SOCIETY OF CARDIOVASCULAR ANESTHESIOLOGISTS
Knowledge • Care • Investigation

2027 SCA Research Grants

Deadline: **December 3, 2026**

SCA supports cardiothoracic and vascular research projects. This is the basis for the creation of the **SCA Joyce Wahr Stater Grant, SCA Marianne & Michael Cahalan Endowed Research Award, and the In-Training Grant.**

Grants Information

- Three types of grants will be awarded in 2027:
  - SCA Marianne & Michael Cahalan Endowed Research Award – up to $75,000 per year for two years.
  - SCA Joyce Wahr Starter Grant – up to $37,500 per year for two years.
  - SCA In-Training Grant - $15,000 for one year.
- Applications will close on December 3, 2026.
- The awards will be announced prior to the 2027 SCA Annual Meeting & Workshops in Las Vegas, NV. The grant period of 24 months can begin any time from July 1 to December 31 of the year granted. Grant recipients are required to present their work at a subsequent SCA Annual Meeting.

Eligibility

1. Member, Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists at the time of application.
2. MD or PhD or equivalent degree
3. Primary Investigators (PI) on active NIH grants or other (inter)national peer-reviewed grants with
   > $50,000 per year are not eligible.
4. Previous Starter or Roizen Grant recipients are only eligible for Michael Cahalan Grants.
5. Grants will be judged relative to peers at the funding level submitted.
6. Eligible research projects should be completed within three years after the award of the grant.
7. ***Joyce Wahr Starter Grant***: At the time of grant activation, PI must be within ten years of finishing training (after terminal degree) and have an academic appointment at the rank of Instructor or Assistant Professor. PI must not be enrolled in a training program (residency, fellowship, PhD, postdoc) at the time of grant activation.
8. ***Marianne & Michael Cahalan Research Award*:** PI must be at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor.
   Previous Mid-Career/Michael Cahalan Grant recipients are not eligible for additional awards.
9. ***In-Training Grant:*** In-Training grant is targeted toward residents with a strong interest in cardiac anesthesia and cardiac anesthesia fellows in eligible training programs.
10. For Joyce Wahr Starter grant PIs who no longer meet time-from-training criteria at the time of re-application for a Joyce Wahr Starter grant, one re-application is permitted for the same grant mechanism provided that the application is in the immediate subsequent year

(i.e., a 2026 unfunded starter grant application can be re-submitted in 2027 [only], even if the PI is then >10 years after finishing training).

Project Types

- The committee will give priority to Joyce Wahr Starter grant proposals aimed at generating supportive or pilot data for a future larger project or new line of investigation.
- The committee will give priority to funding proposals that are independent of other (pending) extramural support, or that fund a distinct part of a larger project meant to develop applicant PI independence from another PI.

Formatting Requirements

Except for the Curriculum Vitae of the PI, Chair letter, Mentor letter, and the letters of support from co-investigators all other submitted documents must strictly adhere to the following additional formatting requirements:

- Must be at least 12-point font.
  - 10-point texts in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts are acceptable (as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%)
- Type density: Must be no more than 15 characters per linear inch (including characters and spaces).
- Application must be double spaced – must be no more than three lines per two vertical inches.
- Recommended font choices:
  - Arial
  - Georgia
  - Helvetica
  - Palatino Linotype
- Page size should be US letter 8.5” x 11”
- Page margins must be at least 0.5” throughout the application
- Any figures or tables should be embedded within the PDF document, not included as separate pages.

Application Requirements

1. Online Application (fill in information on submission website)

  - Type of grant(s) applying for
  - Title of research grant
  - Proposed starting date
  - Applicant name, email address, postal address, telephone number, SCA member ID number, academic degrees, and faculty rank
  - Sponsoring institution in which research will be performed
  - Responsible department chief name, email address, postal address, and telephone number
  - Responsible financial officer of the sponsoring institution name, email address, postal address, and telephone name
  - *Joyce Wahr/In-Training Grants*: Primary mentor name, email address, postal address, and telephone number

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2. **Acknowledgement of Other Requirements**
   - It is understood that if awarded the grant, a satisfactory progress report will be due to the SCA (addressed to the SCA Research Committee Chair) by June 10th of the following year to obtain the second funding installment.
   - The award recipient agrees to write a paper and article for the SCA newsletter regarding the research done because of the SCA grant and to present the results of their research at a subsequent SCA annual meeting.
   - It is understood that a final report letting SCA know how they have capitalized on the research done because of the SCA grant will be due to the SCA (addressed to the SCA Research Committee Chair) by September 30 of the year of completion of the research.

3. **Letters included in the submission should be addressed to:**

   Anne D. Cherry, MD, FASE
   SCA Research Grant Committee Chair
   SCA Headquarters
   1061 E. Main Street, Suite 300
   East Dundee, IL 60118
   grants@scahq.org

Application Materials to be Uploaded

The main body of the application should be uploaded to the grant submission website as ***PDF documents*** with the following components:

1) **Title Page** (using the template provided on the SCA website):
   - Type of grant(s) applying for
   - Research grant title
   - Name of applicant
   - Applicant's institution, academic degrees, and faculty rank
   - Mentor's name for Joyce Wahr, and In-Training Grants
   - Names, academic degrees, and faculty ranks of any co-investigators.

2) **Response to Reviewers:** For previously submitted grants, a response to previous critiques must be provided (maximum 2 pages).

3) **Research Plan** (see pg. 4; maximum of 9 total pages).

4) **Budget:** The budget should outline all proposed expenditures for the project and indicate the amount and breakdown for specific items requested from the SCA, and, if applicable, the amount and breakdown for specific items provided by the institution as matching funds.
   a) The budget may include salary support for technicians, research nurses, and other research personnel, equipment, and/or supplies. Other costs must be itemized and justified.
   b) ***In -Training Grants*****:** No part of the grant may be used for salary support of the PI, PI's mentor, or other trainees for the In-Training Grant. Travel or tuition expenses are not allowed.
   c) ***SCA Joyce Wahr Starter grants:*** up to 50% of the budget can be used for salary support of the principal investigator and co-investigators for the Joyce Wahr Starter Grants. No part of the grant may be used for salary support of the PI's mentor, fellows, or residents. Travel or tuition expenses are not allowed.
   d) ***Marianne & Michael Cahalan Research Award:*** up to 50% of the budget can be used for salary support of the principal investigator and co-investigators. Funds cannot be used for travel or tuition expenses.
   e) Institutions should not request indirect/overhead costs as part of the budget.
   f) No part of the grant may be used for patient care costs (except to pay for pertinent laboratory costs), consultant costs, alterations, and renovations.

5) **Budget Justification** (1 page). Include a brief description of projected costs for different components of the budget, i.e., supplies, animal costs, equipment, salary support.

6) **Study Approval** (1 page). Include a statement of approval for studies involving human or animal subjects by the appropriate institutional committee. (The application may be submitted before approval is obtained, with a letter of explanation. However, no award will be made until notification of institutional approval is received).

7) **Related Studies** (1 page). Include a listing of all other studies being performed on the study population, if applicable.

8) **Other Grants** (1 page). All active, pending, and planned applications for research support for all projects must be detailed (planned, applied for, or received as an investigator or co-investigator that would overlap with SCA funding period). Include PI and funding amount/year for each line item and a statement of the relationship to the present grant. Include a statement that should other funding be secured that would render the applicant ineligible for the SCA grant applied for, the applicant will notify the SCA immediately.

9) **Statement about the use of Artificial Intelligence** (1 page).
Include a statement describing whether and how generative AI was used in preparation of the application (e.g., generation of content, editing, figure creation, code development, summarizing literature review, hypothesis development, idea generation, etc.). Each generative AI tool used must be named, with a brief description of how and where they were used in the grant proposal.

10) **Biosketch and Curriculum Vitae of the PI** (5 pages each maximum; NIH Biosketch format required)

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11) **Letter from the Department Chair indicating the following:**
   a) Assessment of the applicant's research and other professional accomplishments.
   b) Institutional/departmental matching funds, which may be salary support of personnel (excluding the principal investigator), supplies, animals, equipment, etc. The amount of all pledged funds should be specified in US dollars.
   c) The availability of suitable facilities and/or patients.
   d) A statement of how much non-clinical time the PI will have, should the grant be awarded. Minimum: 40% non-clinical (research) time (30% for in-training grants).
   e) The agreement to return all unused funds if the project is not completed in three years.

12) ***Scientific Mentor Statement for Joyce Wahr Starter, and In-Training Grants*** *(1-2 pages*). A scientific mentor is required. A letter describing the track record of the mentor in-regards to success of previous mentees, mentor's sources of research support, commitment of mentor's resources to the applicants' projects, and a mentoring plan must be submitted.
   a) **Biosketch of the scientific mentor** (5 page maximum; NIH Biosketch format required).

13) ***Career Development Plan for Joyce Wahr Starter, and In-Training Grants*** *(2 pages).* A career development plan describing the Career Goals and Objectives and the Candidate's Plan for Career Development/Training Activities during Award Period.

14) **Letters of support from all co-investigators.**

<u>Research Plan</u>

The Research Plan must not exceed 9 total pages; lengths listed below do not include references. Failure to strictly follow formatting instructions for the Research Plan will result in administrative withdrawal of the application. Any figures or tables should be embedded within the PDF document, not included as separate pages.

1. Specific Aims and Research Hypothesis (1 page)

2. Research Strategy structured as follows (total 8 pages maximum, with a maximum of 1page each for the significance and innovation sections):
   a. Significance
   b. Innovation
   c. Approach
      i. Introduction and Feasibility
      ii. Preliminary Studies
      iii. Research Design, which should include
         1. Definition of primary outcomes
         2. A reproducible sample size calculation (power analysis)
         3. Specific techniques, animal species, data sources etc. that will be used.
         4. Types of studies to be done, including any considerations to ensure experimental rigor
         5. Planned methods for statistical analysis.
         6. Potential problems and limitations, and how they will be addressed.



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3. References: Up to 50 references may be included starting on a new page. References will not be counted towards the maximum of 9 pages for the Research Plan (1-page Specific Aims and Research Hypothesis + 8 pages Research Strategy).

Policy and Guidance on the Use of AI in Research Grant Applications

Grant proposals are expected to represent the original ideas and proposed work of the principal investigator applicants. Any use of AI tools for grant application preparation must be disclosed and detailed on the application title page. AI tools may not be used to generate substantial segments of content. Any concerns raised that generative AI has been misused will be investigated.

Principal investigator applicants must accept full responsibility for the content within the grant application and all submitted accompanying documents. They must ensure the outputs from AI tools used in their applications are valid. This includes reviewing and verifying any AI-generated content, and removing any false, misleading, out of context, or hallucinated information.

Grant reviewers are prohibited from the use of AI tools that require input of any grant contents or other confidential material generated as a part of the review process.