

Society for Comparative Endocrinology Jack Oliver Graduate Research Award

General Information

The Society for Comparative Endocrinology (SCE) requests proposals for funding research projects conducted by graduate students/residents in the field of veterinary endocrinology. The aims of the SCE are to promote understanding and research in veterinary endocrinology and to develop research skills and professional interest in endocrinology among graduate students and residents.

The award will be in the amount of US\$5,000 (plus US\$2,000 available for travel to present results) and the expectation is that the researcher will present their findings at the ACVIM Forum. A final report must be submitted within 2-years of the date of successful award notification.

To successfully submit an application, please prepare a full proposal according to the guidelines below.

The full proposal must be converted to 2 PDF documents that do not exceed 5 MB and it must be received no later than 11:59 PM EST on the designated due date. The first document should contain Parts I thru III and have a relevant filename. The second document should include Part IV with “_applicants” added to the file name; e.g. “HyperT4Tx.pdf” and “HyperT4Tx_applicants.pdf”. Once your application is submitted, it cannot be changed.

Proposals should be designed to convince the reviewers that the applicant clearly understands the problem to be studied, has the expertise to conduct the study, has devised a logical scientific approach for the species to be studied and is proposing a study that is relevant to SCE’s aims. Initial review of the proposal will be limited to this section and only if sufficient relevance and scientific merit is apparent will the remainder of the proposal document be reviewed.

Project designs using animal models oriented toward human disease are not appropriate.

Qualifications of Graduate Student/Resident: Applicants with a veterinary degree (DVM, BVSc, BVMS etc) are preferred, but exceptional non-veterinary graduate students could be considered.

***For the 2011/12 round electronic submissions should be made to
grants.sce@gmail.com; closing date for applications is
December 23rd 2011.***

Proposal Guidelines:

Format:

This proposal should be written on 8.5 x 11 inch (US Letter) page settings paper with a minimum of 1 inch margins; single-spaced using no smaller than an 11-point font (Times Times New Roman or Arial font preferred) and is page limited where noted. The order of the written proposal should follow the outline described below (including use of

the outline numbering and headings). Answer the questions individually, and if any of the questions are not applicable, indicate this with "N/A".

Do not include extra information not requested in the guidelines (articles, extra pages of figures, extra letters, reports etc). Figures, tables and graphics must be included in the "Study Proposal" page limit below and must be readable. Anything extra added to the proposal will not be reviewed.

Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory and failure to do so will result in disqualification (page limits will be strictly enforced).

I. Title and Abstract (one-page limit):

This page should only contain the project title and a scientific abstract describing the research project and its relevance to SCE's aims. Abstracts will be scored on the relevance of the research question to the SCE, the scientific merit of the proposed experimental approach, and the potential impact of research findings on animal health. Initial review of the proposal will be limited to this section and only if sufficient relevance and scientific merit is apparent will the remainder of the proposal document be reviewed.

Abstracts should not contain information that identifies the investigators or the institution and must use the following headings:

Title: (limit of 100 characters, including spaces- do not use "ALL CAPS")

Subject: (What is the project about? What is the target population?)

Significance: (Why is the project being done? Why is it relevant to SCE?)

Hypothesis/Objectives: (Clearly state the hypothesis to be tested, study objectives or both.)

Study Design: (Describe the study design and methods to be used.)

Budget and Timeline: (Project costs/year and duration in years.)

Expected Results: (What types of findings or results will be produced?)

Anticipated Outcomes: (How and to whom will these expected results be useful?)

Potential Impact for Animal Health: (How will this advance veterinary endocrinology and animal health?)

II. Study Proposal (5-page limit):

1. **Specific, Testable Hypothesis and Objectives:** Please be precise and enumerate. Feasibility and realistic expectations of objectives are paramount. Overly ambitious objectives, relative to either time span or scope, will be penalized.

2. **Justification, Significance and Literature Review:** Include relevance to animal owners and veterinarians as well as applicable breeds or species. The literature review should indicate current status of research in the area, including the investigator's contributions.

3. **Preliminary Data:** Preliminary data that support the proposal will substantially strengthen your proposal. Indicating that preliminary data exist is not sufficient. Also, state here whether this proposal is a continuation/next phase of a previous or current otherwise funded research.

4. **Experimental Methods and Design:**

- Clearly address specific objectives.

- Be precise about experimental design, number of animals, treatments, sampling schedules, expected outcome, etc.
- For each specific aim, provide a rationale for experimental methods and design. Add a section on expected outcomes, pitfalls and alternative approaches.
- Justify any clinical trial numbers that are cited.
- It is highly recommended that a statistician be consulted during the design of the study. A thorough description of data analysis must be included in the methods section, including sample size calculations. For power analysis, describe how it was performed and reference the data used for assumptions in the analysis.
- Technical terminology should be defined on first usage; acronyms and abbreviations may be used subsequently.
- Applicants using client-owned animals must document that the institutional caseload is adequate to provide the number of animals per year needed to complete the study as proposed.
- For drug studies, confirm the availability of the drug and the support of the manufacturer, if applicable. If the proposal involves the use of a new or newly applied pharmaceutical, justification of the dose and dosing schema is required.

5. **Timeline:** Indicate sequence and schedule of experiments for the total project as well as duration of project. You do not need to schedule time for publication, but you should include sufficient time to complete data analysis as it must be included in the final report. The final report must be received within 2-years of the date of award notification.

6. **Ethical Approval:** Indicate whether your institution requires ethical approval for the proposed work and whether approval has been granted.

7. **References:** Include article titles, all authors and reference to all publications cited.

III. Budget (one-page limit):

Detail the financial request for personnel, equipment, supplies, and use of animals, providing justification for each. *The society for Comparative Endocrinology does not pay institutional direct costs.*

IV. Investigator Biographical Data (one-page limit):

For each individual (fellow, mentor and co-investigator(s)) provide the following information:

- Name and degree qualifications
- Role (co-investigator, advisor etc) on this project
- Current position (title, name, and address of institution)
- Up to 5 selected peer-reviewed publications (include titles, all authors, and complete reference)