

2019 IAC Research Award Instructions

The Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Research Committee seeks to support innovative and meritorious research relevant to accreditation and quality improvement through its annual IAC Research Award Program. The IAC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to *Improving Health Care through Accreditation*[®] and represents more than 40 professional societies in developing standards for nine entities in medicine. The purpose of the research award is to gain insights into the accreditation process and its value to medicine and society.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit proposals advancing the IAC Research Committee's mission of *Strengthening Accreditation through Research*. For 2019, the IAC Research Committee will be awarding grants up to a maximum of \$75,000 (including institutional overhead). Awards are for one year, although continuation awards are possible. This application process initially involves a brief letter of intent, and if accepted, a subsequent full proposal submission.

I. 2019 Research Topic

For 2019, the IAC Research Committee is soliciting proposals investigating the IAC Quality Improvement (QI) Self-Assessment Tool (www.intersocietal.org/QITool). The committee will give preference to projects examining the impact or value of the QI Tool. **Topics outside this scope of interest are unlikely to receive funding.**

Proposals must be related to the primary objective of understanding the value of accreditation and related to at least one of the IAC Accreditation Programs (vascular imaging, echocardiography, nuclear medicine/PET, magnetic resonance, computed tomography, carotid stenting, vein center, cardiac electrophysiology and/or cardiovascular catheterization).

The proposal may not have been previously funded, nor a duplication of previous IAC research. Previously-funded IAC research proposals may be found at www.intersocietal.org/research/recipient.htm. Published IAC research can be found at www.intersocietal.org/research/manuscripts.htm and www.intersocietal.org/research/abstracts.htm.

Other potential topics that should be considered:

- a. Assessment of the impact of the QI Tool on accreditation on patient care, quality metrics, or other laboratory outcomes
- b. Characterization of differences between accredited and non-accredited facilities
- c. Assessment of the value of the QI Tool and the accreditation process
- d. Determination of the value or development of quality improvement projects

II. Application Procedure

There is a two-stage application process, letter of intent followed by a detailed proposal.

a. 2019 Submission Deadlines for Research Awards

Call for proposals:	March 1, 2019
Letter of Intent submission due date:	April 15, 2019
Notification of Letter of Intent decision:	May 15, 2019
Proposal submission:	July 1, 2019
Notification of awards:	October 2019

b. Proposal Guidelines

1. If needed, investigators with approved proposals will have access to the existing IAC database as part of their award. However, *only IAC data collected as part of the accreditation process will be available*. The research awardee cannot contact individual IAC laboratories, nor will individual facility names be supplied.
2. Submitted research proposals will be compared with ongoing IAC research projects to avoid duplication. The proposals will also be evaluated with regards to relevance to the IAC Research mission.

c. Letter of Intent

1. An initial Letter of Intent (maximum of two pages; single-spaced, at least 12-point font with one-inch margins) submitted as an Adobe PDF document must be received by research@intersocietal.org by midnight ET on April 15, 2019.
2. Letter of Intent Content Guidelines:
 - i. Project title
 - ii. Principal investigator and co-investigator(s)
 - iii. Principal investigator contact information including postal and e-mail addresses, telephone, and fax number
 - iv. Study objective
 - v. Hypothesis
 - vi. Study design
 - vii. Statistical analysis plan
 - viii. Estimated project budget
 - ix. A statement addressing how project advances IAC Research Committee's mission *Strengthening Accreditation through Research*. Specifically, proposals must be directly related to the accreditation process or demonstrate the effects of accreditation on the quality of patient care.
3. Submitted Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the IAC Research Committee, and the primary investigator will be notified of the decision.
 - i. All primary investigators will be emailed notification of the IAC Research Committee's decision by May 15, 2019.
 - ii. Research projects deemed to be meritorious and in support of the IAC Research Program mission will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal for funding consideration.
4. For questions or an IAC database variables list, please contact Mary Beth Farrell, MS, IAC Director of Research, at 800-838-2110 or e-mail research@intersocietal.org.

d. Detailed Proposal

1. The detailed study proposal (maximum of six pages; single-spaced, at least 12-point font with one-inch margins) in Adobe PDF format must be sent to research@intersocietal.org by midnight ET July 1, 2019. Applications that do not adhere to the guidelines below will not be considered.
2. Content
 - i. Title of the proposed project
 - ii. Abbreviated title (max 50 characters)
 - iii. Proposal abstract/summary (maximum 300 words)
 - iv. Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator(s), degrees, academic titles, and affiliations
 - v. Postal and e-mail addresses
 - vi. Telephone and fax numbers
 - vii. Study design including:
 - a. Specific aims
 - b. Background including significance and statement regarding how the proposed project is consistent with the IAC Research Committee's mission of "*Strengthening Accreditation through Research*."
 - c. Preliminary data (if any)

- d. A detailed explanation of proposed data elements required from the IAC database and IAC staff resources required, if applicable.
- e. Methods including statistical analysis
- f. Limitations
- g. References
- viii. Budget and budget justification
 - a. The submitted budget must be detailed and specific.
 - b. The budget may include salary with fringe support (maximum of 20% total budget request may be used for primary investigator salary). The budget may also include materials and supplies (including software and peripheral hardware, but not computer purchase), publication costs (limited to \$5,000), travel (limited to \$2,500), and expenses related to institutional review board submission.
 - c. Maximum of 10% institutional overhead
 - d. The following expenses will not be funded:
 - Construction/laboratory renovation costs
 - Tuition costs
 - Purchase of computer devices (software or peripheral hardware acceptable)
- ix. Requirements for institutional review board or, human subjects research committee review with a timeline for submission, if applicable
- x. Abbreviated curriculum vitae or NIH style biosketch (maximum two pages per investigator) for each investigator (ancillary materials)
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/biosketch.pdf>
- xi. Up to three supporting materials (reprints) in Adobe PDF format (ancillary materials)

III. Researchers' Responsibilities

- a. Award Milestones
 - i. Funds for 67% of the approved budget will be provided by December 31, 2019.
 - ii. Funds for 33% of the approved budget will be provided on study completion and upon submission of a manuscript related to the IAC research project to a peer-reviewed professional journal. Such manuscript submission is due by December 1, 2020.
- b. Signed contract/agreement
- c. Acknowledgment of IAC funding award support

All publications and presentations citing results from IAC-supported research must include an acknowledgment of IAC support and disclaimer. "This project was supported by an award from the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the IAC or the IAC Research Committee."
- d. During the period of the award, all meaningful budget changes must be approved in advance. A brief note describing the requested changes should be sent via e-mail research@intersocietal.org to the IAC Research Committee for approval.
- e. If the research project is not completed within the allocated 12 months, unfunded extensions will be granted if requested by December 1, 2020, to the IAC Research Committee at research@intersocietal.org.
- f. Competitive renewal for a second year is available but is not guaranteed and requires separate application following successful documentation of first-year efforts.