



# THE NEURORADIOLOGY EDUCATION AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## **PROSPECTUS:**

### ***NER Foundation Comparative Effectiveness Research Award***

## **AWARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

### **PURPOSE**

The Neuroradiology Education & Research Foundation Comparative Effectiveness Research Award in Neuroradiology was created to support investigators in the generation and synthesis of evidence that compares the benefits and harms of alternative methods to prevent, diagnose, treat and monitor a clinical condition, or to improve the delivery of care. The purpose of this award is to assist clinicians, patients, purchasers, and policy makers to make informed decisions that will improve health care at both the individual and population levels. Comparative effectiveness research (CER) is the direct comparison of potentially effective interventions AND their study in patients who are typical of day-to-day clinical care. By including these key elements in the study design, the findings and conclusion of the research will be valuable information to decision makers. Furthermore, research designed to identify the clinical characteristics that predict which intervention would be most successful in an individual patient represents another important element of comparative effectiveness research - the identification of subpopulations of patients that are more likely to benefit from one intervention than the other. Neuroradiologists must be leaders in the development of new imaging technologies and image-guided procedures, as well as in assessment of the roles of these technologies and procedures in the care of patients.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

A candidate must have a M.D. or D.O. degree, and must be board-certified or board-eligible in Radiology by either the American Board of Radiology or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RSPSC). A candidate must have completed a residency in diagnostic Radiology, and at least one year in an ACGME- approved fellowship in Neuroradiology or currently enrolled in an ACGME-approved fellowship in Neuroradiology during the award period.

While under the auspices of the NER Foundation Comparative Effectiveness Research Award, the candidate must be in an approved fellowship program, or be serving as a faculty member in an approved Neuroradiology program. The candidate must be an ASNR Member in good standing.

### **RESEARCH AWARD ACTIVITIES**

Allocation of award resources (percent of effort, support of other individuals, and other costs) is left to the discretion of the investigator, who is required to submit a line-item budget with the full proposal. Considerable allocation of effort from the PI is expected.

- A. The award will initially be approved for one year. A second year may be requested during the third quarter of the first year of the award. Approval for the second year will depend on funding cycles, and a successful demonstration of research progress.
- B. Research may involve any aspect of Neuroradiology, but priority will be given to projects related to: technology assessment, patient outcomes, or some aspect of health services research; physiological neuroimaging using FMRI, MR spectroscopy, PET, MEG, CT, or related techniques; or the development or evaluation of interventional and therapeutic procedures in Neuroradiology.
- C. Awardees will be expected to submit for continued funding from the NIH (K or R series award) or AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality), based on the research sponsored by the NER Foundation Comparative Effectiveness Research Award at the end of the period of sponsorship by the NER Foundation. Particular consideration is given to applicants who are planning on submitting proposals to the NIH Recovery Act Limited Competition: Institutional Comparative Effectiveness Research Mentored Career Development Award (KM1). Applicants and their mentors should carefully review the requirements for the above awards on the following website: <http://grants.nih.gov/training/careerdevelopmentawards>, and discuss the time commitment required of these awards with their department chairman, before submitting the application for the NER Foundation Comparative Effectiveness Research Award.
- G. Awardees must attend a grant-writing course, if not already completed.

#### **LOCATION OF STUDY**

- A. Strong consideration will be given to applicants from departments and institutions that show a commitment to the applicant's research development in Comparative Effectiveness Research.
- B. The parent institution must demonstrate adequate resources and facilities to carry out the terms of the project. Specific involvement by experts outside of Radiology will be looked upon favorably.

#### **CONDITION OF APPOINTMENT**

- A. The award will be \$40,000 per year, which includes fringe benefits. The grant can be used to directly support the salary of the awardee as well as other costs itemized in the budget.
- B. The funding will go directly to the Radiology Department or Institution as direct costs to support the Comparative Effectiveness Research Award position. No overhead or indirect costs are included.
- C. Bi-yearly updates due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January and the 1<sup>st</sup> of July within the year of the grant must be submitted in writing to the NER Foundation.

- D. Participants are required to submit material on the progress and outcome of the grant for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the ASNR, or for publication in the *AJNR*, as appropriate.
- E. Applicants who hold any of the ASNR Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation fellowships or awards, the RSNA Fellowship or Scholar Award, or similar extramural support will not be eligible for another award or fellowship in that year.

#### **CODE FOR REQUIREMENTS OF FELLOWSHIP**

- A. The grant must be for prospective projects in areas specifically important to the advancement of the field of Neuroradiology, as outlined in section B under *Research Award Activities*.
- B. Retrospective reviews will be considered, although are not favored. The research proposal must have a clearly stated, testable hypothesis and well-developed aims.
- C. During the tenure of the grant, the applicant must have access to and participate in an organized core-training program, to include such topics as biostatistics, experimental design, epidemiology, neurophysiology, image processing, and preparation of scientific papers and grants. A plan and schedule to carry out this training must be provided in the original grant application, and will be strongly considered in awarding the grant. Sources for this training may include institutional programs available to research fellows within the institution, RSNA courses in writing papers or grant writing and design, and personal instruction by the mentor on paper, as well as grant writing training.
- D. Preference will be given to those projects which demonstrate potential for external funding beyond the NER Foundation funding period.

#### **STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES**

- A. The total yearly stipend will be \$40,000, which will be paid in two equal installments on July 1<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of the award.
- B. This award may be transferred to another institution, following approval by the NER Foundation for the designated individual, as long as the new institution provides and abides by the original agreement regarding time commitment and organized core training. This request must be submitted in writing to the NER Foundation at least 30 days prior to the transfer. Each institution sponsoring the awardee will receive a portion of the funding that is in proportion to the length of time that research was performed at their institution. In the event that a decision is made by the NER Foundation not to allow transfer of the award to another institution, the original institution sponsoring the awardee will receive funds that are proportionate to the length of time the research project was performed at that institution.
- C. An institution will only be permitted to accept one fellowship award sponsored by the *ASNR Neuroradiology Education & Research Foundation*.
- D. The grant is not transferable to another individual.

## METHOD OF NOMINATION

- A. Awards will be designated and administered by the Neuroradiology Education and Research Foundation.
- B. The Research Committee of the ASNR, or its designate, will provide review and recommendations to the Foundation for awarding the scholarship.
- C. The Comparative Effectiveness Research Award will be announced at the Annual Meeting of the ASNR.

## SCHEDULE OF THE AWARD

As this scholarship may potentially be awarded to establish a second-year fellow position, ample time must be given to both applicants and institutions to determine placement of a fellow for the second year. Additionally, this will allow for alternate plans for unsuccessful candidates. Candidates will be notified of the decision in the early winter for a grant beginning in the subsequent academic year.

Following is the schedule:

- A. **The deadline for receipt of letters of intent is October 1, 2010. These should be one-page abstracts of the research proposal, submitted electronically (in .pdf or .doc format) to Bonnie Mack ([bmack@asnr.org](mailto:bmack@asnr.org)). On the subject line of e-mail submissions, indicate the following:**
  - ◆ **NERF/Comparative Effectiveness Research**
- B. ***Applicants* who are short-listed from the letter of intent stage will be notified that they are invited to submit a full proposal, and an application will be provided. The deadline for receipt of full proposal submissions is December 10, 2010. Full proposals should also be submitted in electronic form (.pdf or .doc).**
- C. Selection of grant recipients will be in early winter, with subsequent notification of the recipient and institution. All those with interests in the grant, or employees of an institution that may be involved in the grant, shall recuse themselves from voting on such applications. In the event that an application is received from the institution of the Research Committee Chair, the ASNR Vice President will assume the responsibility of coordinating review of the applications.
- D. Announcement of the 2011 Comparative Effectiveness Research Award will be made at the 2011 Annual Meeting.