

The University of Iowa College of Nursing

A Request for Applications (RFA) for Internal Research Grants

Posting Date: August 28, 2023

Due Date: October 30, 2023

Award Notification: December 15, 2023

Start Date of Funding: January 1, 2024

The University of Iowa College of Nursing (CON) is pleased to announce internal grant funding opportunities to stimulate and advance research and scholarship by CON PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty. CON PhD students, fellows and faculty are invited to submit proposals for competitive peer review. The purpose of pilot funding is to support innovative projects that will make a clear and significant impact on healthcare. The CON leadership is interested in investing in projects that have the potential to obtain future, external funding to develop ongoing programs of research projects.

You are asked to review the grant eligibility criteria and to identify, from the list of internal grants (see page 4), which grants match your project. Please check as many grants as are appropriate for your proposed project, and then describe how your proposed project meets the intent of the donor or funding source. This is similar to the process used by the American Nurses Foundation (ANF). There are 10 grants listed, for a total of \$74,500. Grant amounts range from \$3,000 to \$15,000 and each grant lists whether it is available for PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and/or faculty. The Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Chapter grant is for Gamma Chapter members, including practicing nurses. Proposals that include interdisciplinary scientific teams and collaborations with University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) nurses are encouraged when appropriate.

In order to carry out the reviews of the submitted grants, we will use a two-tiered review process similar to NIH and ANF. First, each application will be reviewed for scientific merit by a peer group of senior researchers from the CON and across the University. Next, a smaller funding group consisting of the Associate Dean for Research, the Division Heads, the Director of the Csomay Center, along with appropriate members for individual grants, will match each internal grant with the strongest applications based on the scientific reviews.

If you have questions, please contact Barbara Rakel (barbara-rakel@uiowa.edu or 335-7036). **Proposals should be submitted by 11:59 PM on Monday, October 30, 2023 to Chris Sang (christopher-sang@uiowa.edu).** Phone: 319-335-7133.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact staff in the Office for Nursing Research and Scholarship (ONRS) for assistance in developing a proposal.

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I. OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Proposal Format

Full proposals should use 1.15 line spacing with Arial 11-point font and at least 0.5-inch margins. **All proposal sections should be compiled into one single PDF file for submission.**

Page Length	Section
A. Required Forms	
Forms included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CON 2023 Internal Grants Application Cover Page • Grant Fund Selection and Fit with Intent of Donors
250 words	B. Abstract
C. Research Proposal	
1 page	a. Specific Aims
6 pages	b. Research Strategy: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Significance 2) Innovation 3) Previous Research or Other Related Activities (if any) 4) Approach 5) Limitations
½ page	D. Research Timeline
½ page	E. Protection of Human Subjects (if appropriate)
½ page	F. Interdisciplinary Team Plan (if appropriate)
½ page	G. Future Research and Dissemination Plans: How will the data you collect inform your next project or proposal?
1-2 pages	H. Budget and Justification
5 pages per biosketch	I. NIH Biosketches for PI and Research Team
No Limit	J. References
No Limit	K. Appendices (if applicable)

II. CON 2023 INTERNAL GRANTS APPLICATION COVER PAGE

PI Name:	<<type PI name>>
Phone number:	<<phone number>>
Email address:	<<email address>>
Grant title:	<<grant title>>
Rank:	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD Student <input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral Fellow <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty

Research Team Members:

Name	Discipline	Role on Grant
<<name>>	<<discipline>>	<<role>>
<<name>>	<<discipline>>	<<role>>
<<name>>	<<discipline>>	<<role>>
<<name>>	<<discipline>>	<<role>>

If applying for the Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Chapter Grant:

Name		
Member of Gamma Chapter	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
EBP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Research Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you previously received a STT Gamma Chapter grant?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Optional:

List any **Potential Reviewers** (external to the CON) for your proposal. Only identify potential reviewers who would have expertise related to the proposed study.

Name and Contact Information
<<name>>
<<name>>

Also, list any individuals with a **Potential Conflict** who should **NOT** be asked to review your proposal.

<<name>>
<<name>>

III. GRANT FUND SELECTION and FIT WITH INTENT of DONORS

Applicants Name:

Please check all grants that you are applying for in 2023-2024 (you may check more than one). The list includes General Research Grants, Gerontology Research Grants, Special Research Grants, and Educational Grants.

NOTE: Each grant indicates if it is available to PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and/or staff.

To check a box, double-click and change the setting from “Not checked” to “Checked”

General Research Grants	Describe how your proposal fits the Donor’s Intent (2 - 3 sentences)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jo Ellen Ross Research Fund (\$9,500) This grant funds physiological research on the adult population regarding patient safety, problem based, and intervention focused. The incorporation of these components into proposed projects will be given the highest preference: 1) Determining incidence and prevalence of the condition 2) Identifying patients at high-risk through development of "new" appropriate assessment strategies 3) Providing appropriate interventions and evaluating current interventions 4) Evaluating outcomes in terms of: a) Reduction in incidence b) Diminished severity of condition c) Shortened duration of condition if it develops d) Nursing workload. Faculty. Must include a partnership with colleagues at UI Health Care.	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> Lila M. Johnson Fund (\$12,000) This fund supports research in pain management, with a specific emphasis on oncology pain management and oncology nursing or related fields. Faculty	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> The Charles and Harriett Tripp Nursing Science Fund and Dr. Kathryn Sieck Schweer Fund (\$5,000) Supports research that focuses on improving the health of school children and/or community health. PhD Students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> The Alma Miller Ware Nursing Endowment Fund (\$5,000) The use of this fund shall be to provide research support for persons with an undergraduate nursing degree who are pursuing a graduate degree in an area that effectively links nursing to the arts and humanities. PhD students.	{type justification here}

Special Research Grant Application	Describe how your proposal fits the Funder's Intent (2 - 3 sentences)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sigma Theta Tau Gamma Chapter Grant (\$5,000) This award is funded by a collaboration among Gamma Chapter, UIHC Department of Nursing and the College of Nursing. Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International supports the advancement of nursing knowledge through the provision of seed grant money. This grant funds either a research or evidence-based practice (EBP) project. Faculty, postdoctoral fellow, PhD students, and staff nurses. Must be a member of STTI Gamma Chapter to apply.	{type justification here}

Funding list continues on next page →

Gerontology Research Grants/Csomay Center Grants *	Describe how your proposal fits the Donor's Intent (2 - 3 sentences)
<p>* Acceptance of any of these four Gerontology grants comes with an expectation that the recipient will be an active member of the Csomay Community of Scholars monthly meetings following the award.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Woodrow W. Morris Gerontology Research Award for Faculty (\$5,000) Funds are to be used for research focused on the resources, statuses, abilities, and needs of older persons. Faculty	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> Jo Hoyt Freeman Dementia Education and Outreach Fund (\$10,000) Funds are to be used for dementia education and outreach. Preference given for projects that use a "train the trainer" approach and include a "champion team" of registered nurses and/or certified nursing assistants within each designated facility who will lead the project. Faculty	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara and Richard Csomay Gerontology Research Award for Faculty (\$15,000) The purpose of this award is to enhance optimal health and well-being and improve care and treatment of older persons through research in diverse settings. Applications must use an interdisciplinary team approach that includes a minimum of two professional disciplines. Faculty	{type justification here}
<input type="checkbox"/> Barbara and Richard Csomay Gerontology Research Award for PhD Students and Postdoctoral Fellows (\$3,000) The purpose of this award is to enhance optimal health and well-being and improve care and treatment of older persons through research in diverse settings. PhD students and postdoctoral fellows.	{type justification here}

Funding list continues on next page →

Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness (CNC) Grant

Describe how your proposal fits the Donor's Intent (2 - 3 sentences)

Center for Nursing Classification and Clinical Effectiveness (CNC) Pilot Grant (Up to \$5,000) *

The CNC will award pilot funding to research that is related to the CNC's goal *To Expand Adoption of Nursing Intervention Classification (NIC) and the Nursing Outcome Classification (NOC) to Advance Person-Centered and Evidence-Based Care*. Suggested projects may aim to: 1) expanding the use of NIC and NOC beyond in-patient hospital settings, 2) developing and testing of new technologies using NIC and NOC, 3) secondary data analysis of NIC and NOC data in electronic health records. Investigator initiated ideas are also welcome.

Post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty.

* NOTE: For this grant, only a Letter of Intent describing the proposed project is requested at this time. This letter should be no longer than 1/2 page (single-spaced) and include the name of the PI and a brief description of the project that includes the research question to be answered and an outline of the proposed methodology that will be used to answer the question. A list of collaborators (names only) should be included. If selected, a complete application will be requested Spring semester. Please contact Dr Karen Dunn-Lopez with questions (karen-dunn-lopez@uiowa.edu).

{type justification here}

IV. GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS

The following guidelines are to assist you in the preparation of your project proposal.

Remember, a proposal that is succinct, accurate, quickly comprehended, and informative increases your chances of a favorable review.

Research Proposal
A. Required Forms: Cover Page, Grant Fund Selection, and Fit with Intent of Donors
B. Abstract: 250 words or less
C. Proposal: Page limit is 7 pages (see note) (1.5 spaced with Arial 11-point font and at least 0.5-inch margins) for proposal sections A and B below; the page limits for each section are listed.
<p>a. Specific Aims: (1 page) State concisely the problem or need, what gap is being addressed, goals of the proposed project, and expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed project will have on education and/or practice.</p>
<p>b. Research Strategy (6 pages)</p> <p>Organize this section using headings described below. Address these points in the following order:</p> <p>1) Significance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the importance of the problem or gap in the literature that the proposed project addresses. Include a <i>brief</i> review of the literature, indicating the present status of knowledge in the area of investigation. This includes findings of pertinent studies. • Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice. • Describe how the achievement of the proposed aims will impact practice and advance science. • Explain how the proposed project fits with the priorities of the funding agency to be targeted for a larger grant. <p>2) Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the project challenges current research or clinical practice paradigms by using novel ideas, strategies, instruments or intervention(s). <p>3) Previous Research or Other Related Activities (if any)</p> <p>4) Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the design that will be used for the study to achieve the specific aims. • Describe how the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses will be used to accomplish the specific aims. Specifically, include instruments to be used and how data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. • If the project involves clinical research, describe plans to recruit and enroll sufficient numbers of subjects. • Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success that are anticipated when achieving the specific aims. • If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work. <p>5) Limitations</p>

Discuss potential problems and alternative strategies that are anticipated when achieving the specific aims.

D. Research Timeline (1/2 page)

Provide a detailed timeline for the proposed project that includes major activities and months these will be accomplished.

E. Protection of Human Subjects (1/2 page) (if appropriate)

If the project involves engaging with human participants, describe plans to 1) recruit and enroll sufficient numbers of subjects and 2) protect human subjects from research risks. Address whether the inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders (or the inclusion of children, if appropriate) are justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed. All projects selected for funding will be required to be submitted for review to the University of Iowa IRB and other appropriate IRBs, as indicated. Research team members will be expected to complete the CITI training on protection of human subjects and comply fully with all applicable federal policies, rules, and guidelines for research involving human subjects.

F. Interdisciplinary Team Plan (1/2 page, if appropriate)

Describe the interdisciplinary team that will complete this project, if appropriate, the shared responsibilities and decision-making, expected roles for each member, and student opportunities. Also include previous experiences as a team or collaborations with individual team members, including previous grants and publications, if appropriate.

G. Future Research and Dissemination Plans (1/2 page, if appropriate)

Future research plans for this project should be described, including potential Requests for Applications (RFA) and specific funding agencies.

H. Budget and Justification

Include an Excel budget of how the funds will be spent and include a budget justification. No support for faculty salary is allowed. Examples of possible budget items: Laboratory supplies or equipment, including computer software

- Data management assistance
- Data collector or research assistants
- Statistical support
- Transcriptionist time
- Travel for data collection
- Subject compensation

Since the grants vary in the amount available, if you wish to be considered for multiple grants, please provide a detailed description in the budget justification of how you will accomplish the project based on the largest grant amount. Then, describe how the scope of the project will be reduced if you are awarded one of the smaller grants.

I. NIH Biosketches for PI and Research Team

Submit a NIH Biosketch for the PI and all team members. The Biosketch includes the following: educational background, work experiences, honors/awards, relevant publications, and other support. Please contact Chris Sang (christopher-sang@uiowa.edu, 408 CNB) in the CON ONRS for help with biosketches.

J. References

All works cited must be included in a Reference section. Use a consistent referencing system throughout the proposal. Note that a system that uses the numbering system may save space.

K. Appendices (if applicable)

Blank copies of research instruments, surveys or other data collection tools may be attached.

V. REVIEW PROCESS

A two-level review process will be used to identify which grants will be funded.

- **First**, through a peer review process, the scientific merit of each grant will be evaluated. The scoring system used for this stage is provided below. The scientific review group will consist of CON senior faculty and reviewers external to the college with appropriate research expertise when appropriate. Each application will be reviewed by three reviewers.
- **Second**, once the scientific reviews are completed, a subcommittee of the College of Nursing (CON) Executive Committee, consisting of the Associate Dean for Research, the Associate Dean for Faculty, the Director of the Csomay Center, along with appropriate members for individual grants, will use the scientific reviews to match each internal grant with the strongest applications.

Level I. SCIENTIFIC SCORING PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A. Peer Review Scientific Written Reviews

Three scientific peer reviewers will review each proposal. The CON Executive Committee will identify the reviewers. Proposals will be sent to the reviewers electronically and reviews will be entered into a secure site. Three reviewers, designated as primary, secondary, and tertiary, will review each proposal.

Proposals will be scored on 6 criteria: 1) overall impact, 2) significance, 3) innovation, 4) approach, 5) investigator and interdisciplinary team, and 6) future grant submission plans. Budgets will be reviewed for appropriate expenses. Scores and written comments will be entered on the "Proposal Score Sheet."

Reviewers will score each area using the NIH scale of 1 to 9:

- **High Scores:** 1 (exceptional), 2 (outstanding), and 3 (excellent);
- **Moderate Scores:** 4 (very good), 5 (good), 6 (satisfactory), and
- **Low Scores:** 7 (fair), 8 (marginal), and 9 (poor)

The entire range, from 1-9, should be considered. For example, a score of 5 would be used for a good, medium-impact proposal. Reviewers will describe both the strengths and weaknesses within each criterion area, and based on weighing these, assign a score for each criterion. For example, a major strength may outweigh many minor and correctable weaknesses.

The following descriptions provide guidance for scoring. These descriptions combine both NIH general suggestions and CON specific considerations.

1. **Overall Impact.** Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field(s) involved, in consideration of the following four core review criteria. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.
2. **Significance.** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field? Does this project build on previous research by the investigator?
3. **Innovation.** Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new

application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

4. **Approach.** Is the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for protection of human subjects from research risks appropriately addressed?
5. **Investigator and Interdisciplinary Team.** Are the PI, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Is there a strong interdisciplinary team, if appropriate? Has this team collaborated in the past? Do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?
6. **Future Plans.** Are there plans for the next step in this program of research or educational project? Are potential funding sources identified? Is the institution, organization or foundation that a subsequent grant will be submitted to identified?

B. Peer Review Scientific Meeting

If possible, reviewers will convene as a group to present, discuss, and provide a final overall score for each proposal. A Chair will be identified prior to the Peer Review Scientific Meeting. The primary reviewer will present the proposal, the secondary and tertiary reviewers will be invited to provide additional comments, the group will have an opportunity for an open discussion, then the proposal will be given an impact score by all reviewers. The Chair will write a paragraph summarizing the discussion. Scores will be documented and averaged to provide an overall score for each proposal. Reviews by the three reviewers, the overall score of the group, and the summary of the discussion will be provided to both the investigators and the CON Executive Committee.

Level II. COLLEGE OF NURSING FUNDING COMMITTEE FUNDING REVIEW PROCESS

A subgroup of the College of Nursing Executive Committee consisting of the Dean, the Associate Dean for Faculty, the Associate Dean for Research, the Director of the Csomay Center, along with appropriate members responsible for individual grants, will decide on funding allocation. Following the Peer Review Scientific Meeting, this Committee will meet to discuss the reviews of each proposal and will make the final decisions on funding. The Committee will weigh the scientific merit of each proposal with the priorities of each grant, the donors' intent, and the expertise of the College and the University.

VI. PROPOSAL SCORE SHEET

Principal Investigator(s): _____

Title of Proposal: _____

	Overall Impact	Significance	Innovation	Approach	Investigator/ Team	Future Plans
Score (1-9)						

OVERALL IMPACT

Overall Impact
Paragraph (<i>Write a paragraph summarizing the factors that informed your Overall Impact score</i>)

SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Significance	Please limit text to ¼ page
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

2. Innovation	Please limit text to ¼ page
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

3. Approach	Please limit text to ¼ page
Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	

4. Investigator and Interdisciplinary Team	Please limit text to ¼ page
Strengths •	
Weaknesses •	

5. Future Plans	Please limit text to ¼ page
Strengths •	
Weaknesses •	

Budget: Acceptable
 Not Acceptable: Explain

Human Subjects: Acceptable
 Not Acceptable: Explain
 Not Applicable

Relevance to the donor's intent Acceptable
 Not Acceptable: Explain

Reviewer: <<type Reviewer's name>>

Credentials: <<type Reviewer's credentials>>

Date: <<type Date>>
