

Trustee Award & Procter Scholar (TAPS) Program

Trustee Grant Awards

\$60,000* Funding Opportunity

* per annum for 2 years

Due: First Monday in June or November, at 5:00 pm

The goal of the Trustee Grant Award is to provide research funds for junior faculty to aid in the rapid achievement of independent, sustained extramural funding for their research program.

- Applications should be submitted within the first 4 years of initial appointment by faculty whose rank does not exceed Assistant Professor (Tenure Track) or Research Associate Professor (Non-Tenure Track).
- Note that a pre-existing R01 (or similar) grant precludes the award of a Trustee Grant, and that receipt of an R01 during the course of a Trustee Grant leads to termination of the Trustee Grant at end of that year of funding.
- Funding of both laboratory and patient-based research projects will be considered, including proposals which are likely to have a direct impact on clinical practice such as phase I and phase II clinical trials.
- The anticipated outcomes of the Award are the successful transition to an NIH R01 award, R01-equivalent award from foundations or industry, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Applicants should not submit the same proposal to more than one internal funding program simultaneously.

Submission guidelines and forms are available on the [Trustee Grant Website](#).

The deadline for submission is **the first Monday in June or November, at 5:00 pm**. Send a single PDF file of the assembled application to **Cynthia Wetzel, PhD** (Program Manager) at cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org.

Questions should be sent to either **Jorge Bezerra, MD** (TAPS Director) at jorge.bezerra@cchmc.org or **Cynthia Wetzel, PhD** (TAPS Program Manager) at cynthia.wetzel@cchmc.org.

Application Guidelines

- Only one Trustee Grant application will be accepted from a faculty member
- Up to two revisions can be submitted for any application

Format

There is a **5-page** limit for the body of the application based on the **NIH FORMAT** (Specific Aims, and Research Strategy: Significance, Innovation, and Approach).

The applications must contain the following*, in order (see Word file for forms):

1. Face page.
2. Project summary, relevance, division or institute & personnel
3. Table of Contents
4. Budget for year 1 and budget justification.
 - a. Salary support is allowed for anyone working on the project other than the principal investigator.
 - b. PI salary support is not permitted.
 - c. Funds can be requested for travel to a single domestic scientific meeting.
5. Biosketch for PI and Co-Investigators (must follow current NIH format)
6. Other Support: Provide other support for the principal investigator and co-investigator (if applicable), especially sources of funds currently available to support research on this or closely related topics by the applicant. If any overlap exists between this application and any other currently funded, or pending projects, clearly indicate why Trustee funds are being requested. Duplication of funds is not permitted.
7. Research Plan: **5-page limit** (below is the approximate length for each section)
 - a. **Specific Aims (1/2 page):** Remember this is a 1-2 year pilot project.
 - b. **Research Strategy (4 ½ pages).** Organize the Research Strategy into three sections - *Significance, Innovation and Approach* using the instructions provided below. Include a thorough, but concise description of the work leading up to your current hypothesis.
 - **Significance:** Explain how the proposal will address an important problem or a critical challenge in the field. Also indicate how this proposal will generate significant preliminary data needed for an NIH grant application.
 - **Innovation:** Explain how the proposal challenges existing paradigms or clinical practice; address an innovative hypothesis or critical challenge in the field.
 - **Approach:** Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include preliminary data, a rationale for experimental design and discuss any potential problems and solutions.
8. Human Subjects – [See PHS 398 instructions.](#)
9. Vertebrate Animals – [See PHS 398 instructions.](#)
10. Literature cited.

*All forms are modified from current NIH forms with the goal to facilitate future preparation of NIH grant applications.

11. Brief description of career development by the applicant. Include how proposal supports your career development. **(1/2 page)**
 - Brief synopsis of your career and long-term goals
 - Impact of the Trustee Award to your research program
12. Statement of scientific oversight by the division chief or scientific mentor. **(1/2 page)**
 - Alignment of the applicant's research plan with existing research programs
 - Plan for scientific mentoring and support of the applicant
 - Description of available resources relevant to the application
13. Letters of support from collaborators or consultants if any.
14. Supplementary data will **NOT** be accepted.

2nd Year of Funding Process

A maximum of \$60,000 per annum for two years can be requested initially. Carry-over of funds from year to year will be allowed only under exceptional circumstances. The total funding of Trustee Grant awardees will be reviewed by the Department annually for funding overlap with other sources of support.

Review Process

The main criteria for the review of the application are:

- Scientific merit of the application. This will be assessed using the 1-9 scale used by NIH reviewers.
- Is the proposed work likely to position the applicant to a highly competitive R01 or R01-equivalent application?