



APIC Heroes Implementation Research Scholar Award Program: 2015-16 Request for Applications

Introduction

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) announces the availability of two APIC Implementation Research Scholar Awards¹ for 2015-2016.

The primary goals of the Heroes in Implementation Research Scholarship are to:

- Promote research in implementation science;
- Improve patient outcomes by championing for systemic adoption of infection prevention and control programs in healthcare settings; and
- Highlight best practices in instituting this approach.

This scholarship will provide career development opportunities for highly qualified individuals and help to create bridges between infection preventionists and professionals in other clinical disciplines.

Two awards of up to \$50,000 each will be granted for a project period from January 1, 2015 to March 30, 2016. The payment period is January 1, 2015-December 31, 2015; the last 3 months of the project period is to be utilized to finalize a manuscript for submission to the *American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC)*.

Overview

APIC is the leading professional association for infection preventionists (IPs) with more than 15,000 members. Our mission is to create a safer world through the prevention of infection. This is achieved by the provision of better care to promote better health at a lower cost. APIC Strategic Plan 2020 outlines five key areas in which APIC can make significant contributions: patient safety; implementation science; infection preventionist competencies and certification; advocacy; and data standardization.

The 2015-2016 APIC Implementation Research Scholar Awards will support research that advances infection prevention through implementation science. Implementation Science has been defined as research that creates new knowledge about how best to design, implement, and evaluate quality improvement initiatives. The most competitive applications will focus on implementation science, demonstrating its value and implications for infection prevention and quality efforts across clinical settings.

Applicants are encouraged to submit innovative proposals that are achievable within the allotted award funding, time frame, and their available support resources. APIC will not provide direct technical, scientific, or data support services as part of the awards.

Consistent with the indicators of success for implementation science included in APIC Strategic Plan 2020, it is expected that recipients of the APIC Research awards will present the results of their findings at the APIC Annual Conference and prepare a manuscript for submission to APIC's

¹ Awards made possible with support from an unrestricted education grant from BD, an APIC Strategic Partner.

scholarly journal, *AJIC*.

Application Requirements

Funds:

- Project funding will be commensurate with the size and scope of the proposed project. APIC may elect to award less than \$ 50,000 if warranted by the specifications of the proposal.
- All funds must be used in direct support of the project. All direct research costs (including salary, benefits, research supplies, etc.) are permitted; this proposal does not support indirect costs.
- Initial release, publication or any other form of dissemination of awarded project will be via APIC venues mentioned above and will include acknowledgement of funding through the APIC Heroes of Infection Prevention program and its funding mechanism.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be current members of APIC; if you are not yet a member but would like to submit a proposal for this award, please go here <https://apic.org/Member-Services/Join> to join as a member.
- Researchers, including those in early career stages, may submit a proposal through their organization. The lead researcher must hold a graduate degree but is not required to be employed as an infection preventionist.
- Preference will be given to applicants who are tax exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Members of the APIC Research Committee, current APIC directors or APIC staff members are not eligible to apply. Family members of individuals serving in one of these capacities are not eligible to apply without prior written permission.

Selection Criteria

1. Strength of proposal in advancing implementation science and research in implementation science
2. Consideration given in proposal to infection prevention efforts across clinical disciplines
3. Nature of collaborative process to be used to support the project
4. Strength of proposed methodology
5. Applicant's qualifications and experience as relevant to completing the proposed study, including any deliverables, within the specified time

Schedule

Date	Action	Instructions
October 1, 2014	Request for Applications released	
November 17, 2014	Complete application required by 5:00 pm PST	Submit via email to: cmalik@apic.org
December 8, 2014	Awardees notified	

December 19, 2014	Last day to return letter of agreement	
January 1, 2015	Start of award period	50% of total award granted
January-April 2015	Regular check-ins with Research Committee members and APIC staff	Create annual schedule of check-ins by mid-January
April 2015	Check-in with mentor from Research Committee	Submit outline and well-developed project plan for review and feedback
June 2015	Presentation of progress to APIC research committee at APIC Annual Conference	
September 2015	Check-in with mentor from Research Committee	Submit first final draft and draft abstract for manuscript
December 31, 2015	End of payment period	Remainder of award granted upon submission of full report, including final abstract for manuscript submission
February 2016	Check-in with mentor from Research Committee	Submit complete draft of manuscript to Research Committee
March 30, 2016	End of project	Submit manuscript to <i>AJIC</i>

Award Conditions

As a condition of the award, recipients must sign a statement signifying their acceptance of certain conditions:

- All research activities will be conducted in accordance with standard human subject protection, including Institutional Review Board approval if required;
- Initial publication and presentation of supported research will be presented in an APIC-related venue unless prior written permission is granted by the chair of the research committee; and
- The awardee and awardee's affiliated institution are expected to follow all the terms of the letter of agreement to be eligible for payment of awarded grant.

How to Apply

Complete applications should be emailed to cmalik@apic.org no later than 5:00 pm PST on November 17, 2014.

Application Components

1. Curriculum vitae for lead researcher with name and contact information
2. Proposal
 - Narrative – maximum 6, double-spaced pages:
 - Background: Describe the knowledge gap that exists and why it is important to the field of infection prevention.
 - Aims/Objectives: Clearly state the objectives of the proposed research. Implementation infection prevention practices across clinical disciplines is a desired objective/aim
 - Proposed methods: Full project plan not required, but must describe overall methods for project completion.
 - Importance of the findings
 - Plans for dissemination, publication, or presentation
 - Budget – 1 page:
 - Budget narrative for an amount not to exceed \$50,000
3. Two letters of support, one of which must be from the applicant's affiliated institution
4. Any other pertinent documents in support of the application and proposal

For More Information

Submit any inquiries regarding this solicitation to cmalik@apic.org.