

This document is intended for applicants for the ASGE Career Development Award. Its aim is to provide vital information and helpful hints on how to structure and what to include in your grant application so as to improve your chances of being funded. The ASGE Research Committee recommends that you carefully review the following questions as you prepare your grant application.

Research Plan Evaluation

Hypothesis:

Is your hypothesis(es) clearly stated?

Is it a “testable” hypothesis?

Study Aims:

Are your study aims clearly stated?

Are they “specific”?

Are the aims original and innovative?

Significance / Clinical Relevance:

Is this a common disease or an important / common endoscopic problem?

Will the study lead to better endoscopic treatments, diagnostic accuracy, or new applications of endoscopy?

What may be the anticipated societal and medical benefits of the proposed activity?

If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced?

Does your application lead to enabling technologies (e.g., instrumentation, innovative endoscopic technologies or techniques) for further discoveries?

Preliminary Data:

Have you provided preliminary/pilot data?

Does the preliminary data support the feasibility or hypothesis of your proposed study?

Approach to Project:

Feasibility of Study Design and Methods:

Are your proposed methods technically feasible?

Do you, or your mentor or collaborators, have a track record of successful endoscopic or clinical research?

Will there be enough subjects that meet the study entry criteria?

Will enough subjects be willing to consent for this study (especially a randomized trial)?

Does the project challenge existing paradigms or employ novel technologies, approaches or methodologies?

Do you acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative strategies?

Instruments (e.g., outcome assessment tools):

Are your outcome measures clearly defined?

Can they be measured in reliable and accurate methods?

Is that method reproducible/transferable to other centers if you wish to perform the same study, or apply results to other patients?

Are questionnaires or health-related quality of life forms validated in the population under study?

Do these instruments measure what you want them to measure (e.g., are they valid)?

Statistical Analysis Plan and Sample Size Calculations:

Is there a well-formulated plan for statistical analysis?

Do you have appropriate statistical expertise or collaboration from statisticians?

Is a sample size estimate provided? Are the assumptions (effect size, type I and II errors) valid?

Does the sample size match with the feasibility of the study?

Does the Project Utilize Endoscopy?

Self-explanatory statement.

Budget:

Is the percent effort listed for you appropriate for the work proposed?

Is the overall budget realistic and justified in terms of the aims and methods proposed?

Career Plan Evaluation

Proposed Education Plan:

Is there a formal proposed education plan during the award period?

Is there detailed class-work planned? Will an advanced degree be obtained (e.g., Masters or PhD)?

Is the education plan feasible given your other clinical and research obligations during the time of the award?

Proposed Career Plan:

Is there a formal career plan proposed during the award period? Is this plan feasible?

Will this career development award lead to a faculty appointment or academic / career advancement?

Is there a plan for future funding at the federal level (e.g., NIH, VA)?

Proposed Mentoring Plan:

Is there a formal mentor(s) identified? Is the mentor(s) appropriate for your successful career development?

Is there a formal mentoring plan for the award period? Is this mentoring plan feasible?

Does the mentor(s) have a successful track record of mentoring junior investigators?

Local Environment and Resources:

Is there sufficient access to institutional resources (e.g., equipment, facilities, capabilities)?

Is there evidence of institutional support/commitment for your career development (e.g., percent time to be protected during the award period)?

Does the scientific and technological environment in which the research will be done contribute to the probability of success?

Is there institutional expertise to complete the technical aspects (endoscopic, statistical, basic science/translational) of the study?

How will you coordinate and manage the proposed project(s)?