



RSNA Research & Education Foundation Request for Application (RFA)

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

RFA Posted Date	June 1, 2022
RFA Number	REI-COVID
Funding Opportunity	RSNA Emerging Issues Grant
Funding Opportunity Topic	Long-term COVID Effects
Announcement Type	New
Funding Opportunity Purpose	The Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) is invested in ensuring that the current and next generation of radiologists are prepared to meet emerging needs of our continuously evolving profession. This funding opportunity is a mechanism to support emerging imaging research to learn more about prolonged symptoms related to COVID-19 often referred to as “Post-Acute Sequelae of Sars-CoV-2 (PASC)” or commonly referred to as “long Covid”, where patients report developing new or chronic symptoms after the acute phase of infection.
Application Deadline	August 1, 2022
Application Instructions	Full applications must be submitted through the RSNA R&E Foundation online grant site. Eligibility requirements, application instructions, and other details are in the RFA full text announcement. Applications that do not comply with the instructions will not be accepted for review.
Scientific Merit Review	August 2022 (date TBD)
Applicant Notified of Funding Outcome	October 1, 2022 Applicants will be notified of the funding outcome by email communication. Awardees must comply with the grant policies and procedures.
Earliest Start Date for Funded Grants	October 15, 2022
Contact	Keshia Osley Assistant Director, Grant Administration kosley@rsna.org 630-571-7816

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FULL TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding Opportunity Description

Purpose

To elicit grant submissions focused on all aspects of diagnostic and interventional imaging of Post-Acute-Sequela of Sars-Cov-2 (PASC).

Background

PASC refers to persistent respiratory, neurological, psychological, cardiovascular, or other multi-system symptoms that persist 4 or more weeks after COVID-19 infection. PASC affects patients with asymptomatic, mild, or severe COVID symptoms. The imaging features, pathophysiology, clinical trajectory, and predictors of PASC are emerging. This funding opportunity seeks to elicit the evidence-based research and literature in radiology that will allow us to gain a better understanding of PASC.

Research Objectives and Scope

The RSNA is soliciting grant proposals focused on all aspects of diagnostic and interventional imaging in PASC including but not limited to: identifying imaging markers for PASC, identifying baseline risk factors for PASC, predicting outcomes and clinical trajectory, artificial intelligence and radiomics applying to PASC, and image guided interventions or health services research relating to PASC.

Award Information

Application Types Allowed

Currently accepting new applications

Anticipated Number of Awards

To be determined, based on applications.

Award Budget

Applications with budgets up to \$100,000 (maximum) for the project year will be considered. The RSNA R&E Foundation does not pay institutional indirect or overhead costs.

Award Project Period

Applications for a one-year project accepted. Select projects will be eligible for a one time, one year renewable. Milestone completion will be used to determine if subsequent funding is merited.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on the following:

- Innovation
- Impact
- Knowledge of and experience within the specific topic
- Well-defined and researched needs assessment that identifies current practice gaps of identified learners
- Feasibility
- Scalability/expandability
- Content monitoring, update strategy and sustainability

Eligibility Information

Applicant (Principal Investigator) must be an RSNA Member (at any level) at the time of application and throughout the duration of the award. If the applicant's membership category is a non-dues paying category, one or more of the co-investigators must be a dues-paying member.

Applicants must hold a faculty or equivalent position in a department of radiology, radiation oncology, or nuclear medicine within an educational institution. If an applicant is not currently a faculty member at the time of application but will become a faculty member when the award commences, a letter from the department chair attesting to this appointment must be included.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

I. Summary of Proposed Research Plan

This section, when separated from the rest of the application, should serve as a succinct and accurate description of the proposed project. The summary should include the long-term goals of the proposed research to the radiologic community. Abstract not to exceed 500 words.

- A. Title
- B. Abstract
- C. Short Abstract

II. Applicant(s)

A. Professional Data:

- i) Institution
- ii) Department
- iii) Faculty position/rank
- iv) Time allocated to the proposed project, and to other duties. Specify percent and time frame.

B. Biosketch:

NIH-style biosketch, limited to 5 pages.

Please see <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm> for the NIH biosketch blank form, instructions and sample. Please use the "non-fellowship" biosketch for all R&E grant applications.

C. Other Investigators/collaborators:

Other investigators/collaborators who will contribute significantly to the project should be listed. Include a description of their background, experience and expertise, and the role(s) they will play in the proposed research project. To the extent possible, collaborators should be actively involved in each stage of the project, from initial application through analysis and reporting on the final product.

Biosketch: NIH-style biosketch, limited to 5 pages, or each investigator/collaborator with a major role in the project.

III. Research Plan

A. Detailed Research Plan:

Not to exceed 5 pages. Use 0.5" margins and size 11 Arial font. Figures and tables are included in the five-page limit. Additional pages may be included for references. Appendices may be included; however, appendices should not be an extension of the detailed research plan.

The detailed research plan should consist of the following:

Introduction:

- Rationale and purpose: describe why the project should be undertaken.
- Specific Aims and Objectives
- What makes the proposal unique?
- What are the intended outcomes or expected results? Will the proposed project result in a deliverable product/intellectual property?
- Previous Experience: Relevant preliminary work/prior experience of investigator.

Project Plans:

- What specific activities will be done to achieve the project objectives? Include specific collaborator roles and responsibilities.
- Present a specific timeline of events to detail measurable milestones toward success of the completed project.
- Outcomes
- Dissemination: Describe how the product will be made available to RSNA members.

Evaluation

- Evaluation is one of the most common areas of weakness in grant applications; considerable attention must be paid to this area in all successful applications. How will the outcomes of the project be assessed in terms of the purpose and objectives? Can the outcomes be quantitatively assessed?

Research Assurances

- Research grant projects may involve human subjects and require Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact their institutional IRB office to inquire if IRB approval is required for the proposed project and to publish subsequent manuscripts. Provide the status of IRB for this project. Applicants do not need research assurance approvals at the time of application; however, funded grant recipients will be required to submit appropriate approval notifications before grant funds are released.

References

B. Location of Study:

Specify the primary institution, department, and country where the education project will take place. List secondary institutions, departments and countries if applicable.

C. Resources and Environment:

Describe the facilities, support services, educational resources and/or other services that will be available for this project.

IV. Budget

A. Detailed Budget:

Since plans differ, no specific format is required for this section. However, a complete description of the projected use of funds will assist the study section reviewers in determining the project's scope and feasibility. The budget should be a complete and detailed listing of the costs associated with the proposed program, including part-time salary support, supplies and materials, etc. Specify the following:

- Total project budget (direct costs)
- Amount Requested
- Explanation of how costs not covered by this grant will be paid (departmental funds, other grants, etc.)
- Complete budget justification

B. Other Sources of Support (pending and received):

Other non-conflicting sources of support for the proposed activity are encouraged and should be identified.

C. Award Payment Information:

To facilitate fund disbursement if the grant is approved for funding, please supply the payee information and mailing address. This information is available through the institution's research administration or grants and contracts office. The institution will serve as the fiscal agent.

V. Letters

If the project involves significant collaboration with individuals outside of the investigators institution and if relevant industry partners, letters of agreement may be included. Additional letters of support are not required or accepted.

VI. Signatures

- Department Chair
- Grant Administrator
- Grant Applicant and all Co-PIs

Note: Digital signatures are allowable.

GRANT APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Applications are reviewed using an NIH-style study section and the NIH overall impact scoring system of 1 (exceptional) to 9 (poor). The RSNA Education Study Section is comprised of experts in the radiologic sciences with specific expertise and experience in the topics listed in the RFA.

One primary and two secondary reviewers will be assigned to each grant application. After initial, individual review, the study section members will convene for group discussion of each meritorious grant application and assign a final overall impact score. Study Section members will use the following review criteria to assign an overall impact score for each application.

Overall Impact:

After considering all of the scored review criteria, briefly summarize the significant strengths and weaknesses of the application and state the likelihood of the project to exert a sustained powerful influence on the field. Briefly summarize the significant strengths and weaknesses of the application.

Scored Review Criteria:

- Significance

Does the proposed project address a key audience and an important aspect or important need? Is there convincing evidence in the application that the proposed program will significantly advance the stated goals of the program?

- Innovation

Taking into consideration the nature of the proposed research education program, does the applicant make a strong case for this program effectively reaching an audience in need of the program's offerings? Where appropriate, is the proposed program developing or utilizing innovative approaches and latest best practices to improve the knowledge and/or skills of the intended audience?

- **Approach**

Does the proposed program clearly state its goals and objectives, including the educational level of the audience to be reached, the content to be conveyed, and the intended outcome? Is there evidence that the program is based on a sound rationale, as well as sound educational concepts and adult learning principles? Is the plan for evaluation sound, and does it incorporate metric-based outcomes analyses likely to provide information on the achievement of learning objectives and overall effectiveness of the program? Is the project scalable/expandable? Is there a plan to monitor content, update and sustain the product? Are the timeline and budget realistic? Is there a proposed plan to incorporate the product into the 'RSNA Education System?'

- **Investigators**

Is the PI capable of providing both administrative and scientific leadership to the development and implementation of the proposed program? Is there evidence that an appropriate level of effort will be devoted by the program leadership to ensure the program's intended goal is accomplished? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

- **Environment**

Will the scientific and educational environment of the proposed education program contribute to its intended goals? Is there a plan to take advantage of this environment to enhance the educational value of the program? Is there tangible evidence of institutional commitment? Is there evidence that the faculty have sufficient institutional support to create a sound educational environment for the participants? Where appropriate, is there evidence of collaboration and buy-in among participating programs, departments, and institutions?

Additional Review Criteria

- Protections for Human Subjects
- Vulnerable Populations (medical students, residents/fellows etc.)

Payment Schedule

Grant funds will be paid to the institution in two installments: Ninety percent (90%) at the time of award. The remaining Ten percent (10%) of the total grant award will be withheld by the Foundation, to be released only upon receipt of an acceptable grant final report.

Reporting

Grant recipients must submit an **interim report 90 days before** the close of the project. This interim report will determine the effectiveness and success of the program and will be used to determine if an additional year of funding will be awarded.

The **final report** must be submitted to the Foundation within 90 days after completion of the project.