



**American Association of Nurse  
Anesthetists Foundation**

**Research Grant  
Online Application  
Guidelines and  
Instructions**

**American Association of Nurse Anesthetists Foundation**  
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Phone: 847-655-1170

## Types of Grants

One of the goals of the AANA Foundation in support of research and researchers in the field of nurse anesthesia is to fund new and seasoned investigators. All types of grants are eligible, including seed grants and pilot studies.

**Deadline: March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31**

1. **General Research**
2. **Dedicated Research: Veterans Administration Research, Steve Mund Research, Office Based Research, Art Zwerling Research**

| <b>Name of Research Grant:</b>                  | <b>Eligibility Criteria</b>   | <b>Funding:</b>                                   |
|---|---|---|
| General Research Grant                          | CRNA in good standing and must be a member of the AANA  | Funding varies                                    |
| Veterans Administration Research Grant          | 1. VA Employee<br>2. AANA member, either a resident or CRNA<br>3. Conducting nurse anesthesia research that will benefit the VA population  | \$2,000   |
| Steve Mund Research Grant                       | CRNA in good standing and must be a member of the AANA. Funds will be used for research relating to veterans' mental health including PTSD and/or suicide.  | Funding varies                                    |
| Office Based Research Grant                     | CRNA in good standing and must be a member of the AANA. Funds will be used to conduct research regarding issues that focus on anesthesia in the office base settings.                                       | A little less than \$5,000 is currently available |
| Art Zwerling Grant                              | CRNA in good standing and must be a member of the AANA. Funds will be used for research in wellness, pain management, and peer assistance/substance use disorder.   | Funding varies                                    |
| Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Research | CRNA in good standing and must be a member of the AANA. Funds will be used for research that furthers the Foundation's goals of gaining knowledge and fostering DEI values within the anesthesia community. | Funding varies                                    |

## Research Funding Priorities

The mission of the AANA Foundation is to advance the science of anesthesia through education and research. Describing the impact of the research is the most important segment in the application.

The AANA Foundation will give funding priority to the following areas:

- Healthcare policy
- Science of anesthesia
- Education
- Practice/Clinical
- Leadership
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

**Introduction:**

Funds for research support vary from year to year. For example, funds given out in one recent fiscal year varied from \$18,300 to \$75,000 per proposal. Given limited resources, available fund disbursement follows a competitive review process.

Institutional Review Board and/or Human Subjects Review Committee approval must be submitted or evidence of submission for approval and proof of receipt of approval must be on file **before** funds are released. Funds will not be released until the review process is completed and all necessary documentation is provided. IRB OR IACUC approval is **not required** for the application, but it must be submitted prior to disbursement of monies. **NOTE: Award recipients MUST provide IRB/IACUC approval or exemption documentation (or attestation that IRB is not applicable) within 12 months of award notification if it is not included with the online application. (We will notify all applicants of award status within three months after the application's submission deadline.)**

Funds will be disbursed to the individual, program department or other institution funding account. Any unused funds must be returned to the AANA Foundation. All applicants must review the [ordering of credentials](#) prior to completing the online application. All applicants must view these two research preparation webinars ([HSR Webinar #1](#) and [#2](#)) prior to completing the online application.

### **Grants:**

These guidelines are provided to assist CRNAs who seek funding to conduct proposed research. Preference will be given to proposals that follow the research funding priorities. General and dedicated research grant deadline dates: *March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31.*

### **Criteria for Selection:**

- 1) CRNA in good standing
- 2) AANA member

### **Review Process for Grants:**

1. Members of the AANA Foundation Research Committee will use a standardized evaluation form to review the proposal. Typically this consists of 3 reviewers. The process to review grants is as follows:
  - a. Reviewers score the core criteria and the impact and generate the bullet comments and additional review elements prior to a group discussion.
  - b. A conference call format is used for the review:
    - i. Preliminary scores given by 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reviewers
    - ii. Primary reviewer presents the grant
      1. Brief description of the grant
      2. Reviews the strengths and weaknesses
    - iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> reviewer provides additional comments
    - iv. Discussion to address any disagreement
      1. Not required to reach a consensus
    - v. Final scores from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reviewer
    - vi. A decision is made to:
      1. support or not support the proposal
      2. if there is support for the proposal, a recommendation to fund the proposal is made to the Professional Development Committee
2. The evaluation form is returned with scores and comments, and funding recommendations are forwarded from the Professional Development Committee of the AANA Foundation Board.
3. Recommendations are compiled and forwarded to the Foundation Board. The Board then discusses the evaluation summary, and by majority vote, decides whether to support and/or fund the research. Proposals may be fully or partially funded based on the proposed budgets and expense justification.

4. The applicant is notified of the Board's decision via e-mail, formal letter and/or telephone call within three months of application deadline.
5. If the proposal is funded, the applicant must complete documentation such as an "Applicant Statement" form and a W-9 to receive funding and sign a research ethics agreement statement.

**Application Process:**

- 1) Complete the grant application online.  
Please note that the application must be completed online.
- 2) Submit a completed proposal adhering to all guidelines outlined in this instructions document.

**Do NOT send a hard copy of the application.** For assistance in completing the online application, please contact the Foundation at [foundation@aana.com](mailto:foundation@aana.com) or 847-655-1170.

|                        |
|------------------------|
| <b>Proposal Format</b> |
|------------------------|

**Funding Rationale is required:**

Please tell us why the AANA Foundation should fund your project (500 character (not word) maximum, including spaces). NOTE: This is the most important question on the application.

**I. Title**

The title of the grant proposal is limited to 100 characters.

**II. Specific Aims (Limited to 1 page)**

The specific aims page should stand alone and is the most important single page of your proposal. It should briefly address the background, significance, innovation and impact of the work which will be elaborated in more detail in sections to follow. This page should contain a brief summary of the nature and significance of the problem, how you specifically intend to address the problem and the global impact of solving the problem. As such you should identify the problem, speak to what has been done to solve the problem, why it has been insufficient and what you are going to do to solve the problem. This discussion should be followed by a clear and concise statement of the specific aims and related hypotheses if the study is hypothesis driven. The specific aims are short, concise statements of what you intend to do to solve the problem. Consider whether your stated specific aims are logical and achievable and follow from and test your hypotheses. The study methods to be discussed in the Approach section should support your specific aims. Complete the specific aims page with a brief statement of why the work is innovative and the potential impact of the work on the profession. This section is limited to 5000 characters.

**III. Research Strategy (Limited to 6 pages)**

The research strategy section contains 5 subsections including Significance, Innovation, Approach, Investigator and Environment. Use these subheadings to organize this section of the proposal. These subsections replace the more familiar Background and Significance and Research Design and Methods sections formerly used. Reviewers will score each of the 5 Research Strategy subsections and in addition will provide an overall impact score. Details of what should be included in each subsection follow. A suggested proportion (%) that each subsection contributes to the total Research Strategy page limit of 6 pages is provided in the discussion of each subsection. The research strategy section is limited to a total of 48,000 characters for subsections A through E.

**A. Significance (25% of the Research Strategy Section) (Maximum Length: 7,500 characters, including spaces)**

Begin this section by providing the context of what is already known in the area of inquiry and what the challenges are with a brief, clear, and concise background discussion supported by a literature review. Follow this discussion by addressing the importance of the problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposal addresses. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability and/or clinical practice in the field of nurse anesthesia. Assume that your approach to the problem will lead to successful completion of the specific aims (even if you identify potential pitfalls of the methods in the approach section) and describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive the field of anesthesia will be changed. Discuss the overall impact of the study. The overall impact refers to the likelihood that the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the specialty of nurse anesthesia. The goal in this subsection is to answer the “so what” question with respect to the planned investigation.

**B. Innovation (15% of the Research Strategy Section) (Maximum Length: 3,000 characters, including spaces)**

Describe what is innovative about the proposed investigation and why it is innovative. Address how the work challenges and/or seeks to shift the current research or clinical practice paradigms. Discuss any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Lastly, make it clear what is new and cutting-edge about the approach to the problem.

**C. Approach (50% of the Research Strategy Section) (Maximum Length: 30,000 characters, including spaces)**

Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. The strategy, methodology and analysis should be directly traceable to your specific aims and hypotheses. If you have performed preliminary studies, have study data, and/or experience pertinent to the application discuss this information in this section under a subheading titled, “Preliminary Studies.” You may use subheadings in the Approach section such as Design, Methods, Sample, Setting, Intervention, Variables, Procedures and/or Analysis Plan. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies and benchmarks for success with respect to achieving the specific aims. Establish the feasibility of the work and how you will manage any high-risk aspects of the study particularly those related to use of human subjects.

**D. Investigators (5% of the Research Strategy Section) (Maximum Length: 2,000 characters, including spaces)**

Discuss how the principal investigator, collaborators and other researchers are well suited to the proposed project. If you are a new or early-stage investigator discuss the training/experience you possess that is applicable to the study. If you are an established investigator speak to your record of accomplishment in the field of study. If the project involves a collaborative effort address the complimentary and integrated expertise of the investigators as it relates to the proposal.

**E. Environment (5% of the Research Strategy Section) (Maximum Length: 2,000 characters, including spaces)**

Describe how the environment in which the study will be performed contributes to the probability of successful completion. Demonstrate that the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available are adequate for the project proposed. If appropriate discuss how the project will benefit from unique features of the environment, subject population or collaborative arrangements.

**IV. Biographical Sketch of Key Researchers**

Describe the Key Researchers qualifications and attributes for this research. This section is limited to 1000 characters, including spaces.

**V. References**

Attach a Word or Excel document in the online application. There is no character limit for the attachment.

## VI. Timeline

Illustrate a timeline – including the estimated protocol completion and abstract/manuscript submission dates. Attach a word or excel document in the online application. There is no character limit for the attachment.

**VII. Budget** - List and *justify* individual items. Be as specific as possible. Equipment such as computers will not be funded. According to Foundation policy, the primary researcher's salary and/or benefits will not be funded. *The AANA Foundation funds up to 15% indirect costs; the funding ceiling is inclusive of the indirect costs.* A budget must be supplied (an estimate will suffice if a final version is not feasible) using the template provided within the application.

## VIII. Appendices

Upload the following documents in Word, Excel, PDF or JPEG format to the online application.

**a. Required:**

1. Applicant's CV
2. Biographical Sketch 1000 character limit, including spaces
3. CV(s) of Co-Investigators

**b. Optional: (Word, Excel or PDF)**

1. Picture of Applicant (JPEG format) to be used in future promotional purposes if selected for an award
2. Examples of other Optional Appendices might include the following:
  - i. Investigational Review Board (IRB OR IACUC) approval sheet or institutional waiver or evidence approval is pending. (Proposals may be considered if IRB OR IACUC approval is pending. Funds will not be released until approval is received.)
  - ii. A copy of the instructions from a commercial radioimmunoassay kit.
  - iii. A copy of the research instrument (for surveys, questionnaires, etc., or data collection tool).
  - iv. A copy of a letter from any individuals and/or departments providing support for the proposed research.

### Grant Application Affirmation and Submission Page

Prior to submitting your online application, you will need to affirm the following:

I believe myself eligible for and hereby make application to receive the research grant administered by the AANA Foundation. I certify that all statements made in this application are complete and accurate. I understand that:

- Falsification in my application or other attachments will disqualify my application.
- Failure to follow all instructions of this application will render my application incomplete.
- The AANA Foundation Professional Development Committee recommends candidates to the AANA Foundation Board of Trustees for selection. The decision of the Board of Trustees will be final.

If I am selected as a research grant recipient, I agree to the following:



- Release of my name, address and telephone number to the research grant sponsor.
- Use of my name, photo and interview comments.
- Submission of a progress report to the AANA Foundation every 12 months. Failure to submit a progress report will result in a request for the funding to be returned.
- Abide by all scientific and ethical principles in research.
- Upon completion of this research project, I will submit an abstract for general poster or oral poster presentation at an AANA meeting, with manuscript submission for publication in a peer reviewed journal such as the *AANA Journal*.
- AANA Foundation support for the research will be acknowledged in each presentation and publication. The following statement must be included:

*"This research has been supported fully or in-part by the AANA Foundation."*

You will be required to type your name in the online field to affirm the previous statements and click submit to send your application.

Thank you for applying for an AANA Foundation Research Grant. For assistance in completing the online application, please contact the Foundation at 847-655-1170 or [foundation@aana.com](mailto:foundation@aana.com).