

## 2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Junior Investigator Grants (abortion research)

#### Description

---

Junior investigator grants are two-year awards designed to support scientists in developing their research careers after they have completed a terminal degree. Outstanding mentorship, a well-designed research project(s), and a demonstrated commitment to working in the field of abortion research are critical components of a successful application.

Projects that are of interest include:

- Work that has promise for advancing the career of a scholar focused on securing access to safe abortion
- Work by scholars seeking to exert influence at the institutional, community, policy, or societal level

Projects that are *not* of interest include:

- Studies without clear practical implications
- Studies that duplicate existing work
- Studies focused on comparing pain management techniques for IUD insertion or abortion care (although studies that will move the needle on assessing how much pain makes a difference to women's experiences with IUD insertion or abortion care *are* of interest)
- Studies focused on comparing cervical preparation techniques
- Studies focused on assessing or improving individual-level knowledge or attitudes
- Studies focused on developing or evaluating decision-support tools
- Studies that already have or are currently seeking PCORI funding or federal funding (such as HRSA, NIH, NSF)

The SFP Research Fund (SFPRF) will award up to \$500,000 in junior investigator grants.

#### Eligibility criteria

---

- Proposed project must be focused on abortion.
- Applicants must be SFP full or junior fellows who hold full-time assistant professor faculty positions, function at that rank in an academic setting, or function at an equivalent level in a nonacademic setting.

- Applicants must be within five years from the granting of their last graduate degree.
- 50% of the applicant's time during the funding period must be allocated as protected time for project activities.
- Institutions must have nonprofit or tax-exempt status.

## Funds

---

The award amount is up to \$250,000 over two years. A maximum of \$125,000 in total costs will be awarded to applicants annually. Budget items may include up to 50% salary, training, and research expenses (e.g., equipment, supplies, technical personnel, course work, and scientific conferences). Indirect costs are permitted up to 20% of total direct costs. Funding for the second year will be contingent upon the submission and approval of an interim narrative and financial report.

**SFPRF's definition of indirect costs:** Costs not directly identifiable to a specific sponsored project (e.g., costs for general operations such as utilities, building operations, library services, purchasing, administrative offices, etc.) but associated with the cost of doing research and/or training.

## Duration

---

Junior investigator grants are for a two-year period. The first three months (July–October) of the project timeline may be allocated to IRB approval. However, funds can be disbursed any time after July 1, 2017, upon documentation of IRB approval.

## Review process

---

Proposals will be reviewed by an independent interdisciplinary team of outside experts and partners. Each proposal will be assigned a score based on a scale similar to that used by the National Institutes of Health. The score takes into account both the rigor of the proposal and the likelihood that the proposed work will ultimately lead to a sustained, demonstrable impact on clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes. In addition to these scores, SFPRF considers each proposal's responsiveness and relevance to the SFPRF mission and the recommendations of the review committee in determining which proposals to fund.

## Ethical considerations

---

Prior to the research start date, all activities involving human subjects or vertebrate animals must be approved by an appropriate institutional review board (IRB) or equivalent.

## Terms of awards

---

Upon acceptance of the award, the PI and his/her employing institution will be required to sign an award letter indicating acceptance of the SFPRF award terms and conditions. SFPRF must be notified in advance of and approve any significant changes in research protocols.

## Application process

---

All potential applicants are first required to submit an Intent to Apply form. The information provided will be used to assist in planning for the review process. **Please be aware that proposals will not be accepted from applicants who do not submit the form.**

**Intent to Apply form:** The information requested will include applicant and institution information along with a working title and brief project description (250-word limit).

## Proposal instructions

---

Grant proposals should include the following components:

1. **Proposal form:** Provide contact details for the applicant, institution, and parties responsible for accounts payable and grants management should the project be funded.

2. **Proposal narrative**

- **Title and abstract** (250-word limit for abstract): Provide a summary description of the proposed research. Do not include proprietary information: if the proposal is funded, the abstract may be used by SFPRF for informational purposes to describe its program activities.
- **Research proposal:** Include specific aims; significance and background; rationale, research design and methods; and the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
- **Career development and mentoring plan:** Provide a detailed career development plan including career goals, course work that will prepare you for your project and future research career (classes, seminars, workshops, etc.), how award will contribute to career goals, and mentoring plan (prepared in collaboration with proposed mentor—frequency of meetings, other activities, and support from mentor).

### GRANT PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- Intent to Submit form deadline: January 31, 2017 (see [www.societyfp.org/research/applying](http://www.societyfp.org/research/applying))
- Online application submission opens February 7, 2017
- Application deadline: March 8, 2017 at 11:59 PM (EDT)
- Award decisions: Late June, 2017
- Earliest grant start-up: July 1, 2017
- IRB approval by October 1, 2017

- **Impact statement:** Describe how the proposed activities will 1) impact your research career development and trajectory and 2) influence clinical practice, public policy, culture, or health services, programs, or outcomes over time.

### 3. Bibliography/references

- 4. **Timeline:** Proposed sequence or timetable for major project components. Indicate the start/ completion dates.

- 5. **Budget with justifications:** Include with your proposal a detailed budget and budget justification that specifically relates each item in the project budget to project activities. If you are seeking or have received other sources of funding for this project, please specify those sources by name, the amount requested, and the status of the requests. Be sure to provide information on personnel salary; percent effort; consulting; supplies and equipment; clinical costs; travel related to completing the project; and other specified expenditures.

- 6. **Letter of recommendation from mentor:** This letter is separate from the mentoring plan and should confirm the role and activities outlined in the mentoring plan.

- 7. **Letter of institutional support:** Letter should include the institution's assurance that at least 50% of the applicant'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.

- 8. **International study statement and letter from in-country organization:** PIs with projects based outside the country of their current residence must describe their collaboration with partner organization(s) and include a signed letter from the in-country host organization indicating that they will provide guidance and supervision on the project.

- 9. **NIH biographical sketch(es):** Include principal investigator, mentors, and any key personnel.

- 10. **Appendices:** Items such as survey instruments and tools will be accepted. However, please keep to a minimum.

- 11. **Agency/institution's federal 501(c)(3) status determination letter** or proof of tax-exempt status.

- 12. **Signature page:** Download a copy of the signature page and use the links provided to digitally sign the form (*upload separately*).

**Required formatting:** The proposal narrative (not including title and abstract) may not exceed 3,000 words. Font must be at least 11 points and 1.5 spacing. Please submit the proposal narrative along with items 3-11 as [a single PDF file](#).