

## **The Paul C. Gillette Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society (PACES) Research Grant**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Paul C. Gillette (PCG) Pediatric and Congenital Electrophysiology Society (PACES) Research Grant is sponsored by the family of Paul C. Gillette to develop and sustain clinical and translational research directed at children and adults with congenital and acquired pediatric electrophysiology diseases.

Paul C Gillette (1942 – 2013) was a founding father of pediatric electrophysiology. In 2013, after an exemplary career of innovation and dedication, he passed away, just a few months after being selected for the inaugural PACES Lifetime Achievement award. His family wanted to honor his contribution to the field of pediatric electrophysiology, and, in the spirit of his lifetime of mentorship, established this grant.

### **THE GRANT**

A single applicant may submit one application per grant cycle as the study Principal Investigator (PI). E-mail the full application package, including appendices, as a single PDF file to VP of Research (currently Maully Shah at [shahm@email.chop.edu](mailto:shahm@email.chop.edu) )

### **Eligibility**

- **Research:** All projects must focus on pediatric or adult congenital electrophysiologic conditions. Research may range from epidemiology, health policy, behavioral, nursing, genetic, translational, clinical to basic science.

### **Applicant:**

- Must be a PACES member as defined in the PACES bylaws (<http://www.pediatricpsociety.org/members/documents/>)
- PACES members, trainee members (including post-doctoral and clinical fellows in training), allied health professionals and associate members are eligible to apply.
- Physicians and Scientists must be early or mid career. Early and mid career for physicians and scientists is defined as the first 10 years (ending June 30<sup>th</sup> of the decision year) of clinical and/or research career, after completion of an electrophysiology fellowship or PhD.
- Allied health professional applicants at any stage in their clinical carrier
- Former PCG award recipients are ineligible
- Applicants currently receiving funding >50k for existing research projects are ineligible

If in doubt about eligibility, please contact the VP of Research prior to submitting an application.

### **Award and Timelines**

- The total award is up to \$10,000 US dollars total, to be spent within two years
- The **application deadline is March 1** of the year the grant is awarded. The awardee will be announced at the annual PACES meeting during the Heart Rhythm Society's Annual Scientific Sessions in May of the application year. As the announcement will not be made until the Scientific Sessions, and preparations to attend (including room reservations require some lead time, applicants should make their plans on attendance independently

of the competition results. Awardee does not to be at the PACES meeting to be the successful recipient award.

**Awardee responsibilities include:**

- Conceptualization and implementation of carefully conceived and ethically sound research
- Yearly submission of a Progress Report to the PACES Research Committee or presentation at PACES Annual Research meeting.
- Presentation of findings at the PACES annual meeting upon completion of the project
- Acknowledgement of the PCG award from the PACES society in all publications, abstracts and presentations

**Research Mentor**

Investigators are required to identify a primary research Mentor. This Mentor does not need to be a member of PACES but must be a senior investigator with expertise in the proposed field of research and have a track record of investigation, publication and mentoring. An applicant may utilize the expertise of a senior investigator from the PACES membership to serve as a primary mentor, if a mentor cannot be identified from the applicant's own institution. The primary mentor is required to provide a letter of support that should include the mentoring plan. This letter and plan will carry significant weight in the review process.

**Scoring and review criteria**

Scoring is based on NIH Investigator-initiated review criteria. Expanded definitions of each criterion can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm>.

1. **Significance:** Does the study address an important problem that currently is incompletely understood or has no currently effective therapy?
2. **Approach:** Is the study design well-conceived? Is it likely that the proposed experiments can be completed by the applicant? Have statistical considerations been addressed appropriately?
3. **Innovation:** Does the project develop or use novel concepts, approaches, methods, tools or technologies?
4. **Investigators:** Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work?
5. **Environment:** Does the scientific environment contribute to the probability of success?
6. **Ethical considerations:** Reviewers will assess how well ethical considerations have been addressed with respect to research risks, the scientifically appropriate inclusion of women, minorities, and children, and/or ethical use of animal models.

PACES Research committee members will review all eligible applications. Applicants and co-investigators must not discuss their application with reviewers. Any questions or concerns must be directed to the VP of Research. Breach of confidentiality or significant concerns may render an application ineligible. All applications reviewed by the committee will receive feedback from the committee.

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

**How to Apply**

The application process for this funding opportunity consists of: (A) Face page; (B) Resubmission summary of changes (if applicable); (C) Research plan; (D) Budget and 3

justification; (E) Appendix of Supplemental documents. The outlined number of pages must not be exceeded.

Format: Single PDF file of a letter size 8. x 11” Word document with 2 cm margins, single- spaced text, single column format, consecutively numbered pages, and Arial regular (11 point) or Times New Roman (12 point) font.

**A. Face page (1 page)**

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator – name, degree and affiliation, years since completion of training for early career members and contact information
3. Research Mentor and co-Investigators – name, title, affiliation
4. Date of proposed period of funding support
5. Contact information for the financial administrator: address for correspondence, phone number, fax number and corresponding email address
6. Name and address of host institution, commonly a health research institution or university, responsible for administering the award fund (may be combined with #5 above).
7. Resubmission status

**B. Research plan** (page recommendations are maximums, less is acceptable)

1. Lay summary with title, maximum length of 250 words (on a separate page).
2. Specific Aims and background (1 page)
3. Significance and Innovation (1 page)
4. Research proposal - maximum 4 pages including:
  - a. Research Design and Methods (2 pages), including feasibility, data analysis plan and statistical considerations.
  - b. Include a discussion of ethical considerations in research design. Funded projects will require demonstration of institutional review board (IRB) and/ or animal studies approval prior to disbursement of funds. Human and animal welfare considerations should be elaborated briefly, however.
  - c. Figures and Tables (1 page)
  - d. References (1 page)

**C. Budget and Budget Justification (1 page)**

A detailed budget including justification must be included with the application. The maximum award is for 10,000 USD based on the proposed budget. Institutional facilities and administration (or other “indirect costs”) will not be supported. All expenses associated with conducting the project are eligible including salary support, equipment and expendables.

Salary support must be clearly for the purposes of conducting the study (e.g. study coordinator) and cannot be used for salary support for a physician or trainee. A maximum amount of 1,000 USD will be allowed for travel to a scientific meeting and preparation of material for such a meeting, as it is expected that the recipient’s home institution would support these expenses as well. The proposed budget may be adjusted by the review committee. Budgetary overlap with existing and applied for funding must be declared explicitly. 4

## **D. Supporting Documents**

### **1. Mentor letter.**

**2. Biographical Sketches.** NIH-style Biographical sketch must be submitted for the applicant and mentor.

### **3. Additional letters of support and/or collaboration (optional)**

**4. IRB approval (prior to release of funds) or status update.** While not required at time of application, IRB and/or animal welfare regulatory steps must be completed prior to receiving awardee funds.

## **RESUBMISSION:**

Proposals that are not selected for funding may be resubmitted in future years, with or without revisions, but all proposals will be considered as novel submissions in each funding cycle.