

NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Summary of Group Project or Activities – Posted June 2024

Name of Project or Activity	Description	Project Status
Grant Review 2024	Review and make funding decisions for spring 2024 in-training, starter, diversity, and mid-career grants	Near completion
Grant Application Process Revision	Modification of website materials and creation of checklist for applicants to clarify requirements and improve fidelity of submitting/fulfilling application requirements for 2024 grant cycle	Complete
Funding History and Impact Summary	Generate funding history and grant subsequent impact data (funding, publications, PI impact statements) for endowment fundraising/board report	Complete
SCA 2025 Session Proposals	Create proposals for two sessions at 2025 annual meeting for submission to the SPC (“Patient-Centered Outcomes in Cardiovascular Medicine and Surgery” and “Our Research Funding at Work: Grant Project Results, Impact, and Ongoing Work” [to highlight MICoR grant results and other recently completed SCA-funded projects])	Complete
SCA Membership Survey Reviews	Review, revision cycles, and approval for 2 surveys: “Intraoperative opioid use in cardiac surgery” and “Survey on Enhanced Recovery after Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery.” One currently in progress (“The SEAL study: Survey of ECMO Application in Lung transplantation”)	Ongoing
SCA Membership Survey Process Revision	Submission checklist revision (several years old); process improvement based on data from prior survey users. To do so, planning to gather data from prior mechanism users and outcomes from use; prospectively develop end of project report that would gather this same feedback from all future users.	New
Letter of Intent for Starter/DEI Grant Applicants	Implement late fall/early winter letter of intent (LOI) Process for Starter/DEI Grants starting with 2025 grant cycle (former research committee mentors assigned to applicants to smooth application process and provide feedback)	New

Summary of Group Meetings – Posted June 2024

Type of Group Meeting	Date	Action Items from Meeting
Virtual Mtg	10/5/2023	Add suggestion for statistician involvement in survey design to submission checklist; gather data about SCA survey mechanism (response rates, publication rates, etc) from prior users; prospectively develop requirement for “final report” from mechanism users.
In Person Mtg	10/15/2023	Collect data on/from prior grant winners re: subsequent funding, publications, impact for Reb report to board; revise website application details and create checklist of required grant application items for 2024 funding cycle; further discussion of LOI process for starter grants 2025 funding cycle; develop 2025 meeting session ideas.
Virtual Mtg	1/9/2024	Anne Cherry, Yafen Liang, Ban Sileshi, Loise Sun met to discuss updating wording regarding DEI for current grants. Starting with 2025 grants, underrepresented populations would mirror NIH’s.

Requests for Board of Directors Consideration – Posted June 2024

- Action Request 1: For the Spring 2025 funding cycle, we request a funding for a SCA Multi- Institutional Collaborative Clinical/Translational Research (MICoR) Grant, a multi-institutional investigation addressing a key clinical and translational research question. Compared to current funding mechanisms, this will support a larger scale investigation that that allows for greater innovation and robustness/generalizability due to the multi-institutional nature of the mechanism.
- Action / Request 2: Minor revision to Committee Goals to reflect new abstract subcommittee.

From (current): “The goals of the SCA Research Committee are to assess the scientific validity/merit of research grants submitted for funding.

Review and approve survey requests for distribution to Society membership.”

“The goals of the SCA Research Committee are to 1) assess the scientific validity/merit of research grants submitted for funding, 2) review and approve survey requests for distribution to Society membership, and 3) in partnership with the abstract subcommittee, build processes that augment the scientific merit of abstracts presented at the annual meeting.”

POSTED NOVEMBER 2023

Requests for Board of Directors Approval

Action / Request 1: Increase grant funding. Strong support for cardiovascular and thoracic anesthesia-focused research is a core part of our mission at the SCA. It is common for our committee to have more highly scored/prioritized grants than we are able to fund, and funding allocated to core research grants (starter/D&I and mid-career) has been essentially unchanged since 2010. Since then, biomedical research-specific measures of cost inflation (biomedical research and development price index, BRDPI) indicate a 42% increase, which will continue to grow in the coming years.

Summary of Group Meeting 1 - Date: 4/29/2023, 9a-2p EST, virtual

Annual 5-hour session for 2023 grant review and scoring. Opening of session included review of scoring norms, eligibility criteria, conflict of interest policies, and strategies for implicit bias awareness/mitigation. Grant review and scoring was conducted, occupying the bulk of the meeting time, with committee members with COIs for any mechanism leaving the meeting and returning after conclusion of discussion for each mechanism. End of session included review of scored/prioritized applications and resolution of any equivalent scores, and overall feedback for session/process.

Summary of Group Meeting 2 - Date: 5/6/2023, 12p-1p PST, in person

Research Committee meeting at SCA Annual Meeting. Thank yous and introductions, including outgoing/incoming leadership/members. Discussion of grant application process (ensuring required documents). Discussion of re-submitted application process and rules. Discussion of grant scoring process (score spread and process going forward for resolving equivalent scores [rank-choice voting]). Discussion of spirit of D&I award and clarified applicant rules to reflect this value while maintaining any necessary “translatability” between D&I and starter grant.

COLLABORATION

Review and assisting development of SCA membership surveys for the following committees/sub-committees: ERACS Sub-Committee / Transplantation Sub-Committee / SCA International Council

FUTURE PROJECTS

New liaison position with the new abstract review committee (liaison: Louise Sun); we are eager to explore ways to facilitate their processes and support abstract quality.

2025 grant cycle: Introduce an optional late fall LOI step for starter/D&I grants. The purpose of this would not be to select projects, but rather to facilitate assigning an SCA mentor to help review and develop the application in the months leading up to the submission deadline. Mentors would not be current committee members (due to COI), but rather former committee members, other mentors within SCA, or any other colleagues with subject-area/methods expertise).

POSTED JUNE 2023

Summary of Group Meeting 1

We have not had a meeting since our last chair report. We scheduled the virtual study section meeting prior to the SCA Annual Meeting to review grants and a business meeting at the SCA Annual Meeting.

COLLABORATION

We collaborate with the STS committee and the program committee. In addition, we now have a sub-committee to review abstracts and survey requests.

FUTURE PROJECTS

We thank the Board for approving the in-training grant and will follow the execution and progress of that award to ensure success.

We are continuously exploring ways to recruit a diverse group of colleagues to serve on the committee and identify diverse applicants for grant submissions.

This will also be my last Chair report as I will be rotating off the committee after having had the honor to serve as its Chair for the past 6 years. Thanks to the board for supporting our many requests, including the MICOR grant, the diversity grant, the in-training grant, and supporting the committee to become much more diverse. There are many bright and talented individuals on the committee and I leave it in very good hands.

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POSTED JUNE 2022

We would like to re-request re-initiation of the “*In-Training Grant*”. This modest grant support will leverage the best and brightest future minds in academic cardiac anesthesia.

Summary of Group Meeting: 4/30/22

- We held a 4-hour study section to review all starter-, diversity-, and mid-career grants. It went extremely well with balanced and informed discussions about all the grants.

We collaborate with the STS committee and the program committee.

POSTED OCTOBER 2021

Requested for Board of Directors Approval: We would like to request re-in initiation of the “*In-Training Grant*”. This modest grant support will leverage the best and brightest future minds in academic cardiac anesthesia.

DESCRIPTION & GOALS

We will be highly encouraging unconscious bias training for the entire review committee.

COLLABORATION

We collaborate with the STS committee and the program committee.

FUTURE PROJECTS

We are continuously exploring ways to recruit a diverse group of colleagues to serve on the committee as well as to identify applicants for grant submissions.

POSTED JUNE 2021

The Research Committee notes the following grant recipients:

SCA 2021 Starter/Diversity Grants

Elena Ashikhmina, MD, PhD, Mayo Clinic

Activated Prothrombin Complex Concentrate FEIBA to Optimize Postcardiopulmonary Bypass Hemostasis in Pediatric Cardiac Patients

Sergey Karamnov, MD, Brigham and Women’s Hospital – Harvard Medical School

Combined clinical-epidemiological risk score for postoperative atrial fibrillation after cardiac surgery: a multi-institutional study

SCA 2021 Mid-Career Grant

Alina Nicoara, MD, Duke University

Right ventricle adaptive changes in patients undergoing left ventricular assist device implantation

SCA 2021 Multi-Institutional Collaborative Outcomes Grant (MiCOR)

The effect of continuous low tidal volume ventilation and hyperoxia avoidance during cardiopulmonary bypass

- PI Marta Kelava, MD, Cleveland Clinic

- PI Kimberly Howard-Quijano, MD, MS, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- Co-I Michael Essanhoh, MD, The Ohio State University Wexner MC
- Co-I Andra Duncan, MD, Cleveland Clinic
- Co-I Edward Soltesz, MD, Cleveland Clinic