ACADEMIC TRANSITION GRANT

PURPOSE

The purpose of this grant is to provide research funding that will facilitate the establishment of a record of independent research by the investigator, promoting a successful academic career. SIR and SIR Foundation believe in promoting a culture of inclusion and strengthening the specialty of interventional radiology (IR) through different perspectives.

AWARD

Grant funding up to $35,000.
Award Project Period: Maximum project period is 12 months (1 year)

NATURE OF PROJECTS

This funding mechanism is intended for pilot or seed grant projects that tests a new idea or helps support a new area or direction of research in interventional radiology. Applicants should propose research that advances the science of interventional radiology

EXAMPLES OF PREVIOUS AWARDS

Can be found online at Former Grant Awards

ELIGIBILITY

- Full-time faculty members at an accredited educational institution in the United States or Canada who have been in academia five years or less and do not have any other research funding (not including internal institutional funding).
- Candidate must hold an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree.
- Must be an active member of the Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
- Applicants must show a commitment to applying those skills learned in private practice to research and academics.
- Applicants must be citizens of the United States or Canada or have permanent resident status therein.
  - Permanent residents must submit documentation of this status after notice of funding.
  - If an applicant is at an institution in the U.S. or Canada, and is on a visa, a letter from the department chair guaranteeing completion of the project will be required.
- Grant FAQs
  - Are multi-PI applications allowed?
    - Multi-PI applications are allowed. However, SIR Foundation's ability to approve a multi-PI grant will be dependent upon the applicants' institutional policy to execute a multi-PI agreement with SIR Foundation. A contact PI must also be established and identified at the time of application submission.
  - Can applicants apply for more than one SIR Foundation grant?
    - Yes, applicants are able to apply for more than one grant, but not in one grant cycle. Previous SIR Foundation grant awardees are also eligible and encouraged for the Reviewer-in-training Program.

- I do not have an adviser or mentor, where can I find one?
  - If you are an SIR member, you access the Mentor Match Program where you can request a mentor that matches your specific interests in IR.
- Can those in a SIR or SIR Foundation leadership role apply for a grant?
  - The Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR) Foundation is a scientific nonprofit organization that was created for the purposes of advancing scientific knowledge in the field of interventional radiology, increasing the number of skilled investigators, and developing innovative therapies that lead to improved patient care and quality of life. It is critical to SIR Foundation that those serving in appointed leadership positions avoid conflicts of interest. The decisions and actions of those in our leadership positions must be made solely for the benefit of SIR Foundation.
    - 1) SIR members currently serving in a leadership position in the SIR or SIR Foundation** are not eligible to apply for or receive new grant/research funding from the SIR Foundation during the term of their tenure.
    - 2) A principal investigator (primary recipient or transfer recipient) of a SIR Foundation grant is not eligible to apply for or to receive further SIR Foundation funding until after the completion of the existing SIR Foundation funding. Completion includes submission of a Final Report to the SIR Foundation, and SIR Foundation signoff of that report.
    - ** defined as: Board of Directors, members of the Steering Council, Clinical Specialty Councilors, Chair/vice Chair of an SIR/SIR Foundation Committee, Division or Section.

APPLICATION DEADLINES
Optional: **Proposal Development Form must be submitted by June 30 to receive feedback**.

Optional: **Pre-Review applications are due by close of business day on September 20.**

Final applications are due by close of business day on January 15. The deadline remains whether or not the date falls on a weekend and/or holiday. Applications that are not completed or do not comply with the guidelines, will be withdrawn.

Applicants are to submit their completed application via the online form found at:
http://apply.sirfoundation.org/

APPLICATION PROCEDURES
The application must contain a detailed research plan, including a one-year budget for the planned research. All funds requested in the application must be fully justified. Insufficient justification will result in deferral or disapproval of the application.

The proposal should include a cover letter from the applicant indicating how the proposed research project will assist in their transition from private practice to academia, and they understand that they are

expected to do the majority of the work in the actual conduct of the proposed studies. In addition, a letter from the department chair must be provided that indicates approval of the application, comments on the merit of the project, and explains the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant's research in terms of funding and/or available facilities. It is important that the chair's letter indicate commitment to provide protected research time and support the salary of the applicant during the research period.

Applicant must also provide a statement explaining their interest in returning to academia and detailing how the proposed project will assist with the transition from private practice to academia.

The application must be submitted electronically through the online application forms found at **http://apply.sirfoundation.org/** by **January 15**. Applications must be submitted in PDF format. Incomplete applications and those submitted after the deadline of **January 15** will not be reviewed in the current cycle.

Optional Application Procedures:
Applicants are <u>recommended</u> to take advantage of the Proposal Development Form to obtain external input on the fundamentals of grant writing and how to maximize the impact of their research program. The form must be submitted by **June 30** to receive feedback.

In addition to the Proposal Development Form, SIR Foundation offers a Pre-Review process to work with a member of the Grant Review Study Section to review the grant application prior to final review. The deadline to submit for Pre-Review is **September 20.**

GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT
When uploading your grant application to our online forms, you must save your grant application using the naming convention below.

Year funded_Grant Mechanism_Applicant Name
i.e. 2024_Academic Transition_Mary Johnson

If you have a resubmission you must save your grant application using the naming convention below.
Resubmission Year_Resubmission #_Grant Mechanism_Applicant Name
i.e. 2024_Resubmission 1_Academic Transition_Mary Johnson
    2024_Resubmission 2_Academic Transition_Mary Johnson

All the items detailed below must be included in the application before it will be considered. The format should follow the guidelines used for NIH applications found on the NIH website.

I. Title Page:
    A. Title of research project;

B. Lay statement of the proposed research project and its relevance to interventional radiology;

C. Name, faculty position, and department of principal investigator, as well as other professional personnel collaborating in the research project;

D. Brief abstract (ten (10) to twenty (20) lines), with keywords underlined;

E. Proposed project start and end dates;

F. Total funding requested;

G. Signatures of principal investigator and department chair;

H. Contact information (name, address, phone, fax, email) for the grants office at the principal investigator's institution.

II. Description of Research Plan: The applicant must present his/her research logically and clearly and show that the proposed research is meaningful. (LIMIT—FIVE (5) PAGES FOR SECTIONS for A and B)

A. Specific Aims:

State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology. (1 page)

> **NOTE**: **The Proposal Development Form will specifically address the creation of an effective Specific Aims page. This is an optional form which should be submitted by June 30.**

B. Research Strategy:

Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order and using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – Significance, Innovation, Approach. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy section and provide the full reference in the References Cited section

1. *Significance*. Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in interventional radiology. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in interventional radiology or other fields. Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive interventional radiology will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved. (0.5 pages)

2. *Innovation*. Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. (0.5 pages)

3. *Approach*. Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the 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. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised. (3-3.5 pages)

If an applicant has multiple Specific Aims, then the applicant may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for each Specific Aim individually, or may address Significance, Innovation and Approach for all of the Specific Aims collectively.

Include preliminary studies within the Research Strategy section, within one or more of the three sections listed above: Significance, Innovation, and Approach. Discuss the PI's preliminary studies, data, and or experience pertinent to this application, preliminary data is an essential part of a research grant application and help to establish the likelihood of success of the proposed project. Early Stage Investigators should include preliminary data.

C. **Human or Animal Subjects, Radioisotopes, and Biohazards**: Provide documentation that the institution has approved all proposed human, animal, radioisotope, and biohazard use (e.g. IRB or IACUC approval);

D. **Budget Proposal**: List budget items in the following main categories and give details and justification of the items in each category;

1. Salary support for technicians, research assistants, students, or other support personnel working on the project may be requested, but must be well justified;
2. Consumable supplies including animal purchase costs;
3. Equipment: Identify each item, show unit cost, and explain why it cannot be borrowed;
4. Other expenses including animal maintenance costs (only those costs essential to the conduct or reporting of the research);
5. Total budget (not to exceed $25,000).

E. **Other Support:** Describe all funding currently available to the applicant as well as any pending grant support, and describe the relationship these funds may have to the proposed research;

F. **Literature Cited**.

III. Supporting Materials:
A. Resources: Describe the facilities available for conduct of the proposed research including lab space, equipment, computers, technical support, etc.

B. Brief biographical sketch of all investigators, specifically following the NIH format (Not to exceed four pages for each investigator).

C. A cover letter from the applicant that indicates how the proposed research project will assist in the applicant's transition from private practice to academics;

D. A letter from the Department Chair that:
   a. Indicates approval of application;
   b. Comments on the merit of the project;
   c. Explains the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant's research in terms of funding, protected research time, technical support, and available facilities. It is important that the chair's letter indicate commitment to support the salary of the applicant during the research period.

E. Letter(s) of confirmation from company(s) providing materials needed to complete the proposed research.

AWARD EXPENSES

Budget expenses can be used for materials and supplies, equipment, service function charges (e.g., pathology costs, animal per diem charges, reasonable imaging machine time, etc.), salaries for research assistants/technicians working on the proposed project, and publication costs.

Travel expenses, faculty salaries, consulting expenses and institutional indirect costs, construction expenses, and secretarial or office expenses will not be funded.

If the project involves the use of human subjects, animals, radioisotopes, or biohazards, documentation of approval from the appropriate institutional review board(s) (IRB) or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) must be provided before an award can be funded.

All unexpended funds must be returned to SIR Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

First Level of Review
Completed applications will be initially reviewed by the members of the SIR Foundation Grant Review Study Section, who will submit preliminary scores for each of the assigned applications. Members of the study section are assigned grant applications based on their expertise in the particular area of the proposed investigation and will review each application for scientific merit.

Second Level of Review
After the first level of review when scores are submitted for each application, reviewers will convene during

Study Section held at the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting, where applications will be discussed for a second level of review and funding recommendations will be made to the SIR Foundation Board.

Post Review

The SIR Foundation Board will review funding recommendations made by the Grant Review Study Section and will make the final funding decisions. Grant applicants will be notified of final funding decisions after the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting.

Funding decisions are based on the overall impact/priority score which reflect assessment of the likelihood that the project will facilitate the establishment of a record of independent research by the investigator, promoting a successful academic career. The review process and scoring guidelines are modeled on the NIH scoring system.

Members of the Study Section will apply the following criteria during review:

1. *Significance*. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field of interventional radiology? 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 the field of interventional radiology?

2. *Investigator*. Are the PI(s), collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Does the principal investigator have the appropriate experience and training? Have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced interventional radiology?

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*. Are 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 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

5. *Environment*. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment,

subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

In addition, the review committee will take the following factors into consideration:

Protection of human subjects. For research that involves human subjects, the committee will evaluate the justification for involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following five review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained, and 5) data and safety monitoring for clinical trials

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children. When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children

Vertebrate Animals. The committee will evaluate the involvement of live vertebrate animals as part of the scientific assessment according to the following five points: 1) proposed use of the animals, and species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers to be used; 2) justifications for the use of animals and for the appropriateness of the species and numbers proposed; 3) adequacy of veterinary care; 4) procedures for limiting discomfort, distress, pain and injury to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research including the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices; and 5) methods of euthanasia and reason for selection.

Biohazards. Reviewers will assess whether materials or procedures proposed are potentially hazardous to research personnel and/or the environment, and if needed, determine whether adequate protection is proposed.

Resubmission. For Resubmissions, the committee will evaluate the application as now presented, taking into consideration the responses to comments from the first level of review and changes made to the project.

Budget and Period of Support. Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.

Letters of support. Letters of support from industry and/or memorandums of understanding with collaborators will be taken into consideration.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon submission of a fully executed grant agreement, awarded funds will be transmitted to the institution for support of the grant recipient and the project. Funds will be distributed in three installments: 50% at the start of the project, 40% upon receipt and approval of the six-month progress report, and 10% upon receipt and approval of the final report in manuscript format.

Please provide the following information:
1) Grant Official or Grant Administrator's name, phone number, and email address

2) Check made payable to:
3) Mailing address (where payment should be mailed)

MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION OF SUPPORT

SIR Foundation reserves the right to modify or terminate the amount of any funds granted under the terms of Academic Transition Grant. Generally, such action would be based on the awardee's receipt of support from sources other than SIR Foundation which might (1) limit the ability of the recipient to successfully complete the terms of the award or (2) obviate the recipient's need for funding from SIR Foundation.

In the event that the principal investigator relocates to a different institution, a request in writing to relocate the project to the new institution should be made to the [Associate of Research and Grants](). SIR Foundation will continue project funding provided the principal investigator is guaranteed support, protected research time, and adequate equipment/facilities from the new institution (i.e., letter from department chair) as well as IRB or IACUC approvals, if applicable. If the new institution cannot provide the necessary support or IRB/IACUC approvals for the project, the original institution may appoint a new principal investigator, with SIR Foundation's approval, to complete the project. If the project cannot be completed at the new or the original institution, then all unexpended funds must be returned to SIR Foundation.

REPORTS
An Interim Progress Report (IPR) is required after the first six (6) months of the project.
The interim progress report must be submitted electronically through the online forms found at **http://apply.sirfoundation.org/**.This report should be a one- to two-page synopsis of the progress, unforeseen problems, and results to date

The IPR should include the following:
1. How the Academic Transition Grant assisted in the applicant's transition from private practice to academics and what impact the grant had on the recipient's future research/career goals;
2. Major goals and objectives of the project;
3. What was accomplished under these goals;
4. Plans during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals and objectives;
5. Indicates the significance/possible clinical impact of the results;
6. States whether the results will be submitted for possible publication, and if so, to what journal;
7. Indicates whether results will be used to apply for additional funding from other sources, and if so, the funding agency and date of application (should be included).
8. Updated CV
9. When uploading your Interim Progress Report (IPR) to our online forms, you must save your Interim Progress Report using the naming convention below. The year should be the year that you were awarded.
    a) **2024_IPR_Academic Transition_Mary Johnson**

A final written report must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the project's completion. The Final Progress Report (FPR) must be submitted electronically through the online forms found at

http://apply.sirfoundation.org/

The Final Progress Report (FPR) should include the following, as applicable:
1. A Statement of the accomplishments/outcomes of this grant;
2. The current and future impact (e.g. success stories, statistics, benefits to patients, staff, and/or community);
3. Indicate whether the results of this project will be used to apply for additional funding from other sources, and if so, include the funding agency and date of application;
4. Draft a specific aims page (one-page minimum) if results from this project will be used to apply for additional funding opportunities.
5. State whether the project resulted in any new discoveries (e.g. Inventions, patents, copyrights, trademarks, etc.). If yes, please explain.
6. An account of any unexpended funds and/or major modifications of the budget. If the unobligated balance is greater than 25% of the total approved budget, the recipient must provide an explanation.
7. Updated CV
8. Include Signature of Principal Investigator/Program Director's name, Signature of Authorized Institutional Official, and Date.
9. When uploading your Final Progress Report (FPR) to our online forms, you must save your Final Progress Report using the naming convention below. The year should be the year that you were awarded.
   a) **2024_FPR_Academic Transition_Mary Johnson**

NO-COST EXTENSION
An extension of the term of the grant may be requested for up to twelve (12) months beyond the original ending date of the grant. The approval of an extension does not include the award of additional funds. A maximum of two 1-year extensions may be requested.

The request for a no-cost extension must be made in writing to the Grant Review Committee at the Foundation's address one (1) month before the expiration of the original grant period. The request must include the reason for the extension, the length of the extension (not to exceed twelve (12) months), and a brief project progress report, including to date findings, problems encountered, presentations/publications resulting from the work, and budget expenditures. The request must be co-signed by the department chair or other authorized institutional official.

Other requests for changes to the terms of an award should also be addressed to the Grant Review Committee with similar documentation and institutional approvals.

PRESENTATIONS/PUBLICATIONS
It is suggested that recipients submit their work primarily to *JVIR* or to the SIR Annual Scientific Meeting. All posters, oral presentations, and publications must contain appropriate acknowledgement of SIR Foundation's support.

PUBLICITY OF GRANT RECIPIENTS

After funding decisions have been made, SIR Foundation will publicize the grants and recipients through various communications methods such as press releases, the webpage, and other electronic sources. Such information that will be used to publicize will include the recipient's name, institution, and project title.