in Fall 2024 in Denver, CO to present the results of the research.

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#### Career/Mentoring Plan

The application should include a detailed career mentoring plan for the applicant. This should include, but not be limited to, an elucidation of the types of positions that the applicant expects to hold in the four years following the grant period. The application should clarify the role of this Research Fellowship Award in achieving the long-term career goals of the applicant.

#### Mentor/Sponsor

The mentor/sponsor is the mentor and the administrative link between the investigator and the institution. The mentor/sponsor should be a full-time faculty member of an academic institution. If the mentor / sponsor is at another institution, a detailed description of the mentorship plan must be included and an additional mentor / sponsor should be included from the investigator's institution. He or she may be from the basic science or clinical faculty and may have either the M.D., D.O., or PhD. A mentor/sponsor should have demonstrated 1) expertise in the area of science proposed by the investigator; 2) a commitment to training of academic pediatric cardiologists or cardiothoracic surgeons as evidenced by a list of previous trainees, 3) commitment to the project and career development of the applicant, and 4) productivity as evidenced by publications and peer reviewed grant support.

#### Change of Sponsor

If during the course of the year, the mentor/sponsor changes, the American Academy of Pediatrics must be notified in writing immediately. The investigator must designate another mentor/sponsor, supply the mentor/sponsor's NIH biosketch (including previous trainees) and a letter indicating his or her willingness to serve in this capacity. The letter should identify any problems created by the change in mentor/sponsor and provide a detailed and specific plan on how they will be solved.

#### Budget

The Award is for \$35,000. There are no indirect costs. The funds may be used for 1) investigator's salary, 2) statistical support, 3) research coordinator support, 4) minor equipment limited to this project and costing less than \$500 per item, and 5) up to \$3,000 for conference participation and publication costs. The funds must not be used for 1) salary other what is described above, 2) patient related clinical tests, 3) books, 4) subscriptions to journals, 5) construction, 6) dues, or 7) items generally considered to be overhead (i.e. telephone, lights, etc.). Grant funds may be re-budgeted.

#### Method of Payment

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Grant payments are disbursed at the beginning of the time period.

**Concurrent Funding**

The investigator may receive support from other local, state, or national agencies so long as she or he can clearly demonstrate no overlap in the budget. Any potential sources of additional funding must be disclosed in the application.

**Reapplication or Revised Application**

Revised applications are not allowed. The unfunded applicant may reapply with a new proposal. Each application must stand alone and will be evaluated on its own merits.

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Award Timetable

July 1 2023	Deadline for receipt of application
August 2023	Notification to Investigator and institution
September 2023	Initiation of the Award
October 2023	Presentation of Award during the AAP National Conference & Exhibition – Washington, DC
September 2024	Scientific Progress Report due
October 2024	Final Financial Report due
Fall 2024	Presentation of research results at the AAP National Conference & Exhibition – Denver, CO

The awardee must attend the Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Scientific Session and educational program at AAP’s annual meeting, the National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), in the year of funding (October 2023) to accept the award and to present his or her results in the year of the grant termination (October 2024).

Scientific Progress Report

One month after the termination of the Award, a final scientific progress report must be submitted (maximum three pages single-spaced) including plans for future research in the area.

Grant Review

The Chair of the Research Committee of the AAP Section on Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery will lead the grant review study section. After receipt of the applications, the chair will assign reviewers to each proposal. Applications submitted after the deadline and those that remain incomplete after the deadline will not be considered. The assigned reviewers will constitute the study section. The group will meet to score the applications and decide relative priorities of the applications. One Award will be made per year.

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**American Academy of Pediatrics GENERAL RESEARCH POLICIES**

Preface

Research awards are awarded to nonprofit institutions with the requisite basic facilities for research and with experienced investigators on the faculty. In accepting an Award, the principal investigator, the sponsor, and the institution assume an obligation to expend grant funds for the research purposes set forth in the application. The grantee institution is further obligated to administer the Award in accordance with all regulations and policies governing this program by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Ethical Standards

With respect to human and animal experimentation, the principal investigator, the sponsor, and the executive officer of the sponsoring institution must affirm: (1) that the investigations involving human subjects proposed and subsequently carried out in the application have been endorsed by the clearly identified appropriate body of the sponsoring institution; and (2) that any research involving human subjects will conform ethically with the guidelines prescribed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) including the provision of suitable explanation to human subjects or their guardians concerning the experimental design and all significant hazards, so that they may be in a position to provide appropriate and informed consent prior to the investigation; and (3) that research involving animals should conform with the current "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals", NIH publication DHHS, USPHS, and has been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee; and (4) that wherever applicable, the research protocol will be reviewed and approved by the institution's biohazards committee, as well as conforming to NIH guidelines. The American Academy of Pediatrics endorses the guidelines and recommendations as set forth in "The Maintenance of High Ethical Standards and the Conduct of Research", adopted by the Association of American Medical Colleges, June 24, 1982.

Liability

The American Academy of Pediatrics will not assume responsibility for, and the institution will indemnify and hold harmless the American Academy of Pediatrics from any lawsuit, claim, judgment, damages, awards or malpractice arising from research or investigations related to this award.

Proprietary Research

While patentable discoveries will be respected, it is not within the spirit of this Award to pursue proprietary research.

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Publications

It is the American Academy of Pediatrics policy that results of research be made available to the public without restriction through appropriate scientific channels. All publications resulting from work carried out during the tenure of this grant must carry the following statement "**This work was supported by a Research Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Heart Foundation**".

Research Publicity

The following principles and procedures should be followed in publicizing results arising from research supported by the Academy: the principal investigator is encouraged to report to the public on both the nature and objectives of the research work, as well as on actual results, in the interests of developing public understanding and support for cardiovascular research. Results of the principal investigator's work should not be publicized in the mass media before they have been publicized in a scientific journal or presented at an appropriate scientific meeting. The principal investigator is encouraged to acknowledge Academy support in public statements to civic and other lay groups.



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American Academy of Pediatrics GRANT POLICIES

Accounting

Financial administration of a grant should be in accordance with accepted accounting procedures. Supporting records of grant expenditures must be in sufficient detail to indicate clearly the nature of expenditures.

Financial Report

A financial report must be submitted within 90 days of termination of a grant. These reports must be accompanied by a check for the balance of any unexpended funds. Failure to submit a financial report by the due date may jeopardize future funding for the grantee's institution by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Audit

The financial officer of the institution agrees to make available to the Academy all accounting records of disbursements on any Academy grant upon due notice of the Academy.

Deficits

The principal investigator and the fiscal officer cannot expend funds in excess of the amount awarded. Under no circumstances will the Academy allocate additional funds to cover a deficit.

Early Termination

If an investigator is unable to comply with the terms of the Award for any reason, the American Academy of Pediatrics should be notified immediately in writing. A financial report as well as progress report of work accomplished must be submitted with a check for any free and unobligated balance within 60 days of termination.

This Research Fellowship Award is made possible by an educational grant from The Children's Heart Foundation.