

**Pichichero Family Foundation  
Research Award in Pediatric Infectious Diseases  
Request for Proposals**

Established in 2016, the Pichichero Family Foundation Research Awards in Pediatric Infectious Diseases support outstanding investigators performing translational or clinical research focused on pediatric infectious diseases. Specifically, the awards prioritize research involving vaccine development or that expands our knowledge of pathogenesis and moves the field towards the development of new vaccines and therapeutics. One- to two-year grants are available for applicants at any level in their professional career and all members of PIDS are encouraged to apply. Applications by members of sister pediatric infectious disease societies (e.g. ESPID, SLIPE, ASPID, WSPID, AfSPID and ANZPID) will also be enthusiastically accepted and considered as long as the applicant is also a member of PIDS.

The awards are administered through the PIDS Foundation.

**Scope of Work:** The award is intended to support translational and clinical research involving vaccine development and/or pathogenesis or host-pathogen interaction moves the field towards the development of new vaccines and therapeutics. Studies of new uses of existing vaccines (e.g., use in a special population) may also be considered; however, preference will be made for studies that advance new knowledge, new insights into vaccine and immunotherapeutic development, pathogenesis and host-pathogen interactions. Research proposals that focus principally on disease surveillance or vaccine attitudes/hesitancy are unlikely to be funded.

**Support:** The Research Award provides \$50,000 in total costs (inclusive of 8% indirect costs) per year for up to 2 years, with renewal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year dependent upon satisfactory research progress. The award may be used at the discretion of the applicant, including salary support, purchase of small equipment, technical support, or research supplies.

**Eligibility:** Pediatric infectious diseases physicians and scientists (MD and/or PhD) are encouraged to apply. All applicants must be members of PIDS. Established investigators should provide evidence for how the proposed work represents a new direction that is not currently or previously funded.

**Scientific/Financial Overlap:** This award is intended for research projects that are not currently funded by the NIH or other funding agencies. Candidates currently funded through a career development award (e.g., K08 or K23) or other awards may apply for the Pichichero Foundation award provided that no scientific overlap exists between funded or submitted applications to other funding sources.

**Application Process:** There are **two pathways** for submission.

1. **Original Applications:** The bulleted items listed below should be compiled as a single PDF in the sequence provided and should use at least 11-point type; Arial, Helvetica, or Times New Roman font; no less than 0.5-inch margins; and at least single spaced.
  - a. Title page, inclusive of
    - i. Project Title
    - ii. Principal Investigator
    - iii. Institution
  - b. Abstract (approximately 1/2 page)

- c. Specific Aims (approximately 1 page)
- d. Research Strategy (no more than 6 pages), that includes specific sections of:
  - i. Significance
  - ii. Innovation
  - iii. Approach
- e. References (not included in page limit)
- f. [Other Support](#), including currently funded and pending projects
- g. Applicant's Biosketch, using the [current NIH format](#) (maximum 5 pages)
- h. Up to 3 published manuscripts that highlight the applicant's most significant work.
- i. Due date: Original applications will be received twice per year on January 15 and July 15.

**2. Repurposed Applications:** Alternatively, investigators who have submitted a research proposal to NIH (e.g., K08, K23, R03, R21, R01) or CDC that has been discussed and scored although outside the funding range may submit the following materials for consideration:

- a. Title page, inclusive of
  - i. Project Title
  - ii. Principal Investigator
  - iii. Institution
- b. Abstract, Specific Aims, Research Strategy, and References as originally submitted
- c. Reviewer Comments, as provided in eRA commons
- d. Brief response to reviewer comments (1 page)
- e. [Other Support](#), including currently funded and pending projects
- f. Applicant's Biosketch, using the [current NIH format](#) (maximum 5 pages)
- g. Due date: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, though we anticipate receiving applications three times per year, in alignment with typical study section reviews.

**Selection:** Awards will be based on the quality of the research proposal. The goal is to identify individuals who show promise for future contributions that will lead to new insights into the development of vaccines and therapeutics designed to prevent or treat infections in children or studies of pathogenesis or host/pathogen interactions that moves the field towards the development of new vaccines and therapeutics.

Applications will be reviewed by the PIDS Research Affairs Committee, who will select the most competitive applications.

1. For original applications, reviewers will use [standard NIH scoring](#) (ranging 1-9, with 1 as the best score) and assign an overall impact score to each application. If sufficient expertise relevant to the application is not available on the Committee, *ad hoc* members may also be identified. The Committee will forward the top-scoring applications to the Pichichero Family Foundation Board of Directors, who will then select the top applications for funding approval.
2. For repurposed applications, the committee will evaluate the study section's comments, the response to reviewers, and the research design. Applications that were scored within 2x the payline (e.g., <28<sup>th</sup> percentile, if the payline is 14<sup>th</sup> percentile) will be considered highly competitive for funding.

Questions related to the application process can be addressed to Ms. Christy Phillips at (703) 299-6764 or [pids@idsociety.org](mailto:pids@idsociety.org)

**All completed materials should be sent as a single PDF to:**

Christy Phillips, Executive Director  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society  
[pids@idsociety.org](mailto:pids@idsociety.org)

**Additional Items for Consideration**

**Progress Reports:** Recipients of the Pichichero Family Foundation Research Award in Pediatric Infectious Diseases must submit a two-page progress report at the end of the first year of funding. The progress report should include a brief summary of the research progress to date and, if pertinent, description of major changes to the research project. The progress report should also include a discussion on whether additional funding for the project, from other sources, is anticipated. A final report and copies of all publications relevant to the recipient's research will be due within 90 days of completion of the award. Progress reports will be evaluated by the PIDS Research Affairs Committee.

**Financial:** The Financial Office at the recipient's institution must maintain an account for the award, and this account must be available for annual audit by PIDS representatives. At the end of each year of funding, a final financial report should be forwarded to PIDS. Unexpended balances may be carried over from the first year to the second.

**Publications:** Publications (including abstracts of presentations at scientific or clinical meetings) resulting from the award must carry the following acknowledgement:

*"Name of Awardee is a recipient of the Pichichero Family Foundation Research Award in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, sponsored by the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society Foundation."*

**Terms of the Award:** All awards are made to the awardee's sponsoring institution for the support of the designated applicant. The Pichichero Family Foundation Research Award is intended to allow the awardee suitable protected time for research.