

KAUL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Background:

The Boards of Trustees of The Children's Hospital of Alabama and Alabama Children's Hospital Foundation ("Children's") established Kaul Pediatric Research Institute ("KPRI") as a component of the Alabama Children's Hospital Foundation for the purpose of promoting the research and education missions of the Hospital, with the ultimate goal of improving child health.

Grants from Kaul Pediatric Research Institute:

The major goal of the KPRI grant program is to allow investigators to obtain data that will advantage applications for additional extramural funding. This will bring new knowledge to the care of children, leverage the investment of the KPRI and allow projects to be competitive for the very best science on the national stage. A second, but important goal is to ensure that a dedicated funding source is available to unique segments of the pediatric research, education and quality improvement enterprise.

KPRI annually grants funds for basic, translational, clinical or outcomes research. There are two categories of grants: Established Investigator Awards and New Investigator Awards. All funded applications will be directed toward the improvement of child health care.

The significance of all efforts must be readily apparent. For clinical trials, multi-center studies will not be considered. Grant funds are designated for direct costs only and do not include an indirect cost component.

Eligibility:

Established Investigator Award: All members of Children's medical staff and full-time UAB faculty in a pediatric discipline who are established investigators and who have not worked under a KPRI grant for a period of at least one year are eligible to apply. An established investigator is generally considered someone with prior independent funding from the NIH or an equivalent agency. To be considered for an Established Investigator Award, an entirely new area of investigation, different from an applicant's current line of investigation, must be proposed as well as a plan to use the data obtained for extramural funding. Applicants must have a track record of prior productivity in contributions to the peer reviewed literature and extramural support will be considered.

New Investigator Award: All members of Children's medical staff and full-time UAB faculty in a pediatric discipline or non-faculty employees of Children's of Alabama, who have not worked under a KPRI grant for a period of at least one year, and are not Established Investigators, are eligible to apply. New investigators are generally those without current or past NIH support at the R01 level. K08 and K23 recipients as well as recipients of other career development

awards are eligible to apply. Those still in fellowship training are not eligible unless they have a faculty appointment at UAB beginning within 6 months of the start date of the award. Applicants must have a plan to use the data obtained for extramural funding. Applicants must have a Mentor and must provide a letter of support and a mentoring plan from the Mentor.

Award Process:

Applications must be electronically submitted by **4:30 PM September 30, 2026** to mary.tubbs@childrensal.org. Late applications will not be considered. Applications must comply with a standardized format (see attached application package) for the application to be reviewed. All applications will be peer reviewed (see below), and the Scientific Review Committee will make funding recommendations to the Executive Committee of KPRI for final approval.

Established Investigator Awards: Up to two awards will be funded, one named in honor of Dr. Sergio Stagno and one named in memory of Dr. Rud Polhill, at an amount of \$60,000 per year each for a maximum of two years. Funding of the second year of the award will be contingent upon acceptable progress during the first year. Application for extramural funding will be expected during or prior to the second year of the award. It is the expectation that successful awardees will accomplish the goals of their proposal within two years. Only in well-justified circumstances will no-cost extensions be granted beyond the second year. Grant amounts are designated for direct costs only. Indirect costs are not covered under this grant application. Salary support for the PI is not covered, but co-investigator support will be considered if appropriate. Unexpended funds will be returned to the KPRI.

New Investigator Award: Up to five awards will be funded, at an amount of \$40,000 per year each for a maximum of two years. Funding of the second year of the award will be contingent upon acceptable progress during the first year. Application for extramural funding will be expected during or prior to the second year of the award. It is the expectation that successful awardees will accomplish the goals of their proposal within two years. Only in well-justified circumstances will no-cost extensions be granted beyond the second year. Grant amounts are designated for direct costs only. Indirect costs are not covered under this grant application. Salary support for the PI is not covered, but co-investigator support will be considered if appropriate. Unexpended funds will be returned to the KPRI.

Only one KPRI application per PI is permitted in a funding cycle.

Funding Cycle Time Line:

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| a. September 30 | Grant applications due |
| b. December 1 | Peer reviews complete |
| c. January 30 | KPRI Recipients selected/Board approved |
| d. February 16 | Funding initiated |

Review Process:

All acceptable applications will be peer reviewed. Reviewers will be considered to have expertise in the area of each grant reviewed. If experts are not available at Children's or UAB, applications will be sent to outside reviewers for peer review. The review process will follow that of the National Institutes of Health, whereby there will be one primary and two secondary reviewers. Formal reviews will be written on each application and the critique returned to the investigator within a reasonable period of time after the review process has been conducted. Applications will be evaluated according to the NIH scoring system. Each application will be evaluated for Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigator and Overall. Applicants are encouraged to submit the names and contact information for three potential peer reviewers.

An appointed Scientific Review Committee will review all applications prior to making funding decisions and will review all applications for consistency of the peer review. Committee members will not peer review applications from collaborators and/or members of the same division.

Grant Format: (forms are in the KPRI Forms and Instructions 2027 document)

1. Face page (use form)
2. Project Summary, Relevance, Suggested Reviewers, Key Personnel (use form)
3. Table of Contents (use form)
4. Budget for Year One (use form)
5. Budget Justification (use form)
6. Biographical Sketch(es) (use pre-May 8, 2026 instructions and NIH format page found here:
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
7. Research Plan
8. Human Subjects (If applicable. Any protocol which utilizes human volunteers/patients must submit UAB-IRB human subjects approval before funds are released)
9. Vertebrate Animals (If applicable. Any protocol that utilizes animals must have UAB-IACUC before funds are released.
10. Literature Cited
11. Long-term Goals of the Research
12. Letters (*see application packet for instructions)

Use of Children's of Alabama (COA) Resources

- If you will need IT resources from COA, please obtain a letter of commitment from Eric Brown (eric.brown@childrensal.org). To obtain this letter, you must consult with Eric Brown by **September 15, 2026**.
- If you will need other resources from COA (not IT-related), please obtain a letter of commitment from the Department Director. To obtain this letter, you must consult with Dawn Walton by **September 15, 2026**.