



## NASPGHAN Foundation Mid-Career Award

**Submission Deadline: July 1, 2026**

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### Descriptions and Objective

This award is designated for NASPGHAN members at the mid-career level who are pursuing research in pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition. Mid-career level is defined as a faculty member who has held a faculty appointment for at least five years at the time of the application, but has not yet reached full professor level. The goal of this award is to support and advance the success of investigators at the mid-career stage of their career.

Applications will be accepted for investigators to:

- Support a new project within an established area of research or
- Support investigation of a new or innovative research area which represents a departure from previously funded research.

The proposal must include a focused project that has the potential to both directly enhance the applicant's ability to obtain further federal peer-reviewed research funding and to make a significant impact on pediatric gastrointestinal, nutrition and liver health. Basic, clinical, quality improvement, translational, epidemiologic, dissemination and implementation research are all encouraged. Although not mandatory, a preference will be given to applicants who have:

1. A track record of prior national federal (e.g., NIH) research funding.
2. Currently have a gap in research funding; and,
3. Have demonstrated commitment to a long-term academic career in pediatric gastroenterology.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must:
- Be a NASPGHAN member in good standing for at least two full years at the time of the application deadline.
- Hold an MD, PhD or equivalent degree (e.g., MB, ChB, MBBS, DO) and a full-time faculty position at a North American institution. Applicants who are at the Instructor, Assistant or Associate level are eligible. **Full professors are not eligible.**
- Be at least **five** years from first faculty appointment (start date of first faculty position before 7/1/2020)
- Not have an active R01 (similar or equivalent CIHR or other independent investigator grant) at the time of application for which the applicant is the Primary Investigator. Applicants holding a career development award, such as a K grant, can apply for this mid-career grant during the last two years of the career development award.
- Applicant must not hold another NASPGHAN Foundation grant at the start of the award (Mid-December 2026).

### Grant Terms and Stipulations

- The award is \$50,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years of support.
- Institutional indirect costs are not permitted.
- All publications resulting from work supported by the NASPGHAN Foundation must acknowledge support by the relevant funding mechanism.
- A complete financial statement and scientific progress report are required annually.
- The awardee must attend the 2026 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting to accept the award. The awardee must present the results of the research project at the 2027 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting.

- Funds for grants awarded in 2026 will be disbursed in mid-December 2026.
- Funds may be used for purposes that directly support the proposed research project. Budget items may be used for but are not limited to: e.g., salary (principal investigator, lab personnel, and/or research coordinators); supplies; subject compensation; animal care or procurement; imaging; and other costs which directly support completion of the proposed research project. Funds may not be used for support of unpaid leave of absence or housing.

### **Review Procedures**

The NASPGHAN Research Committee and invited experts in the field will review the applications and score proposals using the National Institutes of Health scoring system. This scoring system uses a 9-point scale for the overall impact score and individual scores for (at least) five scored criteria (significance, innovation, approach, investigators, and environment).

Reviewers will consider the potential of the proposed research project to make a significant impact on pediatric gastrointestinal, nutrition, and/or liver health; scholarly excellence of the applicant as defined by publications and previous research funding; and potential for the award to have a notable impact on ongoing and future career success.

Members of the review panel will follow strict conflict of interest guidelines. Contact between the applicant or sponsors with committee members regarding applications is strictly prohibited and will lead to potential disqualification.



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**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:**

***FAILURE TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THESE GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR APPLICATION***

Completed applications must include the following.

1. A biographical sketch of the principal investigator and if applicable, other key personnel. The 2025 or 2026 NIH biosketch format is required and instructions (non-fellowship) are posted at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>. The biosketch should list specific aims of all active research funding to permit an assessment of scientific overlap with the investigator's existing extramural funding.
  2. Statement of Need (200 words) should be included to denote why the mid-career grant would be beneficial toward the applicant's ability to obtain further extramural peer-reviewed research funding along with a timeline for R01-level funding submission. Explain the potential for the award to have a notable impact on ongoing and future career success.
  3. The research plan is structured according to the NIH format as outlined below with 1/2-inch margins. Times New Roman or Arial font no less than 11 point are required. Page limitations and style requirements are strictly enforced. (No research plan more than SEVEN single spaced pages will be reviewed. References and additional criteria are not included in this maximum page count).
- **Scientific Abstract** (1 page) suitable for use in the public domain should succinctly describe the scope of the proposed research, the study hypothesis, its scientific objectives, and the potential for innovation. Relevance of the proposed research to pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition should be emphasized. The names and institutional affiliations of the principal investigator and all co- investigators should be tabulated at the end of this page.
  - **Specific aims** (1 page):
    - \* Explain the rationale for the study, overall hypothesis, aims, and significance if successful.
  - **Research Strategy** (4 pages) including Significance, Innovation, and Approach
    - a. Significance
      - \* Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
      - \* Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
      - \* Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
    - b. Innovation
      - \* Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
      - \* Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
      - \* Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - c. Approach
      - \* Provide preliminary data (strongly preferred but not required) that supports the premise for the work.
      - \* Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed including statistical plan, and interpreted as well

as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.

- \* Discuss expected results, potential problems, alternative strategies, feasibility, timeline, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. A power calculation is encouraged where relevant to underscore feasibility.
  - \* If the project is in the early stages of development, describe strategies both to enhance feasibility and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
4. Description of Institutional Environment (1 page): Describe your institution's research and career development opportunities related to this application and your area(s) of interest. Describe how equipment, facilities and other resources will be made available to you for the research proposed and your career development. Potential areas to address include:
- \* Laboratory
  - \* Clinical
  - \* Animal
  - \* Computer
  - \* Office
  - \* Major Equipment
  - \* Other Resources

#### References (Not counted towards page limits)

5. Additional criteria (1 page limit):
- Human subjects research: For studies involving human subjects, explain whether there is an existing IRB-approved protocol in place. If not, please outline your plans to obtain IRB approval, or explain why your protocol may not require this.
  - Animal studies: For studies involving animals, explain whether an animal protocol is approved or planned.
  - Inclusion plans: NASPGHAN is committed to decreasing disparities in patient care and outcomes and one way is through actively considering health equity in research study design.
    - a. For patient-oriented and other human subjects research**, include the following:  
Inclusion Across the life span: Include a brief description of the scientific rationale and plan for the age of participants included in the proposal.
    - \* Health Equity in Research: Include a brief description of the scientific rationale and plan for inclusion of underserved groups.
    - \* Describe the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender and racial/ethnic group, and provide a rationale for selection of such study subjects.
    - \* As appropriate, please describe specific efforts undertaken by the program including outreach strategies and activities designed to recruit prospective participants from diverse groups.
  - b. For research that does not involve human subjects:**  
If the study does not involve patient recruitment or samples, document if the research planned would have any impact in addressing disparities in care or health outcomes (directly or indirectly).
  - Safety: Describe any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.
6. A detailed budget, accompanied by an NIH style budget justification. Salary, equipment, supplies and costs may be budgeted. In accordance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy, salary requests may not use an institutional base salary in excess of the current federal salary cap at the time of submission ([https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap\\_summary.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)). Fringe benefits may be requested if they are treated consistently by the applicant institution as a direct cost to all funding agencies and foundations. *Indirect costs are not allowed.*
7. Letter of support from the Division Director or the Department Chair outlining their current and future support for the research career of the applicant.
8. Articles in press not available online can be included as an appendix but should only be included if material is directly relevant to the proposal. Additional articles, such as those already published or in preparation and any other additional documents should not be included and may detract from the application.