



National **Kidney** Foundation®

Instructions to Applicants for National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Research Grant Program

NKF & Satellite Dialysis Young Investigator Grants | Chastain Renal Research Grant (Arkansas only)

OVERVIEW OF NKF RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

MISSION

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) is dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by kidney disease, and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation.

PURPOSE

NKF established a Young Investigator Research Grant program to support clinical research studies addressing important issues for patients with kidney disease. **Projects must be patient-oriented.** Elements of patient-oriented research activities may include, but are not limited to, development of new technologies, mechanisms of human disease, educational or therapeutic interventions, epidemiological studies, health policy studies, and clinical trials. Individuals who have completed fellowship training in an ACGME-accredited training program and who hold junior faculty positions (Instructor or Assistant Professor) at university-affiliated medical centers in the United States are eligible to apply.

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) will fund the most meritorious research projects after a peer review by an independent review committee. Applicants will be asked to provide a description of the applicability of the proposed research to the NKF's mission to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of kidney disease, to foster kidney transplantation, and to improve the lives of patients with kidney disease. Specific reference to any KDOQI Guideline, Commentary, or Controversies Report to which the research project is addressed should be cited. (Please see [KDOQI Research Recommendations](#))

Applicants may have a concurrent NIH "K" series award and a Young Investigator Grant from the NKF. The applicant should provide a statement of the budgetary and scientific overlap and relatedness of the two applications.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Promising young scientists are encouraged to submit proposals for investigating clinical research questions in nephrology, or closely related fields.

We will consider applications from individuals who:

- ✓ Have completed training in nephrology prior to the start of the grant award, and who intend to pursue research directly related to these areas.

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- Applicants trained in Internal Medicine or Pediatrics with subsequent Nephrology fellowship training are also accepted.
- ✓ Hold a full-time appointment to a faculty position at a university, or an equivalent position as a scientist on the staff of a research-oriented institution, at the time funding begins (July 1, 2023).
 - The university or research-oriented institution must be in the United States.
 - Customarily, the appropriate faculty rank is that of Assistant Professor. In some institutions, at title such as Instructor is used to designate junior faculty status; individuals at that rank are eligible to apply.
 - Qualifications should be documented in the bio sketch (limit: four pages).
- ✓ Are within their first four years of initial appointment to a faculty position or staff scientist position in a research organization. Candidates who received an appointment before July 1, 2019, are not eligible for this award in this funding cycle.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that he/she satisfies the eligibility requirements for a Young Investigator Grant. Eligibility rules will be strictly enforced. Anyone who may not be certain as to his/her eligibility should request an advisory opinion from NKF staff before applying.

Note the following limits:

- Only one investigator in an institution will be supported in any funding cycle by a Young Investigator Research Grant.
- Only one grant will be awarded to any applicant in the funding cycle.
- Applicants of the Chastain Renal Research Grant must work at an institution in Arkansas.

TERMS OF SUPPORT

Initial support for awards commencing July 1, 2023, are provided for one year in a total amount not to exceed \$35,000. Although funding for a second year of support is not guaranteed, the investigator may request an additional year's funding, as a competitive renewal. The fiscal department of the investigator's institution shall administer the Young Investigator Grant funds. Funds may be used for equipment, supplies, clinical research costs or other expenses directly related to the conduct of the proposed research. The full grant amount may also be expended for salary and fringe benefits of the principal investigator. No more than \$1,000 per year may be used for travel by the investigator to national or international meetings.

Funds for a Young Investigator or Research Endowment Grant may not be used for any of the following:

1. Indirect costs or overhead
2. Costs of patient care
3. Constructing or renovating facilities
4. Furniture or office equipment
5. Secretarial services

Any changes in the budget proposed in the original application or in subsequent amendments must be approved in advance by the NKF.

OTHER SUPPORT

If during the period of support by a Young Investigator Grant, the investigator obtains any type of "R" grant from the National Institutes of Health or a Merit Award from the Veterans Administration, the Young Investigator Grant will be terminated at the start of funding by the other agency. Individuals who

have received "K" awards from the NIH are eligible for funding under the NKF Young Investigator Grant Program. To assist the Young Investigator Grant Committee in implementing this policy, the application should list all research projects (either funded or with funding pending) in which the applicant is participating. The scientific and/or budgetary relationship between the proposed Young Investigator Grant and any other research funding should be explained.

APPLICATION FORM

The application form can be found and completed on the NKF website: www.kidney.org/researchgrant

Most of the sections of the application do not require explanation. However, please note the following requirements:

DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN'S LETTER OF COMMITMENT

The Chairman of the applicant's department must provide a letter of commitment. This should be submitted with an application. The letter must include the following information:

1. A statement that the applicant, if awarded a Young Investigator Grant, will have at least 40 percent time available to pursue research. The distribution of the balance of the time among other duties (clinical, teaching, etc.) should be specified.
2. A statement of the date and title of the initial appointment of the applicant to a faculty or staff scientist position at the institution. If the appointment is other than an assistant professorship, the letter should state the institution's policy for junior faculty or scientist positions.

DOCUMENTATION OF COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Applicant should provide letter(s) from consultant(s) indicating their willingness to assist in the proposed project and any conditions on such assistance, if applicable.

LAY SUMMARY

Applicant must provide a brief (150 words) description of the research plan, written as a summary for a lay audience. The summary should include a brief discussion of the proposed research and an indication of its potential benefits to the patient with kidney disease. Scientific jargon, abbreviations and complex discussions should be avoided.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The research proposal should be divided into the following parts:

- Part A. Specific Aims (limited to one page)
- Part B. Significance and background (limited to one page).
- Part C. Preliminary studies (limited to one page)
- Part D. Experimental design and methods (limited to two pages)
The candidate should explicitly acknowledge limitations in the research design and provide alternative approaches which would be employed should aspects of the research design be unproductive.
- Part E. Bibliography

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The page limitations for the different parts of the Research Plan are the maximum acceptable. Eleven-point proportional font is the smallest print permitted. There must be no more than 60 lines per page. Margins should be greater than or equal to 0.5 in. An application may be denied scientific review if it exceeds required number of pages or permitted type size.

An Appendix may be used for presenting data tabulation, figures, graphs, submitted manuscripts, abstracts and papers. Any Appendix should not contain further descriptive material.

REFERENCES

Submit three (3) references separately from the application on the form provided in the application materials. Email each reference to **Christine.Persinger@kidney.org** by **Monday, February 13, 2023**. One of these letters should be from the sponsor of the research performed during the applicant's research training. If a reference is submitted by the chairman of the applicant's department, it should be separate from and in addition to the required letter of commitment (see above).

STATEMENT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ELIGIBILITY

This form should be completed by the candidate for a Young Investigator Grant. The statement should describe plans for career development and explain how a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grant will help the grantee to take steps towards an independent research career, rather than merely supplement funding from other agencies. The applicant should highlight opportunities to acquire new skills and learn new techniques that the Young Investigator Grant will make possible, such as training in epidemiology and statistics, translational research, and clinical research methodology.

DEADLINE AND PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Applications and all supporting documents for Young Investigator Grants must be submitted electronically on or before **Monday, February 13, 2023**. **Applications received after this date will not be considered.** Applications will be reviewed by an NKF study section panel, using outside reviewers, as necessary. Successful applicants will be notified in late spring/early summer 2023, and funds will be made available to them effective July 1, 2023. NKF is not able to provide written critiques of applications.

FUNDING AGREEMENT

Successful candidates will be required to execute an agreement that incorporates the terms and conditions of research support from the National Kidney Foundation described in these instructions.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

In carrying out its stewardship for the resources devoted to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) research program and to provide feedback to the NKF benefactors who make this research program support possible, it is the policy of the NKF that its membership should be kept informed of the research progress of NKF Young Investigators, the status of their careers and the effectiveness of the NKF Young Investigator Grant Program. By accepting a National Kidney Foundation Young Investigator Grant, the investigator and the grantee institution agree to the following reporting requirements:

The Young Investigator will provide a Progress Report written for a lay audience at the end of each year of support.

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The Young Investigator agrees to provide a reprint of every publication (including abstracts) resulting from research supported by the NKF, even if published after termination of the grant.

Results of research supported by the National Kidney Foundation may be made available to the public through appropriate scientific channels. All publications will bear one of the following statements (dependent on grant awarded):

- "The work was supported by a Young Investigator Grant of the National Kidney Foundation."
- "The work was supported by a Satellite Dialysis Clinical Investigator Grant of the National Kidney Foundation."
- "The work was supported by a Chastain Renal Research Grant of the National Kidney Foundation."