NASPGHAN Foundation/QOL Medical, LLC Research Award for the Study of Disorders Associated with Carbohydrate Maldigestion/Malabsorption in Children

Submission Deadline: July 1, 2024

Description and Objective
This award will provide $75,000 annually for two years (total $150,000) for studies focused on disorders of carbohydrate (CHO) maldigestion/malabsorption in children, either primary or secondary. Relevant conditions include, but are not limited to, lactose intolerance, congenital sucrose-isomaltase deficiency, congenital enteropathies that impact intestinal epithelial cell function, or inflammatory conditions affecting CHO absorption. Of note, this grant is NOT specifically related to quality of life metrics.

Applicants at any career level may apply.

Eligibility
- The principal investigator must be a member in good standing of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition for **at least two years** at the time of the application. Inclusion of co-investigators or collaborators in other scientific disciplines is encouraged.
- Applicants must hold a faculty position at a North American University or research institute and hold an MD, DO, PhD, MD/PhD or equivalent degree at the time of application.
- The applicant may not hold funding from any granting agency for a project that has an overlapping scientific objective at the time of the award is made or during the two-year period of the award.
- Applicant must not hold another NASPGHAN Foundation grant at the start of the award (Mid-December 2024).
- Applications in either the clinical, translational, laboratory or quality improvement sciences are eligible.

Grant Term and Stipulations
- The award is $75,000 in direct costs per year for up to two years of support.
- Institutional indirect costs *are not permitted*
- A complete financial statement and scientific progress report are required annually. The recipient will be required to indicate how the funds were used; the accomplishments achieved during the project and how the additional training contributed to his/her research career development.
- Funds for grants awarded in 2024 will be disbursed in mid-December 2024.
- All publications resulting from work supported by the NASPGHAN Foundation must acknowledge support by the relevant funding mechanism.
- The awardee must attend the 2024 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting to accept the award. The awardee must present the results of the research project at the 2026 NASPGHAN Annual Meeting.

Review Procedures
The NASPGHAN Research Committee and invited *ad hoc* experts (as invited by the Research Committee Study

Section Chair) will review the applications and score proposals using the National Institutes of Health scoring system. This scoring system uses a 9-point scale for the overall impact score and individual scores for (at least) five scored criteria (significance, innovation, approach, investigator, and environment).

Competitive applications are expected to have the potential to impact the field of pediatric gastroenterology and the care of children with Carbohydrate Maldigestion/ Malabsorption Projects should test novel and significant hypotheses that, if confirmed, will have substantial clinical impact Applications from a broad range of inquiry are encouraged. Examples include *but are not limited to:* new model systems, clinical trials, quality improvement, discovery of drugs or other therapeutic agents, innovative clinical techniques or methodologies, biomedical engineering and computational biology, translational diagnostic or therapeutic advances, cell biology and molecular genetics.

Members of the review panel will follow strict conflict of interest guidelines. Contact between the applicant or sponsors with committee members regarding applications is strictly prohibited and will lead to potential disqualification.

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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

FAILURE TO ADHERE STRICTLY TO THESE GUIDELINES COULD RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF YOUR APPLICATION

Completed applications must include the following.

1. NIH biographical sketch in NIH format of the principal investigator, sponsors, and if applicable, other key personnel. The current NIH biosketch format is preferred and instructions (non-fellowship) are posted at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm. The biosketch should list specific aims of all active research funding to permit an assessment of scientific overlap with the investigator's existing extramural funding.

2. The research plan structured according to the NIH format as outlined below with 1/2-inch margins. Times New Roman or Arial font no less than 11 point are required. Page limitations and style requirements are strictly enforced. (No research plan more than SEVEN single spaced pages will be reviewed. References and additional criteria are not included in this maximum page count).

- **Scientific Abstract** (1 page) suitable for use in the public domain should succinctly describe the scope of the proposed research, the study hypothesis, its scientific objectives, and the potential for innovation. Relevance of the proposed research to pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology and nutrition should be emphasized. The names and institutional affiliations of the principal investigator and all co- investigators should be tabulated at the end of this page.

- **Specific aims** (1 page):
    - Explain the rationale for the study, overall hypothesis, aims, and significance if successful.

- **Research Strategy** (4 pages) including Significance, Innovation, and Approach

a. Significance
- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.

b. Innovation
- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

c. Approach

- Provide preliminary data (strongly preferred but not required) that supports the premise for the work.
- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed including statistical plan, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
- Discuss expected results, potential problems, alternative strategies, feasibility, timeline, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. A power calculation is encouraged where relevant to underscore feasibility.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe strategies both to enhance feasibility and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.

3. Description of Institutional Environment (1 page): Describe your institution's research and career development opportunities related to this application and your area(s) of interest. Describe how equipment, facilities and other resources will be made available to you for the research proposed and your career development. Potential areas to address include:
   - Laboratory
   - Clinical
   - Animal
   - Computer
   - Office
   - Major Equipment
   - Other Resources

References (Not counted towards page limits)

4. Additional criteria (1 page limit):
   - Human subjects research: For studies involving human subjects, explain whether there is an existing IRB-approved protocol in place. If not, please outline your plans to obtain IRB approval, or explain why your protocol may not require this.
   - Animal studies: For studies involving animals, explain whether an animal protocol is approved or planned.
   - Inclusion plans: NASPGHAN is committed to decreasing disparities in patient care and outcomes and one way is through actively considering health equity in research study design.
     a. For patient-oriented and other human subjects research, include the following:
     - Inclusion Across the Lifespan: Include a brief description of the scientific rationale and plan for the age of participants included in the proposal
     - Health Equity in Research: Include a brief description of the scientific rationale and plan for inclusion of underserved groups.
     - Describe the composition of the proposed study population in terms of sex/gender and racial/ ethnic group, and provide a rational for selection of such study subjects.
     - As appropriate, please describe specific efforts undertaken by the program including outreach strategies and activities designed to recruit prospective participants from diverse groups.

     b. For research that does not involve human subjects:
     If the study does not involve patient recruitment or samples, document if the research planned would have any impact in addressing disparities in care or health outcomes (directly or indirectly).

- Safety: Describe any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and precautions to be exercised.

5. A two-year detailed budget must be accompanied by a justification. Salary, equipment, supplies and reasonable travel costs may be budgeted. In accordance with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy, salary requests may not use an institutional base salary in excess of the current federal salary cap at the time of submission (https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm). Fringe benefits may be requested if they are treated consistently by the applicant institution as a direct cost to all funding agencies and foundations. *Indirect costs are not allowed.*

6. Articles in press not available online can be included as an appendix but should only be included if material is directly relevant to the proposal. Additional articles, such as those already published or in preparation and any other additional documents should not be included and may detract from the application.