

Junior Investigator's Career Development Award

2012 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Introduction

While there are many mechanisms for career advancement in contraceptive research, resources for careers in abortion research are more difficult to find. Thus, the Society of Family Planning Research Fund supports efforts for individuals to develop skills, knowledge and preliminary data needed for future careers in abortion research.

The SFP Research Fund has funding for two awards that will provide substantial salary support for faculty-level clinical and translational scientists near the beginning of their investigative careers. The purpose of a K-type award is to provide support and protected time for an intensive, supervised career development experience in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical or social sciences leading to research independence. Research topics can relate to any aspect of clinical and/or translational research,

relevant to abortion. Competitive applications will demonstrate a strong commitment to a career in abortion research, a detailed mentoring plan including primary and secondary mentors and plan for interaction, a plan for additional training or other activities to be undertaken during the award period, a well-designed research study and a description of future career plans. Appointments will run from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

- **Amount: Up to \$130,000**, which includes salary for 50% time, research costs, and overhead
- **Number of awards: 2**
- **Total allocated in 2012: \$260,000**
- **Eligibility:** Junior investigators include anyone who has completed their fellowship or postgraduate work within the past five years.

Application requirements

Each application must have the following information attached in your application submission email. We will not accept incomplete applications.

1. Completed application form, including signature page
2. Proposal narrative and budget, with attached CV

and supporting letters (see "Proposal narrative content" below for details)

3. Information regarding human subjects/ documentation of IRB approval
4. For nonprofit research organizations, a copy of the agency's federal 501(c)3 status determination letter or proof of tax-exempt status

Proposal narrative content

The proposal narrative must include the following five items. In addition, it must conform to the type requirements detailed at the end of this section:

1. Copy of **candidate's full curriculum vitae**
2. **Research and mentoring plan**, including:
 - Career development, training and mentoring plan (2 pages)
 - Specific aims (1 page)
 - Background and significance (1 page)
 - Preliminary studies (if available)

- Research design and methods (total 4 pages), plus literature cited
 - Timeline (1 page)
3. **Budget** (1 page). The total dollar amount requested for this award shall be no more than \$130,000. Candidates may request salary support up to 50% (or approximately \$100,000 based on an annual salary of up to \$200,000), with indirect costs not to exceed 20% of salary (or approximately \$20,000). The remaining 30% (amount up to \$10,000) may be used for research-related costs.

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4. A brief (1 page) **letter from the Department Chair** addressing the following:
- The candidate's prospects for developing into an independently funded clinical/translational scientist.
 - The department's assurance that at least 50% of the candidate's time will be protected for research career development for the entire period of the proposed award. The institution should provide the equipment, facilities, and resources necessary for a

structured research career development experience.

- Names and brief biographies of proposed mentors

5. A brief **letter from the mentors** (each less than 1 page) indicating their commitment to the applicant.

Type requirements: Font must be at least 11 points, all margins at least 1 inch, and 1.5 spacing. Applications that do not adhere to these requirements will be disqualified.

Review criteria

The academic and intellectual background, motivation, and commitment of the candidate to pursue clinical and/or translational research will be evaluated. The criteria for selecting awardees will include assessment of candidate's potential, the dedication to clinical or translational research, and the degree of support from the Department.

A crucial expectation of the awardees is that during the grant period, preliminary data will be developed which will serve as the basis for future funding in clinical and/or translational research.

Grant program schedule

- Email submission will open on February 1, 2012. Email application to mpolonsky@societyfp.org.
- Application deadline: April 12, 2012 at 11:59 (EST). No changes will be allowed after this time.
- Award decisions: Mid-June, 2012.
- Grant start-up: July 1, 2012.