

Junior Pitch For Funds

Application Guide

**Organized by the
NUHS Residents' Research Sub-Committee**

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2021 February Grant Call

Deadline for abstract submission: 19 March 2021, 2359hours
Presentation of short-listed abstracts: 6 May 2021, 1700hours

Funding available:

A maximum of \$10,000 will be awarded in total.

Award Categories:

1. Medical Education category
2. All specialties / sub-specialties category

\$1,000

\$2,000

\$5,000

The number of awards to be given out will be flexible and not pre-determined. Applicants can apply for one of the above grant amounts.

Application Process In A Nutshell

1. Read this Application Guide. It provides the essential information you require before applying for funds.
2. Determine the amount of funding required for your research project and the breakdown of the budget with your mentor(s).
3. Prepare an abstract of no more than 300 words about your study according to the format described in this Application Guide.
4. Complete the Abstract Submission Form and email it to **BOTH**:
 - 1) Mr. Eugene Tan Yi Qun
Coordinator
NUHS Residents' Research Sub-Committee
Email: eugene_yq_tan@nuhs.edu.sg
 - 2) Ms. Lim Wan Shu
Coordinator
NUHS Residents' Research Sub-Committee
Email: wan_shu_lim@nuhs.edu.sg
5. Short-listed residents will be informed via email at least 1 week prior to the Judging.
6. Short-listed residents will make a 10-minute presentation to a panel of 3 Judges on 6 May 2021. Details of the presentation can be found in this Application Guide.
7. The results of the Grant Call will be announced on the day of the Judging.
8. Grant awardees are required to provide written updates to the NUHS Residents' Research Committee and the Graduate Medical Education Committee as stipulated in the Rules and Regulations.
9. Grant awardees are required to fully utilize their given grants within 2 years as per award letter. Otherwise, the funds will be forfeited.

Background

As an Academic Medical Centre, NUHS has always had a strong research culture. With the introduction of the ACGME—I Residency System, we now have dedicated residents who will undergo specialization training entirely in NUHS. The education that NUHS provides its residents will determine the quality and academic inclinations of future leaders of NUHS.

Being a premier academic institution in Singapore and regionally, a world-class research education should be a hallmark of the NUHS Residency Programme. Every resident who passes through the NUHS Residency Programme should be well-equipped with the skills that will enable him to become an outstanding leader in Academic Medicine.

The NUHS Residents' Research Sub-Committee was set-up under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), with the mission of promoting research activities amongst NUHS residents and enhancing the culture of discovery and scientific exploration in NUHS. Our long-term vision is to nurture a vibrant research culture in NUHS, driven by a corps of research-savvy NUHS-trained residents.

Goals and Objectives

NUHS recognizes and acknowledges the significance of grants in fledgling research careers, and will set aside a sum of money to be allocated as competitive grants reserved for residents' research activities.

This scheme aims to:

- Encourage residents to develop research ideas
- Encourage residents to design and conduct research studies
- Enable residents to develop grantsmanship skills.
- Provide residents the opportunity to become a Principal Investigator
- Stimulate interest in research
- Increase the quality of NUHS residents' research.
- Encourage potential clinician-scientists and clinician-researchers
- Develop residents into future academic leaders, who will shape Medicine for the future

A competitive approach to the awarding of grants will be employed, with grants awarded twice annually on the basis of merit as determined by a Grant Review Panel, composed of eminent researchers and members of the GMEC appointed by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO).

Categories of Grants

Categories of grants to be awarded per Grant Call:

1-2 grants worth S\$3,000 – S\$5,000 each for outstanding original research ideas which are of high potential for significant scientific/medical impact, and/or demonstrate the spirit of innovation.

2-3 grants worth S\$1,000 – S\$2,000 each for excellent research ideas which have the potential for significant scientific/medical impact.

There will be 3 judges on the panel, one of whom will be from the GMEC. The amount awarded will be dependant on the review of the type of research to be conducted and the estimated cost. If there are no research ideas worthy of being funded, there may not be any grants awarded.

Uses for the funds

The funds can be employed for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of materials
2. Administrative charges
3. Manpower
4. Conference fees (Travel expenses are not included)
5. Charges for submission of abstracts/posters/papers to conferences/journals

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be a Resident based in NUHS.
2. Applicants must be a Co-Principal/Principle Investigator of the project.
3. Applicants **must not** hold concurrent grants for the same project.
4. Applicants must complete and submit the Application Form to the Residents' Research Sub-Committee by the stipulated deadline.
5. The nature of the project and the reasonable estimated budget must be compatible with the amount of funds applied for.

Evaluation of Application

A two-step process will be employed for evaluation of each application by the Grant Review Panel, composed of eminent researchers and members of the GMEC appointed by the Designated Institutional Official (DIO).

Step 1 – Short-listing for presentation

Short-listing is based on the submitted abstract, with the following evaluation criteria:

- i. Quality of study design
- ii. Quality of abstract
- iii. Scientific/Medical impact
- iv. Novelty

Step 2 – Presentation

Short-listed applicants will be required to make a 10-minute presentation to a panel of 3 Judges, who will determine the Awardees of the Grants.

Evaluation is based on the following:

- i. Quality of presentation
- ii. Quality of study design
- iii. Quality of abstract
- iv. Scientific/Medical impact
- v. Novelty

Format of Abstract

In no more than **300 words**, concisely describe the specific aims, hypotheses, methodology and approach of the research proposal including its importance to science or medicine in particular clinical significance.

The abstract can be structured in a format that best describes the research proposal, but it must serve as a succinct and accurate description of the research proposal.

A suggested structure is:

Introduction or Background

Aims

Hypotheses

Methodology

Importance or impact to Science/Medicine

Format of Presentation

Materials:

The Presenter will be provided with a computer with the Microsoft PowerPoint software and an image projector with a screen. The use of these materials is not mandatory.

If the Presenter creates the presentation using the Macintosh or other platforms, he/she is required to provide a laptop with a compatible operating system on the day of the presentation.

The Presenter may bring in other materials subject to the approval of Residents' Research Sub-Committee. All requests may be directed to Mr Eugene Tan Yi Qun and Ms Lim Wan Shu (Coordinators, NUHS Residents' Research Sub-Committee).

Time allocated:

A maximum of 10 minutes will be allowed for each presentation.

A further 5 minutes will be allocated for questions posed by the Judges and the Audience to the Presenter after each presentation.

A bell will ring at 5-minutes and at 10-minutes into the presentation. Presentations that exceed the time limit will be penalized on the scoring sheet.

Suggested format:

Introduction or Background

Aims

Hypotheses

Methodology

Importance or impact to Science/Medicine

Residents are encouraged to be creative yet professional for the presentation.

Dress Code:

Formal – Suit and tie are encouraged.

Follow-up

Grant awardees are required to provide progress reports on the project at specified points in time. A template will be provided for the progress reports. Failure to do so will result in the withdrawal of the grant.

Time Frame (From Award Start Date)	Actions by Awardee
3 months	Preliminary Report on Progress
6 months	Report on Progress
Midway through project (Approx. 1 year)	Midpoint Report on Progress
Completion of project (by the end of 2 years)	Full report on Project and Outcomes

Terms and Conditions

By submitting the Application Form, the applicant(s) agrees with the following:

- All information submitted is accurate and true.
- The information is furnished to the National University Health System with the understanding that it shall be used or disclosed for evaluation, reference and reporting purposes.
- All decisions made with regard to the awarding and withdrawal of funds by the NUHS GMEC and Residents' Research Sub-Committee are final and binding.
- No similar versions or part(s) of this proposal is sent to other agencies for funding.
- The research abides by all laws, rules and regulations pertaining to national and the NUHS's research operating procedures and guidelines
- When requested by the Organizing Committee, to submit supporting documents of ethics approval obtained from the relevant Institutional Review Board (IRB) and Animal Ethics Committee for studies involving human subjects/human tissues or cells, and animal/animal tissues or cells respectively.
- The proposed research is supported by the host department/faculty.