



Joe Niekro Research Grant

The SNIS Foundation is pleased to continue to partner with the Niekro Aneurysm & AVM Foundation to fund the Joe Niekro Research Grant. This grant is to be used for projects directed toward aneurysm, arteriovenous malformation, and stroke research.

Overview

Purpose:

To enable investigators (MDs, DOs, MD-PhDs or PhDs) to conduct projects that address a specific hypothesis and generate preliminary data in preparation for major grant applications to corporations, foundations and governmental agencies.

This grant is open to:

- 1) University-based or government medical facility-based investigators at all levels with academic appointments.
- 2) Investigators in a clinical practice not affiliated with a University or government medical facility.

Nature of Projects:

Any research related to brain aneurysms, brain arteriovenous malformations or fistulas, or ischemic stroke including, but not limited to:

- Applications of advanced technologies and sciences
- Development of diagnostic or therapeutic technology
- Morphologic and functional imaging that addresses biologic or clinical questions
- Comparative effectiveness analyses and/or outcomes analyses

It is the intention of the Grant to provide necessary and appropriate preliminary data for successful applications for further funding; therefore, emphasis will be placed on research deemed to have the most potential for future funding. A successful application will provide a

timeline for project completion as well as plans for specific future funding application mechanisms

The successful project application will include a method of dissemination of project results (e.g., presentation at regional or national medical meetings and publication of results in a peer-reviewed medical journal).

Eligibility:

Applicant must be an SNIS Member (at any level) in good standing at the time of application with an MD, MD-PhD, DO or PhD degree. Applicants are advised to check their membership status, or become a member today at <https://snisonline.org/>.

If an MD, applicant must be in-training or have completed advanced training and be board-certified or board-eligible by the American Board of Radiology (ABR), American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS) or the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). International applicants must be certified by the corresponding sub-specialty board in their country (where applicable).

Applicant must hold a full-time position within an educational institution or government medical facility in a department of radiology, neurosurgery or neurology. Applicants not affiliated with an educational institution or government medical facility must hold a full-time position with a radiology, neurosurgery or neurology practice.

Applicant cannot have been a principal investigator on prior government, private, industrial/commercial and/or societal grants totaling more than \$50,000 in direct costs in a single year.

Applicant/co-principal investigator(s) cannot be employed by any for-profit, commercial company in the radiologic, neurologic, or neurosurgical sciences.

Acceptance of an award from another source for the same project in the same year is prohibited, with the exception of salary support. All funding sources for salary support must be identified.

Grant Amount:

Up to \$20,000 for a one-year project to support the preliminary phase of scientific projects. The grant cannot be supplemental to major funding already secured. No salary support for the principal or co-investigators will be provided. The funding will go directly to the sponsoring Institution or Department as direct costs only. No overhead or indirect costs are provided.

Travel expenses for the SNIS Annual Meeting or the Niekro Aneurysm & AVM Foundation KnuckleBall may not be underwritten by this grant.

Unexpended funds at the end of the project period must be returned to the SNIS Foundation.

Grants run August 1 – July 31. Funds will be paid to the sponsoring Institution or Department in three installments.

Deadline for Application:

Completed application must be received no later than **May 22, 2026**. Incomplete applications, applications that do not comply with the instructions, and/or those that do not have the appropriate executed signatures will not be reviewed.

Selection Criteria/Review Process:

Applicants should propose research that advances the study of brain aneurysms, brain arteriovenous malformations or fistulas, or ischemic stroke. The application must contain a detailed research plan as outlined in the “Application Instructions and Guidelines.” A one-year budget for the planned research with all other funding sources identified must be included. All funds requested in the application must be fully justified. Failure to do either will result in deferral or disapproval of the application.

A letter from the department chair (for faculty applicants), fellowship director (for trainee applicants) or practice group chair (private practice physicians) must be provided. It is expected that the chair/director will comment on the merit of the project, describe the extent to which the department is supporting the applicant’s research in terms of funding and/or available facilities, and indicate a commitment to provide protected research time of the applicant during the research period.

A study section consisting of practicing physicians and PhD scientists with expertise in neurovascular research will review the application for scientific merit and appropriateness for funding. The final decision will be subject to approval by the SNIS Foundation Board.

The proposed research project will be evaluated regarding its suitability for the applicant to obtain preliminary data with the anticipation of a future submission for additional funding from governmental agencies, corporations, or foundations. The evaluation will assess the following criteria:

- The significance, relevance and innovation of the proposed project to clinical care or the advancement of technology in the evaluation of neurovascular diseases;
- The hypothesis should be clear and well-developed, and the experiments designed to appropriately test the hypothesis;
- The proposed statistical analysis of the data must be defined;
- The project should be feasible within the allotted timeframe and budget; applicants are encouraged to include a project timeline with specified anticipated targets for larger funding applications;
- The application must demonstrate that the applicant has the appropriate experienced advisor(s) to guide them throughout the proposed project. A letter of support from the advisor/mentor is required;
- There must be a defined plan for the protection of human subjects (when applicable). There must be a defined plan for the protection and appropriate use of animals (when applicable). Investigators must address issues related to inclusion based on gender, minorities and children (when applicable); and

- Evaluate the facilities and commitment of the institution, the department and individual research labs where applicable to provide adequate support for the applicant.

Grant Notification Process

Grant applicants will be notified of their status after committee review. Grant applicants will receive a score similar to NIH-reporting system, along with review sheets describing the strengths and weaknesses of their application. Furthermore, applicants will be given an opportunity to discuss their grant application with an assigned mentor. In this way, we hope the process will provide assistance and support to all applicants in their efforts to secure funding.

Rules and Conditions

1. Progress Reports

Recipients must submit an interim report six months (180 days) after the start of the project, and a final report within three months (90 days) after completion of the project. Reports will be distributed to the SNIS Foundation Grant Committee to determine the success of the program. Failure to comply with the final report requirement may negatively affect the applicant and/or the applicant's practice's/home institution's eligibility to receive future funds. Reports are to be submitted electronically (MS-Word). Complete reports must address each of the following:

Interim report should include the following:

- a) A summary statement.
- b) The specific aims/goals of the research and the results of the work toward each aim/goal.
- c) Disclosure of any deviations from the original research plan and justification.
- d) Outline of expenditures that have been made thus far.
- e) Any problems or delays that the applicant may have encountered.

Final report should include the following:

1. The applicant will address all points a) through e) under Interim Report (see above) and:
2. Indicate if the results from the research are being prepared for publication.
3. Indicate if the results from the research will be used as preliminary data to obtain additional funding.
4. Address the role the SNIS Foundation grant had on your career.

2. Presentations and Publications

All scientific papers, abstracts and/or presentations resulting from the SNIS Foundation funding must first be submitted for consideration for presentation at the SNIS Annual Meeting. Any manuscript resulting from the research project in part or total must first be submitted for

publication in the *Journal of NeuroInterventional Surgery (JNIS)*. One re-print of each publication produced as a result of the SNIS Foundation-funded work should be sent to the SNIS Foundation.

3. Acknowledgement

All posters, publications, and oral presentations of SNIS Foundation-funded projects must contain appropriate acknowledgment of the Foundation's support. All poster, publications, and oral presentations of Joe Niekro Foundation-funded projects must contain appropriate acknowledgement of the Foundation's support.

4. Extension

Extension of the terms of the grant may be requested to extend the final budget period up to 12 months beyond the original ending date. Approval of an extension does not include the awarding of additional funds. A request for an extension must be made in writing to the Chair of the SNIS Foundation Research Committee. The request must state the reason(s) for the extension, length of extension requested, and a review of the progress in the original grant period. Requests must be co-signed by the department or group practice chair and research advisor and submitted to the chair of the Research Committee two months (60 days) prior to the original ending date. Interim reports must be submitted every six months during the extension period.

5. Termination of Support

The SNIS Foundation Board reserves the right to modify or terminate the amount of any funds granted under the terms of the Research Seed Grant program. If such a modification is deemed necessary, the grant recipient will be notified in writing within 90 days prior to termination. The investigator will have the option to modify the research plan or terminate the grant.

Application Instructions and Guidelines

Standard NIH grant formatting should be used (11-point Arial font, 0.5 inch margins).

Email completed applications to Chair, SNIS Foundation c/o Marie Williams Denslow at williams@snisonline.org no later than **May 22, 2026**.

Section I: Title and Summary of Research Proposal

Provide a succinct description of the proposed project (< 1 page). The abstract should state the long-term goals of the research, potential clinical significance of the research, and the methods to be used to conduct the research.

Section II: Investigator(s)

A. Applicant (Principal Investigator)

Contact information: address, email, work phone, cell phone

Institution/Group Practice

Department

Citizenship

Current year of training, or faculty position/rank, or number of years post-training completion. If the applicant is currently in a training program, a letter from the Program Director must confirm status and ensure that the applicant will be provided appropriate time to complete the project.

Most recent copy of the applicant's Curriculum Vitae

B. Priority Statement:

The applicant will describe his/her area of professional/scientific interest(s) and long-term career goals. A brief summary of the project (< 1 page) describing the relevance of the proposed research to the priorities of the departmental/practice group research programs will be included.

C. Scientific Advisor: to be completed by advisor for trainee applicants

Name, degree(s), title/faculty rank

Provide description of the advisor's role as mentor for the applicant and CV

Describe the extent to which the applicant was responsible for developing and writing the research proposal

List the other investigators or advisors who will participate in the project and their role in the project

Section III: Proposal

A. Research Plan:

The research plan will not exceed five single-spaced pages, exclusive of the references. Standard NIH grant formatting should be used (11-point Arial font, 0.5 inch margins).

Specific Aims

List the objectives and goals of the specific research proposed. State the hypothesis, the specific problem to be solved, the development of new technology, etc.

Background and Significance

Provide the background information leading to the proposed project. Review and analyze existing knowledge, and identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. How do the specific aims translate to achieving the long-term objectives? How will knowledge or clinical practice be impacted by the results of the research?

Preliminary Studies

Provide information regarding the PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the application. If there are no preliminary data, then supporting evidence from the currently available literature must be submitted. Please note: as this is a Pilot Grant, preliminary data are not required.

Research Design and Methods

Describe the research design, conceptual or clinical framework, procedures, new methodologies, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Describe the applicant's specific roles in the project. Discuss potential limitations of the proposed project and alternative approaches to address the aims.

Timeline of Events

Provide a sequence and timetable for the project.

Bibliography (not included in the five-page limit)

Provide PI's preliminary studies pertinent to this application. If there is no preliminary data, then provide existing evidence from the literature.

B. Research Assurances (not included in the five-page limit)

Will the project involve any of the following?

Human subjects (Yes/No)

If yes, then please provide a Statement on the Protection of Human Subjects.

Vertebrate animals (Yes/No)

If yes, then please provide a Statement on the Protection of Animals.

Ionizing radiation/radioactive isotopes (Yes/No)

Funded applicants will be required to submit to IRB/IACUC before grant funds are released.

C. Resources and Environment (not included in the five-page limit)

Describe major equipment, laboratory, clinical, animal, office/computer, support services, educational resources, and other facilities that will be available for this project.

Section IV – Budget

A. Budget

Provide a complete budget including information on equipment that will be purchased or rented, materials, and salary support if a laboratory assistant or other assistant will be paid by this grant. Explain how costs not covered by this grant will be paid (departmental funds, etc). The SNIS Foundation does not pay institutional overhead or indirect costs. Please use NIH budget formatting.

B. Payment Information

If the grant is awarded, please supply the payee. The institution/group practice will serve as the fiscal agent.

Grant checks payable to: Institution/group practice name

Grant checks sent to: Include contact name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail.

Section V: Signatures

Enter the names and contact information for each individual that will sign the completed, printed application. Electronic signatures will be accepted.

Department/Group Practice Chair or equivalent:

Scientific Advisor:

Grant Administrator:

Grant Applicant:

Please direct any questions to:
SNIS Foundation Joe Niekro Research Grant Program
c/o Marie Williams Denslow
12587 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 353
Fairfax, VA 22033
Phone: 703-691-2272
Fax: 703-537-0650
Email: williams@snisonline.org
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