



RESEARCH

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AHA RESEARCH INSIDER: **APRIL 2020 EDITION**

Important information for AHA Awardees, Applicants, Peer Reviewers, and Fiscal & Grant Officers



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Notice to AHA Research Community Regarding COVID-19

Dear AHA Research Community:

We know many of you are experiencing significant challenges conducting research at your institutions during the coronavirus pandemic. You no doubt have questions about steps the AHA is taking to support your research programs.

First and foremost is the safety of you and your research teams. We anticipate you are following the direction of your sponsoring institutions with regard to access to laboratories and research clinics. We are aware there are varying responses to the pandemic, ranging from all research activities being suspended indefinitely, to reduced operations and remote working until further notice. We understand the need for decisions to be made at the local level, with fluctuating degrees of interruptions on a daily and weekly basis. The AHA has adopted flexible grants management policies in recent years and will expand that flexibility and support as much as possible.

Disruptions to Ongoing Research Projects

- Inform AHA if your funded projects are placed on hold indefinitely. This could take the form of restrictions on human subject recruitment or visits with enrolled subjects, as well as inaccessibility to laboratories.
- AHA will support interim-year carryover requests due to suspension of research projects and allow rebudgeting.

Reporting

- Currently pending deadlines to submit scientific progress reports and patient recruitment/retention reports should proceed in a timely manner. The AHA is not extending these deadlines at this time.
- Contact awards@heart.org if submission of upcoming expenditure reports will be impacted by closure and/or reduced staffing of institutional accounting offices.

Award Extensions and Salary Expenditures During Work Stoppage

- No-cost-extensions (NCE) are available as always. Please submit a Change Request in Grants@Heart. Awards currently on NCE may qualify for additional extensions.
- AHA will also allow payment of salaries on grants and fellowships for up to 60 days without pre-approval during periods of work.
- stoppage. Should inability to conduct research exceed 60 days, please contact AHA.

Expenditures Related to Cancelled Travel

- Unrefunded charges (conference registration, airline ticket, etc.) incurred with the intent to attend a scientific conference that was subsequently cancelled can be charged to an AHA grant.

Deadlines for New Applications

- AHA's next proposal deadlines for research funding will be in August.
- Any changes to upcoming deadlines will be announced by July 1.

Resources

[FAQs: COVID-19 Impact on AHA Research \(PDF\)](#)



Stay safe and healthy,
AHA Research Administration Team

ProposalCentral to Replace Grants@Heart

Have you heard?

The AHA will replace Grants@Heart with ProposalCentral to manage research applications, peer review, and awards. ProposalCentral is a popular grants management system that many researchers are already familiar with. It is an e-grantmaking website shared by many government, non-profit, and private granting organizations.

What you need to know:

The AHA will stop using Grants@Heart at the end of April and start using ProposalCentral in

May. Your information in Grants@Heart will be transferred to ProposalCentral. Once the data transfer has occurred, AHA will email you to log onto ProposalCentral to view your profile information and your past AHA applications and awards. (We'll also remind you in the May issue of this newsletter.)

What can I do now?

If you don't already have an ORCID ID, register for one now at <https://orcid.org/register>. ORCID can be used to provide profile and publication information in ProposalCentral, so updating this information in advance is useful.

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and supports automated links between you and your professional activities -- ensuring that your work is recognized.

Will there be a time when neither system is available?

We hope to complete the cutover with minimal downtime for users. It is likely that for 2-3 business days neither system will be accessible. The transition is scheduled during a break in the AHA business cycle: after peer review is complete and before it's time to submit new applications.

Can I go back to Grants@Heart once AHA begins to use ProposalCentral?

Grants@Heart will no longer be accessible after the transition to ProposalCentral. Key data will be migrated and AHA staff will be able to assist you, as well.

How can I help?

The AHA seeks Grants@Heart users to volunteer for focus groups or to provide feedback on FAQs and instructions to help users transition to the new system. If you wish to participate, please send your name and your roles in Grants@Heart (fiscal officer, applicant, awardee, peer reviewer) to Belinda.Orland@heart.org.

Application Information

2020-21 Application Deadlines Announced

Updates can be found on the AHA [Application Information](#) page. Please note that published deadlines are subject to change. RFAs for 2021 awards will be updated online in mid- to late-May.

Program	Letter of Intent Deadline (if applicable)	Proposal Deadline	Start Date
AHA Predoctoral Fellowship		Wed, Sept 9, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship		Thurs, Sept 10, 2020	Jan 1, 2021

Institutional Undergraduate Student Training Program		Tues, Sept 15, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
Merit Award	Required by Thurs, Oct 1, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues, Nov 10, 2020	April 1, 2021
Established Investigator Award	Required by Wed, Oct 14, 2020	Invited Applicants: Thurs, Jan 14, 2021	April 1, 2021
Career Development Award		Thurs, Dec 3, 2020	April 1, 2021
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)		Tues, Jan 12, 2021	April 1, 2021
Innovative Project Award	Required by Tues, Nov 3, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues, Feb 2, 2021	July 1, 2021
Transformational Project Award		Tues, Feb 16, 2021	July 1, 2021
Collaborative Sciences Award	Required by Thurs, Jan 7, 2021	Invited Applicants: Tues, March 16, 2021	July 1, 2021
Strategically Focused Research Funding Opportunities			
AHA and Enduring Hearts Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation	Required by Mon, June 1, 2020	Invited Applicants: Tues., Sept. 1, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
American Stroke Association-Bugher Foundation Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke	Thurs, July 16, 2020	Thurs, Aug 27, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
AHA and Children's Heart Foundation Congenital Heart Defects Research Awards		Tues, Sept 22, 2020	Jan 1, 2021
Cardio-Oncology Strategically Focused Research Network	Tues, Oct 13, 2020	Tues, Dec 8, 2020	April 1, 2021

Are you Awaiting the Funding Outcome of an AHA Application?

Current applicants for Collaborative Sciences Awards, Innovative Project Awards, Transformational Project Awards, Strategic Renewal Grants, and Strategic Collaborative Grants will be notified via email from ProposalCentral by mid-May, when the funding status of proposals is known.

Programs with Summer Application Deadlines



**Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation and the
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke Research**

Letters of Intent due Thursday, July 16, 2020

Full Applications due Thursday, August 27, 2020

The Henrietta B. and Frederick H. Bugher Foundation and the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for the Centers of Excellence in Hemorrhagic Stroke Research comprising at least three (3) Centers and one (1) Centralized Training Center within this Network.

A leading AHA priority is to fund research that increases the understanding of the etiology, pathophysiology, treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. This RFA describes a collaborative network of basic, clinical and population researchers from different disciplines whose collective efforts will enhance the understanding of the etiology, biological pathways and modifiable risk factors associated with hemorrhagic stroke (HS) and will lead to innovative and breakthrough discoveries for the prevention and treatment of HS.

Visit the [Bugher Foundation](#) web page for more information and a link to the RFA.



**American Heart Association and Enduring Hearts
Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation**

Letters of Intent due Monday, June 1, 2020

The American Heart Association (AHA) and Enduring Hearts (EH) share common priorities and interests in investing in biomedical research. Together, the AHA and EH have established this jointly funded request for applications (RFA) for the AHA/EH Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation.

These awards will support investigators who are **actively conducting research directly related to improving the life expectancy and quality of life of Pediatric Heart Transplant Recipients**. This funding opportunity will further these areas of focus by offering competitive research grants in basic, clinical, population, and/or translational research **via Collaborative Sciences Awards**.

A letter of intent (limited to five pages) is required to ensure responsiveness to the novel, collaborative nature of this program. The responsiveness to the research priorities listed in the RFA, plus the novel relationship and proposed collaboration of investigators from at least two different disciplines, will be given the most weight in evaluating the LOI to determine which teams will be invited to submit full applications.

View the Letter of Intent Instructions, and full program details on the **AHA and Enduring Hearts Research Awards in Pediatric Heart Transplantation** web page.

Contact Us

AHA research staff is available Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Time to assist with the application process and to answer questions. Contact us by emailing apply@heart.org or by calling 214-360-6107, option 1. We will reply as quickly as possible.

Lifelong Learning



Paid Registration Deadline: July 1
2020 AHA Research Leaders Academy

September 15-17, 2020
Hilton Chicago
Chicago, IL

The annual AHA Research Leaders Academy provides a platform for participants to explore and debate research issues, develop a network of senior and future research thought leaders, and advance the AHA mission and encourage engagement with the AHA. In addition to the strategic awardees and thought leaders selected to attend as AHA guests, a limited number of slots are available to those who wish to attend for a fee. Many past attendees continue to self-register and have reported that the unique nature of this small conference has been beneficial for researchers at all career levels.

Registration Deadline: July 1, 2020

Academy Fee: \$650 for AHA Professional Members/\$800 for Non-members Registration fee covers attendance at all conference sessions, workshops, receptions, and meals/refreshments provided for the event. Paid participants are responsible for all travel and hotel charges.

Register Here: <https://learn.heart.org/lms/activity?@activity.id=7035979>

Questions: aharesearchleadersacademy@heart.org

Current and Past AHA Awardees

Help Shape the AHA's Legacy of Excellence: Become a Peer Reviewer / Recommend Lay Stakeholders

Your AHA funding was made possible in part because of volunteer peer reviewers who evaluated your proposal. Please consider doing the same for the next class of awardees. AHA seeks reviewers with a wide array of [scientific expertise](#) and non-science lay stakeholders to review a variety of traditional and specialty program applications. Questions? Contact us at peerreview@heart.org.

Please Nominate Lay Reviewers

Do you know someone without formal science or medical training who has been touched by heart disease or stroke as a survivor, family member, caregiver, or advocate who might wish to add a voice to the research projects AHA funds? Many AHA peer review study sections include lay reviewers who assist with assessing potential impact on the AHA mission. Potential lay reviewers may contact Elizabeth.Cooper@heart.org or Angela.McCarty@heart.org.

Open Data and Public Access Policy Reminders

The AHA requires Principal Investigators to create and maintain a data sharing plan in our research system that is in compliance with our [Open Data Policy](#). Exceptions exist for some programs and specific awards that received approval to opt-out. Please make sure that you are depositing your data into the AHA-approved repository(ies) as stipulated in your data sharing plan.

All recipients of awards that began January 2015 and after must ensure any signed publication agreement is consistent with the AHA's [Public Access Policy](#), which stipulates that awardees reserve all author rights necessary to comply with the policy and deposit all publications resulting from AHA funding into PubMed Central within 12 months of publication.

Step-by-step instructions for demonstrating compliance with both policies described above are available [here](#). Questions regarding these policies may be directed to [Rachel McEnany](#).

How to Attribute your AHA Award

As stipulated in the AHA Awardee Agreement, awardees should acknowledge the American Heart Association and include the full AHA award ID and awardee's last name, e.g. 16POST1234567 (Smith), wherever the publication or presentation allows. If more than one AHA award supported the published research, then each Award should be cited separately. More details on publication attribution can be found in the "Publication" section of the [AHA Award Guide](#).

Is Your Membership Active?

A condition of recent AHA awards is that you maintain AHA Professional Membership throughout the term of your funding. Your membership might require renewal. Don't risk having your award payments held:

[Renew today!](#)

Submit Your Science



Since AHA Awards are made possible through voluntary contributions by the public, research results should be made available to the public promptly, either by presentation to scientific societies or publication in **reputable** scientific journals.

To protect the credibility of published research, authors are encouraged to publish papers arising from AHA-funded research in reputable journals. The NIH has issued a [statement](#) and guidance on how to select reputable journals and avoid predatory journals.

We encourage you to submit abstracts to AHA's Scientific Sessions and Journals. AHA award funds may be used to pay abstract submission fees and AHA Professional Membership.

Basic Cardiovascular Sciences (BCVS) 2020 Scientific Sessions #BCVS20

July 27-30, 2020

Chicago Hilton, Chicago, IL

Submit your science and register now for this virtual and in-person event!

<https://professional.heart.org/bcvssessions>

Scientific Sessions 2020

#AHA20

November 14–16
Dallas, Texas

Abstract submission opens Wednesday, April 15!

<https://scientificsessions.org>

Resuscitation Science Symposium (ReSS) 2020

#ReSS20

November 14-15
Dallas, Texas

Abstract submission opens Wednesday, April 15!

<https://professional.heart.org/ress>

Register Today

Vascular Discovery: From Genes to Medicine 2020

#VascularDiscovery20

Formerly ATVB|PVD Scientific Sessions
May 5-7, 2020

Register now for this virtual event!

<https://professional.heart.org/vasculardiscoverysessions>

Quality of Care and Outcomes Research (QCOR) 2020 Scientific Sessions

#QCOR20

May 15-16, 2020

Register now for this virtual event!

<https://professional.heart.org/qcorsessions>