

National Academy of Neuropsychology Clinical Research Grants Program 2020 Request for Applications (RFA)

The National Academy of Neuropsychology is committed to the professional and scientific development of clinical neuropsychology. The mission of the Clinical Research Grants Program is to support meritorious small grants, pilot projects, or seed grants that address the value, worth, or efficacy of clinical neuropsychological assessment or interventions. These projects might be overlooked by traditional granting agencies because of their applied clinical nature or stage of development. Pilot or seed proposals should demonstrate how they will lead to future funding.

Characteristics of Projects to be supported

In an era of health care reform, it is important that the worth of neuropsychology in improving quality of care and outcomes be demonstrated and that these findings be used to both optimize patient care and inform advocacy efforts. The National Academy of Neuropsychology grants program seeks projects that have the potential to support the efficacy, cost, and utility of clinical neuropsychology. Some topics that could be addressed include:

- The value-added of neuropsychology (e.g., *how does the availability of clinic-based neuropsychological consultation improve access to mental/behavioral health care and/or reduce broader health care costs?*)
- Efficacy of practice (e.g., *does the efficacy of assessment / therapeutic neuropsychological services apply equally across populations or settings?*)
- Technological advances (e.g., *development of interventions that integrate virtual reality in promoting cognitive rehabilitation; psychometric properties of computerized cognitive assessment*)
- Relative predictive ability of neuropsychological methods (e.g., *utility of “abbreviated” testing batteries relative to more traditional or expanded assessment batteries*)
- Aspects of neuropsychology’s impact on prevention, treatment, outcomes (e.g., *Medicare quality measures*), and monitoring of disease progression
- Population health (e.g., *identification of differential risk factors, resilience factors, or methods of stratifying risk across medical populations*)

Within this context, projects that address issues of diversity, focus on novel analyses of existing national or large-scale datasets (an example list of databases can be found on the NAN Grants Program page), promote multi-site or multi-institutional collaboration, and have the potential to lead to future funding or significant innovations for the field of neuropsychology are encouraged. Projects do not need to have all these characteristics to be successful. Applicants are encouraged to review the list of past funded grants on the NAN website (www.nanonline.org). Direct any questions about the appropriateness of the topic or project to the committee chair (contact information is below).

Preference will be given to projects that closely fit this RFA. Projects that do not fit closely, but are nonetheless relevant to the mission of the NAN Grants Program (as noted above), will also be considered.

Budget and Related Issues

- Proposals may request funding to be distributed over 1 or 2 years. No-cost extensions are possible pending review and approval by the Clinical Grants Committee.
- The maximum award budget is \$15,000 in total regardless of whether the proposed project is to be conducted over 1 or 2 years. Up to 10% of the total award budget can be allocated to cover indirect costs (i.e., *direct costs + indirect costs = maximum of \$15,000*). For example, \$13,500 direct costs + \$1,500 indirect costs = \$15,000 total budget.
- Applicants should carefully justify their budgeted expenses. Conference travel may not be included in the budget.
- Any scientific overlap with other projects should be described in the budget justification section of the application.
- Awardees are required to present the results of their work as part of a NAN sponsored webinar that will be free to members (the NAN Office helps coordinate this when the project is completed).
- Awardees are required to submit a manuscript based on the full study for possible publication in *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*. Other manuscripts generated based on the data acquired may also be submitted to the journal.

Grant Evaluation Criteria

Grant proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. **Significance of Research Idea** [originality]
2. **Relevance to Mission of Grants Program** [study responds to the specific interest of the RFA, and if not, otherwise aligns with the stated mission]
3. **Research Methodology** [soundness of study design and proposed data analyses, feasibility, availability of participants]
4. **Ability to Complete Project** [background of the principal investigator in the application area (and appropriateness of mentorship if postdoctoral fellow), environment/resources to complete research, and timeline for completing project]
5. **Significant Innovation for Neuropsychology or Likelihood to Lead to Future Funding** [results will make contribution to neuropsychology, pilot or seed grant will lead to future funding]
6. **Appropriateness of Budget** [return to the profession for the number of dollars expended, PI has time allotted for the project via NAN grant budget or otherwise]

7. **Diversity** [inclusive of race/ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, sensory/motor impairment, etc.] Applicants should describe the ways in which diversity is/is not relevant to the outcomes of the proposed research and the degree to which the proposal responds to this need. It is recognized that many proposals will not directly address diversity. However, the NAN review committee expects applicants to carefully consider the relevance of diversity to the application of their research findings. For example, the application should describe how diversity is represented in the population under study, address the limitations of generalizability of study findings to particular diverse groups (e.g., ethnic minorities, socioeconomically disadvantaged persons), discuss how the study will approach potential confounds related to issues of diversity.

Each grant will receive peer review by 2-3 member of the NAN Clinical Research Grants committee, who will rate the application according to these criteria.

General grant proposal writing resources can be found on the NAN Grants Program page.

Eligibility Requirements

Grants are awarded to any NAN member (Professional, Postdoctoral/Early Career, Associate levels) who is employed in private practice, institutional, and/or academic settings. Graduate students are not eligible.

NAN board members, NAN committee chairs, and members of the NAN Clinical Research Grants committee may not apply.

The committee will only consider one proposal per applicant (e.g., an applicant cannot be a PI on one proposal, as well as a mentor or co-investigator on another proposal).

Application Deadlines

The deadline for filing an application is **June 1, 2020**. Funding is expected to begin September 1, 2020.

Additional Information

Resubmissions. Applicants may resubmit an application reviewed during a previous grant cycle. The application should include a 1-page *response to reviewers'* critiques, as well as marked changes or additions to the application (bold, italic, or other indication). The resubmission must, however, adhere to the 1 page limit for the Specific Aims page and 5-page limit for the Research Strategy & Plans.

Setting. The applicant must be in a setting that will facilitate the proposed research. Past awardees have worked in a variety of settings, including universities, community hospitals, academic medical centers, rehabilitation centers, and private practices.

Postdoctoral Fellows. If the applicant is a postdoctoral fellow, the application must include a letter of support from the primary mentor.

IRB Approval. Prior to disbursement of funds, the project must receive IRB approval. Individuals who do not have access to an institutional IRB should consider identifying a collaborator at an institution with an IRB or making arrangements for review of the project by a commercial/private IRB. Costs for a private IRB should be included in the proposed budget.

Progress Reports. Grantees are required to submit quarterly progress reports using the NAN Clinical Research Grants quarterly report template.

Information and application materials are available at www.nanonline.org or contact:

Interested individuals are strongly encouraged to contact the NAN Clinical Research Grants committee (Robert.M.Roth@Dartmouth.edu) to discuss the fit of their project idea with the RFA prior to submitting their proposal.

Program Officers:

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- Adam Gerstenecker, PhD
- Matthew Wright, PhD

Chair, Clinical Research Grants Committee

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