

SOCCA INNOVATORS AWARD 2025 Full Proposal Guidelines

NOTE: Failure to comply with the formatting and page length requirements outlined will lead to exclusion from the application process.

Proposal Narrative Content and Guidelines

This section is adapted from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Grant Application Instructions (PHS 398).

Begin each section of the Proposal Narrative with a section header (e.g., Introduction, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, etc.).

- **Introduction and Specific Aims** (Limit: 1 page)
 - State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.
 - List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

- **Research Strategy** (Limit: 6 pages)
 - **Significance**
 - Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses, including relevance to Critical Care Anesthesiology.
 - Explain how the proposed project will introduce a new device or technique, change clinical practice or improve patient outcomes.
 - Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved, and how immediate the impact will be.
 - **Innovation**
 - Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
 - Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s) to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation or intervention(s).
 - Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions.
 - **Approach**
 - Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Indicate how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted, as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
 - Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
 - Describe the final product of the project and how it would be implemented.
 - If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work.
 - May include preliminary studies.

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- Discuss the PI's preliminary studies, data, and/or experience pertinent to this application.

- **Bibliography and References Cited** (No page limit)
 - Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Proposal Narrative.
 - Each reference must include names of all authors (in the same sequence in which they appear in the publication), the article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.
 - Follow scholarly practices in providing citations for source materials relied upon in preparing any section of the application.
 - References should be limited to relevant and current literature that is pertinent to the proposed research.

- **Rigor and Transparency Requirements**
 - In the planning process, investigators will need to consider how to address the basic principles of rigor and transparency and include how the following four areas of focus apply to their proposed research.
 - Scientific Premise: Applicants must ensure that there are key data to justify the premise for the project.
 - Scientific Rigor: The applicant must provide a rigorous plan for innovation development, testing and implementation.
 - Consideration of Relevant Biological Variables: Applicant must address relevant critical biological variables, such as sex, age, source, weight, genetic strain.
 - Authentication of Key Resources (not score-able): Applicants should include a brief description of resources that are integral for the proposed project, for example hardware, software, cell lines, specialty chemicals and biologics.

Formatting Guidelines for Attachments

- **Font:** Use an Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 point or larger.
- **Margins:** Page margins should be no less than 0.5 inch on each side for all pages. Template margins may be altered within these specifications.
- **Spacing:** Single-spaced text is acceptable. Space between paragraphs is recommended.
- **Page numbering:** The Proposal Narrative must be numbered consecutively. Do not use suffixes (e.g.5a, 5b).
- **Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, Charts, Tables, Figures Legends, and Footnotes:** Text must be readily legible. Font size of 9 point or larger is recommended.
- **Grantmanship:** Use English and avoid jargon. If terms are not universally known, spell out the term the first time it is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parenthesis; the abbreviation may be used thereafter.

Inquiries

Inquiries about the guidelines should be directed to info@socca.org.

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