**Exploratory Research Projects**

The Exploratory Research Projects Grant Program at the Center for Injury Research and Policy (CIRP) in the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital will fund preliminary or proof-of-concept research in child injury and violence. Grant awards will be up to $30,000 per project for up to 12 months. No indirect costs are allowed. The goal is to encourage researchers in the states of federal Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) to develop pilot projects that break new ground or extend previous discoveries in new directions. Investigators of the exploratory research projects are expected to collect preliminary data that will meet the following objectives: 1) lead to development of a full research proposal that will be submitted for funding via other funding mechanisms, and 2) produce at least one publication following completion of the project.

Priority will be given to applications that address the mission of the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and CIRP. Applicants in academic institutions will be required to demonstrate support from their department chairperson to commit adequate protected time to carry out the proposed study.

Exploratory research project grant funds will not be made available to support the routine treatment of patients or for clinical care. Exploratory research funds will not be allowed to supplement ongoing, funded research projects or as bridge funds when other research support is not available. Applications that study adult injury prevention and control (study subjects older than 18 years of age) are not eligible. Project activities must be conducted in the United States.

**Mission of the Center for Injury Research and Policy**

CIRP works globally to reduce injury-related pediatric death and disability. With innovative research at its core, CIRP works to continually improve the scientific understanding of the epidemiology, biomechanics, prevention, acute treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries. CIRP serves as a pioneer by translating cutting edge injury research into education, advocacy, and advances in clinical care. The CDC first designated CIRP as an Injury Control Research Center (ICRC) in 2008.

**Eligibility**

Qualified researchers from higher education and research institutions, hospitals, non-profit organizations, and health departments in the states of federal Region V (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) are eligible to apply.

The following individuals are encouraged to apply:

1. CIRP’s affiliate faculty members
2. Health professionals at state and local health departments
3. PhD students
4. Researchers or professionals at public or non-profit organizations

Note: PhD students must obtain an agreement from and list his/her advisor or a CIRP faculty member as the co-principal investigator (Co-PI) in the application. A letter of support from the Co-PI must be included with the student’s application.

**Anticipated Number of Awards:** CIRP plans to issue 1-2 awards with a budget of up to $30,000 each in this funding cycle.

**Contact**

Henry Xiang, MD, MPH, PhD, MBA Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Research Core, Center for Injury Research and Policy; Email: [Henry.Xiang@Nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Henry.Xiang@Nationwidechildrens.org); Phone: 614-355-5893.

**Application Review Process**

The application review process will involve a scientific review and a final funding decision review.

*A. Scientific Review:*

1) All eligible applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit by two members of the Scientific Review Group (SRG). The Director of the Research Core will identify Scientific Review Group members. These members will include CIRP core faculty members, affiliate faculty members, and internal and external advisory committee members.

2) Using NIH/CDC grant review criteria, SRG members will consider each of the five review criteria (significance, investigators, innovation, approach, and environment) and give a separate score in the determination of scientific merit.

Reviewers will provide an overall priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the proposed project to break new ground or extend previous discoveries in new directions.

Reviewers will score 8 additional questions in a determination of the proposed project’s compatibility with CIRP’s mission, NCIPC’s priority areas, and the feasibility of the proposed research.

*B. Final Funding Decision Review:*

The Director of the Research Core will gather review results for each application for the CIRP Executive Committee to make a funding decision. The following factors will be considered in making the funding decision: 1) how well the application meets the objectives of the Exploratory Research Project Grant Program; 2) how well the application meets NCIPC’s priority areas, 3) how relevant the application is to CIRP’s mission, and 4) the overall priority score. The priority score will not be the sole determinant of funding, although it will be one of the important factors considered.

For each grant application, the CIRP Executive Committee will decide whether it is: 1) awarded, 2) invited for revision and resubmission, or 3) not fundable.

**Repeat Submissions**

Applicants may not apply for exploratory research project grant funding more than 2 times on the same topic. Prior recipients of exploratory research grant project funding must have produced a timely peer-reviewed publication or an extramural grant application (funded or unfunded) before additional funding requests will be reviewed. Evidence of peer-reviewed publication or submitted grant application must be provided in these cases.

**Application Requirements**

Applications must be submitted electronically to the following contact personnel as a single Word or PDF document using single space and 11-point font before 5:00pm Eastern Time on the submission deadline:

Dr. Henry Xiang ([Henry.Xiang@nationwidechildrens.org](mailto:Henry.Xiang@nationwidechildrens.org)); Phone: 614-355-5893

All applications must include all the following components:

1. Application cover sheet and abstract (1-page maximum)
   1. Title of Proposed Project
   2. Principal Investigator (Name and academic position)
   3. Institution(s)
   4. Co-Investigators (if any)
   5. Abstract: a brief description (maximum 250 words) of the proposed project
2. Research plan (3 pages maximum):
   1. Specific aims: research questions and/or study hypotheses
   2. Significance: Provide a brief background of the problem. Describe how the proposed research project will contribute to the knowledge base or practice of child injury prevention. Briefly describe the larger research project(s) envisioned and how this project will contribute to future project(s) development
   3. Innovation
   4. Study approach: Describe the study design, subject selection/sampling strategies, measurement instruments, data collection methods, and data management and analysis plan
   5. Proposed timeline: Provide a timeline for completion of the project within the one-year funding period
   6. Plans for future grant submission and publication using data from the project
   7. Literature cited (not included in total page count)
3. Budget and budget justification (1-2 pages): Total costs must be no more than $30,000. Personnel salary is allowed, and a detailed budget justification is required
4. Biographical sketches for PI and key personnel (including Co-PI if PI is a PhD student)
5. Human Subjects Protection (1 page): Provide the Exploratory Research Project Human Subjects Protection Form. *Funds cannot be disbursed until IRB approval is obtained*
6. A letter from the PhD Advisor or Co-PI (if PI is a PhD student)

**Project Report**

Within 90 days after completion of the exploratory research project, the PI is required to submit the final project report (3 pages maximum). The final project report should include: a summary of the major findings, conclusions, and planned manuscripts and grant submissions directly related to the exploratory research project. Major findings will be included in CIRP’s ICRC annual progress report to the CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

**Timeline for the 2020 Exploratory Research Project Grant Program**

Application due date: November 3, 2021 (before 5:00pm Eastern Time)

Review and decision: December 31, 2021

Earliest project start date: February 1, 2022