



Request for Proposals

INSPIRE Opportunities Award

INSPIRE is excited to announce broad funding opportunities for investigators in pediatric simulation-based research from diverse backgrounds including low- and middle-income countries, non-physician roles, and novice investigators.

Background

The International Network for Simulation-based Pediatric Innovation, Research and Education (INSPIRE) was established in 2011 from a group of simulation-based pediatric researchers from a variety of disciplines looking to improve collaboration, mentorship, and productivity. Our mission is to improve the delivery of medical care to acutely ill children and ultimately improve survival from acute illness in the pediatric population.

INSPIRE is seeking studies that are both innovative and have strong potential for a positive impact on healthcare delivery. INSPIRE is proud to announce broad funding opportunities for simulation-based research in pediatrics to investigators from low- and middle-income countries, non-physicians, and novice investigators.

Summary

1. **INSPIRE Opportunities Awards:** Up to three proposals focused on smaller research projects for novice investigators, non-physician investigators, and investigators from low- and middle-income countries will be funded for a one-year duration with a maximum of **\$10,000 USD** each.
2. These projects must be simulation-based and have strong potential for a positive impact on healthcare delivery processes and outcome.
3. Award proposals will be due on **September 15, 2023, by 11:59pm EDT**.

The INSPIRE Research Award

Full Proposal Instructions

I. Overview and Eligibility

The INSPIRE Awards and Funding Committee is providing funding for projects of a two-year duration with a broad call for proposals that address research questions or issues using or within pediatric simulation-based research. The INSPIRE Opportunities Award will fund research projects for investigators that qualify in at least one of the following areas:

- **Low- and middle-income countries:**
 - Classifications are based on the World Bank and are available [below](#). Note upper-middle income countries are eligible for funding.
 - <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/the-world-by-income-and-region.html>
- **Non-MD backgrounds:**
 - May include Principal Investigator (PI) or key team members.
- **Novice investigators:**
 - A novice investigator is defined as an investigator who (1) has not received grant funding exceeding \$10,000 as a PI and (2) has not published more than 5 research papers.

These awards are open to all investigators within INSPIRE. This is a **broad** announcement, but the projects must be simulation-based **and** utilize rigorous scientific methodology. Quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research approaches are equally welcome. We also welcome research on **family-centered care** in line with our donors' interest. 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 **24 months**. Extensions 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 in one PDF to the submission link that will be on INSPIRE's website at <https://inspiresim.org/inspire-awards/> beginning June 15, 2023. Completed applications will be due by **11:59pm EDT on September 15, 2023**, and final recipients of the award will be notified by **December 15, 2023**, and announced at INSPIRE at IMSH 2024. Funds will be disbursed within one month of the announcement.

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.**

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: Proposal format follows the United States National Institute of Health formats using [PHS398 forms](#). 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 10 pages.

Component	Limit	Description
Cover Letter	1 page	Please use NIH PHS398 Cover Letter form downloadable at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp1.doc
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
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	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	Please use the 1-page NIH PHS398 Budget form downloadable at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/fp4.doc 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. 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.

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 24-month duration. This should include a brief 6-month progress report.

Supporting Documents: Supporting Documents include: a Biosketch of the Primary Investigator, a brief description of Resources available at the site, and any additional Supporting Documents. **Please use single-spaced, 11-point Arial font.**

Supporting Documents:

Component	Limit	Description
Biosketch	5 pages	Please include a Biosketch for the Principal Investigator. Please use NIH Biosketch form as a template. The form is downloadable at the following link: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm
Resources	1 page	This page allows the assessment of the capability of the organizational resources available to perform the project proposed. Please include a brief description of the relevant facilities and resources that are directly applicable to the PI or project (e.g., space, computers, simulators, administrative support). Specific focus should be given to any previous collaborations by the investigators and infrastructure already in place to complete this research.
Bibliography	2 pages	Include the references of publications relevant to proposed study using PubMed format.
IRB approval or submission	N/A	In situations where IRB submission is preferred after the notification of award, the approval letter must be submitted before the actual funding takes place.
Letters of support	1 page each	Letters of support are required from all members of the study team. 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. While not a scored component, projects that address impact on

DEI will be prioritized. 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 12-month progress report **and** a final report once the study is complete. 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.