



Request for Proposals

The RBaby-INSPIRE Award for Advancing Pediatric Emergency Medical Care

Background

The International Network for Simulation-based Pediatric Innovation, Research and Education (INSPIRE) was established in 2011 by a group of simulation-based pediatric researchers from a variety of disciplines looking to improve collaboration, mentorship, and productivity. Our mission is to catalyze innovative global simulation-based collaborative scholarship to improve pediatric health.

RBaby is the first and only foundation uniquely focused on saving babies' and children's lives through improving pediatric emergency care, training, research, treatment, equipment, and education. RBaby's mission is to ensure that babies and children receive the highest quality emergency healthcare.

INSPIRE is seeking studies that aim to promote saving or improving pediatric lives through impactful simulation-based research, discovery, or implementation projects relevant to pediatric emergency medicine.

Summary

1. **INSPIRE Research Award:** One proposal will be funded for a one-year duration with a maximum budget of **\$5000 USD** total.
2. These projects must be simulation-based and have strong potential for a positive impact on pediatric emergency medicine.
3. Award proposals will be due on **April 24, 2026, at 11:59 pm ET.**

Allowable Use of Funds

Award funds may be used to support direct project-related expenses necessary to conduct the proposed research. Allowable costs include, but are not limited to:

- Simulation supplies and materials
- Software or data analysis tools
- Research-related equipment or equipment rental
- Participant incentives
- Printing or dissemination materials
- Costs associated with data collection and analysis
- Travel for project execution (e.g. travel for data collection (please provide justification))

Funds may *not* be used for honoraria, indirect costs, or institutional overhead.

Award funds may be used for travel expenses for the purpose of disseminating project results (e.g., conference presentation of findings) or for salary support up to a maximum of 15% of the total award budget. Any requested allocations for travel for dissemination or for salary support must include a detailed and specific justification for these allocations.

All expenses must be directly attributable to the approved project aims.



The RBaby-INSPIRE Award

Full Proposal Instructions

I. Overview and Eligibility

The INSPIRE Awards and Funding Committee is providing funding for projects of a one-year duration with a call for proposals that aim to promote saving or improving pediatric lives through impactful simulation-based research, discovery, or implementation projects relevant to pediatric emergency medicine.

These awards are open to all investigators within INSPIRE. The projects must be simulation-based and utilize rigorous scientific methodology. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research approaches are equally welcome. Interdisciplinary applicants/teams are strongly encouraged to apply. Projects at every stage of development are welcome.

II. Project Duration

The project's stated aims must be completed within 12 months. An Extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be requested in writing no later than two months prior to the expiration of the award.

III. Application Process

Please submit all required documents as a single PDF via the submission link available on the INSPIRE website. Completed applications must be received by **11:59 PM ET on April 24, 2026**. Final award recipients will be notified by **June 30, 2026**, and formally announced during the INSPIRE Virtual Meeting. Funds will be disbursed within one month of the announcement through a reimbursement process. All reimbursement requests must be submitted within **30 days following the conclusion of the award period**.

IV. Proposal IRB Requirement and Human Subject Protection

Proposals are encouraged to include evidence of submission to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Ethics Board from all institutions where the proposed work will take place, regardless of whether human subjects are used. Approval from IRB or Ethics Board is not required at the time of application but will be required before funds are given. This can be listed in the Research Plan.

V. Proposal Format and Content Instructions

Note: Please submit only requested documents within page limits and follow instruction carefully. *Nonconforming applications will not be forwarded to reviewers.*

Format: All pages must be numbered and include a footer with the Principal Investigator's name. Page limit does not include Cover letter, Resources, and Supporting Documents.

Components of the Application: Please include the following components in your application in addition to the Supporting Documents. The page limit for your application, not including supporting documents (see later section), is 9 pages.



Component	Limit	Description
Title Page and Executive Summary	1 page 450 words	This important section serves as a succinct and accurate project description with clear statement of the project's long-term objectives and specific aims. It should explain how this proposal reflects the mission of INSPIRE. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Also include the PI name and contact information
Specific Aims	1 page	List the goals and objectives of your study, (i.e., to test the hypothesis of your research questions). The hypothesis must be clearly stated for quantitative research. For qualitative research, a hypothesis is not necessary, but guiding research questions should be stated instead. Please note that this component of the research plan should not exceed 1 page.
Research Plan	5 pages maximum	This section will include details of your research plan and will include the following sections (more detail on each is provided after this Table). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and Significance • Innovation • Methods • Project Timeline
Budget and budget justification	2 pages	<p>Please include a budget with a breakdown of the costs for the proposal. There is no specific format required.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Please note that this award does not cover indirect or facilities and administrative costs, and they thus should not be requested in the budget.</p> <p>A 1-page budget justification should be included to explain how the award will be spent to ensure that adequate support and time is dedicated towards the completion of the stated goals. Please indicate any funds or in-kind resources that will be provided by the institution or other entities.</p> <p>Travel Policy: Applicants may request funds for travel related to dissemination of project results (e.g., conference presentation). Travel for project execution (e.g., data collection site visits) must be clearly justified and directly related to completion of the proposed aims. A detailed justification must be provided outlining the purpose of travel, anticipated conference or venue, and estimated costs. Travel unrelated to the project will not be funded.</p> <p>Requests for funds for salary support should be clearly justified in detail, including how this would facilitate successful completion of the project.</p> <p>Expenses related to travel for dissemination or salary support should not exceed 15% of the total award amount.</p>

Research Plan (Max: 5 pages) Sections:

Background and Significance. Include a succinct overview of the field to be studied, including what is known about the topic and what remains to be explored. Describe how and why the proposed research will advance understanding in the field, bridge gaps in knowledge, and have a positive impact on healthcare delivery, processes and outcomes. The background literature should include any supporting theoretical or conceptual framework if dictated by the specific research areas.



Innovation. Describe the innovation of your proposed study. This includes challenging or seeking to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

Methods. In general, describe the methods that will be used to achieve the specific aims listed above. It is often useful to organize an award proposal by listing each aim in the methods section and then delineating the methods to be used to accomplish that specific aim. It is important to list and discuss proposed inclusion and exclusion criteria of subjects, outcome measures that are well defined, statistical methods, anticipated sample size, data collection and management. Be as specific as possible without unnecessary detail.

Project timeline. List important sequential steps in the timeline that will allow successful completion of the entire proposed project of 12-month duration. This should include a brief 6-month progress report.

Supporting Documents: Supporting Documents include: a CV of the Primary Investigator, a bibliography, and a letter of support. **Please use single-spaced, 11-point Arial font.**



Supporting Documents:

Component	Limit	Description
CV	None	Please include a CV for the Principal Investigator.
Bibliography	2 pages	Include the references used in the Research plan or elsewhere in the proposal. No format is preferred.
Letters of support	1-2 page each	At least one letter of support is required . Applicants are encouraged to include letters from their department chair or program director, or simulation institutions (if applicable) addressing their level of support and available resources to help with the research. One page each.

VI. Scoring of Applications

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria: Overall Impact, Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, and Environment. Experts in simulation and other disciplines will review applications, and a review panel will meet to determine funding. A brief description of each criterion is presented below.

Domain	Description
Overall Impact	Reviewers will provide an overall impact 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 review criteria and additional review criteria (as applicable for the project proposed).
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?
Investigators	Are the PD/Pis, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? If Early Stage Investigators or those in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training? If established, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PD/PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance and organizational structure appropriate for the project?
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?
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?



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?



VII. Progress Reports and Dissemination

PIs are **required** to submit a final report at the end of the funding period. Awardees are also expected to present their yearly results at an INSPIRE meeting. INSPIRE must be explicitly acknowledged on all forms of dissemination (abstracts, manuscripts, posters, etc.). The use of official INSPIRE templates is strongly encouraged. Finally, awardees are encouraged to leverage INSPIRE resources and presentations in future budget or program proposals resulting from the completed work.