

International Association of Chinese Nephrologists (IACN) Research Grant

Objectives

To support research projects in nephrology among young investigators of Chinese origin.

Grants

There will be 3 awards per year. The normal grant ceiling for an investigator-initiated project is US\$ 10,000. Grants are intended to cover direct costs attributable to the project excluding costs of premises, established academic or service staff, and sub-contracting project work without the approval of IACN council. In general, indirect costs of projects will not be supported.

Scope of projects

The IACN will fund investigator-initiated research projects related to nephrology. Topics can be related to the following broad areas:

- public health and health services
- prevention, treatment and control of kidney diseases
- nephrology research which applies advanced technologies, including but not limited to biotechnology in nephrology, use of drugs and treatments, clinical trials, virtual health such as telemedicine, etc., to facilitate the translation of knowledge generated from basic nephrology studies into clinical practice
- health promotion that facilitates mobilization of local resources to promote good health and prevention of kidney diseases in the community

Eligibility of applicants

- In general, members of any discipline or profession in the nephrology or nephrology-related field can apply for funding.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be Chinese in ethnic origin and under the age of 40.
- Priority will be given to PI who come from low-middle income countries or who are not eligible to apply for local research funding.

Responsibility of applicants

- Each PI is allowed to submit one application only.
- At any one time, each PI can hold only one IACN research grant. Previous grant recipient of the IACN research grant needs to complete the study and submit the completion report before making a new application. Approval for new funding will not be granted if the PI has not submitted the overdue completion report.
- The PI must be endorsed by the head of the unit or administering institution.
- The PI should inform the IACN council immediately if they plan to leave their administering institution after submission of application. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the application.
- The PI is responsible for ensuring that the submitted grant application and all supplementary materials comprise original work and are not plagiarized (or self-plagiarized) from other sources.
- Projects that involve human subjects and animals must obtain approval from relevant clinical and animal research ethics committee, respectively.

Submission of application

Applications, including all required documents, must be submitted by email to Ms. Maggie Wong, Secretariat of IACN, c/o International Conference Consultants Limited, Unit C-D, 17/F, Max Share Centre, 373 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong SAR, China. Email: mwong@icc.com.hk

Documents required in the application

- study proposal
- IACN research grant application form
- CV of PI and all co-investigators (up to 2 pages each)

Provision of the ethics approvals or consent for accessing third-party data is not required at the time of submission. PI should submit such approvals or consent within 12 weeks (or as specified by the IACN council) from the date of decision letters. Failure to do so will result in withdrawal of grants.

Study proposal

The study proposal should be prepared according to the following format and sequence:

1. Title of project
2. Information of the PI: full name, institution, telephone numbers, and e-mail address

3. Information of all co-investigators: full name, institution, telephone numbers, and e-mail address
4. Abstract (max 1 A4 page)
5. Background of study, including: i) work done by the others; ii) work done by the applicants; and iii) any pilot data related to the project (max 2 A4 pages)
6. Hypothesis and specific aims of the study
7. Research plan and methodology (max 3 A4 pages)
8. Expected result and significance of the study
9. Proposed starting and completion dates
10. References
11. Itemized budget with justification.

NB. The administrative fee for individual institution would not be reimbursed.

12. Amount of grant application (in case of partial funding, please specify the source, amount, and time schedule of all alternative funding source)
13. Financial arrangement
14. Endorsement by unit head or representative of the governing body, including
 - name, title and position of endorsing person or party
 - name of the institution
 - declaration by endorsing person/party: "I hereby endorse ... (name of PI) ... to apply for the International Association of Chinese Nephrologists Research Grant. The award (if approved) should be payable to ..."
 - signature of endorsing person / party and date
15. Declaration by applicant:
 - "I/We certify that the information given is to the best of my/our knowledge, complete and accurate. I/we have / have not accepted grant from other sources for this research project (If yes, please state the source, amount and time schedule of the alternative funding. If you receive other sources of funding after the submission of this application, you should notify IACN within 3 months)."
 - Date and signature of all investigators with printed names

Selection procedure

Applications will undergo peer review process by both external reviewers and IACN council members, and will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Originality;
- Significance of the research questions;
- Quality of scientific content;
- Credibility of design and methods;
- Potential clinical impact; and
- Track record of the PI

Applicants will normally be informed within six months of the deadline of submission whether or not their application has been successful. The IACN council reserves all rights on selecting grant recipients.

Conduction of the project

- Funded projects must start within six months from the grant approval date and should be completed within three years. Longer duration may be allowed where justified.
- The “commencement date” is the first day on which the project starts regardless of whether expenditure will be incurred under the grant. Costs of work incurred before the commencement date are not allowed.
- Investigators should follow the stated time schedule of the research project. PI must notify the IACN Council in writing for any change in the status of the PI (e.g., change in affiliation) or change in the study plan (and the explain the effects on the research project or progress). The IACN council will review the eligibility of the project, even after the initial grant approval. Any alteration of the study plan without informing the IACN and appropriate justification will jeopardize future grant applications from the same PI.
- Upon completion of the project, a completion report should be submitted to the IACN council. For projects that extend over one year, PIs also need to submit a yearly progress report.

Acknowledgement, publication or disclosure of results

- The PI and administering institution shall properly acknowledge the contribution of the IACN, specifically “the International Association of Chinese Nephrologists Research Grant” to the project in any relevant correspondence, public announcement, advertising material, report or other material produced by, on behalf of or through the PI or the administering institution in any manner relating to the project.

- In addition to the presentation of progress report and completion report, the PI must inform the IACN council of any publications containing results, information or technical knowledge connected with the project and shall forward a royalty-free copy of the work to the IACN council.

Liability and conflict of interest

- The PI and administering institution shall remain solely liable for all costs, liability or damages relating to the project and the publication of such work, and for claims that the project or any part thereof infringes the intellectual property or other rights of a third party.
- The PI and the administering institution shall render their advice or recommendation on an impartial basis without giving favor to any particular product or service in the project.