



2020 CHILDHOOD ECZEMA CHALLENGE GRANT Request for Proposals

Overview

Nearly 10 million U.S children under the age of 18 are affected by eczema, with one-third affected by moderate-to-severe disease. Despite recent therapeutic advances, the burdens on these patients, and their families, can be significant and many important research questions remain unanswered.

To address this need, the National Eczema Association (NEA) and the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) are collaborating to support targeted clinical research investigations focused on pediatric eczema with the **2020 Childhood Eczema Challenge Grant**. Through this grant NEA and PeDRA intend to accelerate research that improves the health and quality of life of pediatric eczema patients and their families.

Focus

This Challenge Grant is intended to stimulate early and mid-career scientists as they seek to build and sustain careers as research investigators and future thought leaders within this critical field of study. Research proposals should address at least one of the following priorities related to pediatric eczema:

- *Eczema Heterogeneity: Novel Insights*
Projects aimed at advancing understanding of the underlying factors contributing to the diversity of pediatric eczema clinical presentation, treatment response and comorbidities.
- *Innovations in Clinical Practice & Care*
Studies addressing approaches to facilitate optimal identification and treatment of pediatric eczema and associated comorbidities in all health care settings to enhance patient/caregiver-reported and patient/caregiver-centric outcomes.
- *Understanding & Alleviating Disease Burden*
Insightful proposals that identify, quantify or aim to reduce aspects of pediatric eczema burden that negatively affect patient or family/caregiver quality of life (including lifestyle, academic, occupational, or economic impacts) based on patient population, treatment approach, etc.
- *Eczema Prevention*
Novel investigations into the potential risk factors and strategies of primary eczema prevention in the pediatric population.

Priority will be given to proposals that focus on clinical or translational research. Proposals that include basic research will be accepted, however they should be combined with a significant clinical or translational component. Proposals related to the development or enhancement of electronic health technologies will not be accepted.

Number of Awards

One (1) Challenge Grant is available for the 2020 funding cycle. This is a one-year non-renewable grant, with an expected start date of August 1, 2020.

Eligibility

Early and mid-career investigators (Associate Professor level or below and within 15 years of finishing training) are eligible to apply. Applicants need not be trained in pediatric dermatology but must hold the degree of MD and/or PhD and be eligible to apply for grants under the guidelines of their host institution. Applications may be submitted by either a single investigator or multiple investigators at multiple institutions. Applicants need not be United States citizens and the research need not be conducted in the United States. Applicants may not hold current R-level funding from NIH (or equivalent) as PI or Co-PI, however recipients of past or current NEA and/or PeDRA grants are eligible to apply.

Budget

Applicants may request up to **\$50,000 (direct costs only)**. Indirect costs are not allowed. Salary and fringe benefit support is allowed. Staff salary support should be commensurate with the percent effort dedicated to the project and explained in budget justification. PI salary support must adhere to the current allowable NIH salary cap: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm.

Application

Applications to 2020 Childhood Eczema Challenge Grant must be submitted through the online portal (https://webportalapp.com/appform/pedra_nea_challengegrant) and will include the following:

- Investigator(s), Institution, and Project Information (*fillable form*)
- Abstract (*250 word maximum*)
- Layman's Summary (*150 word maximum*)
- Cover Letter (*2-page maximum*)
- Research Proposal (*7-page maximum, including references*)
- Budget (*2-page maximum*) – NIH format with brief justification
- Biosketches (*5-page maximum per biosketch*) – NIH format for PI and any Co-I's.
- Letter(s) of Support - Letters of support are encouraged from mentors and collaborators. Fellows, postdocs, and other trainees must provide at least one letter from their mentor or supervisor.

Important Dates

Application deadline:	5:00PM PDT, Friday, May 1, 2020
Awards made:	June 30, 2020
Earliest start date:	August 1, 2020

Questions

Email grants@nationaleczema.org or katherine.devenport@pedraresearch.org for additional information or with any questions on the Challenge Grant, application, or review process.

About the National Eczema Association (NEA)

Founded in 1988, the NEA is the largest, 501(c)(3) non-profit, US patient advocacy organization serving people affected by eczema. NEA's mission is to improve the health and quality of life for individuals with eczema through research, support, and education.

About the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA)

Formed in 2012, the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) is a nonprofit research network with the mission to create, inspire, and sustain research to prevent, treat, and cure childhood skin disease.