SSCI Research Scholar Award Application

Application Deadline: October 1, 2018
Award Activation: March 1, 2019
Submit Application to: Pamala Schmidt, Administrative Director – pschmidt@tulane.edu

Program Description, Eligibility and Peer Review Criteria

Objective
The goal of the **SSCI Research Scholar Award** is to support developing physician-scientists as they undertake innovative research projects related to Internal Medicine and its subspecialties. This grant award will provide supplemental funds for <u>mentored</u> career awards of senior post-doctoral fellows or instructor/junior assistant professors whose extramural application has been funded or recently received a highly meritorious score and is likely to be funded in the next 12 months. <u>Mentored</u> federal (i.e., K01, K08, K23, VA-CSRD) or non federal (i.e., AHA Young Investigator Award) award applications will be considered. The duration of the award is one year.

Focus
Basic, clinical, and population research broadly related to Internal Medicine and its subspecialties topics will be considered.

Target Audience
At the time of application, the applicant must:
- Hold a post-doctoral fellow or Instructor or Assistant Professor of Medicine appointment and be conducting research in an accredited institution.
- Hold a MD, DO, MBBS or equivalent degree.

While no minimum percent effort is specified, the principal investigator must demonstrate that adequate time will be devoted to ensure successful completion of the proposed project through institutional support letters, including the applicant's primary mentor and department chair's letters. Copies of the Letter of Intent and submitted grant proposal to the primary funding agency, with its score and critiques, must be included with the application. PLEASE NOTE THAT TO QUALIFY FOR THIS APPLICATION, IT IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUISITE THAT THE CANDIDATE'S PRIMARY MENTOR IS A CURRENT SSCI MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.

Citizenship
At the time of application, the applicant must have one of the following designations:
- United States citizen.
- Permanent resident.
The awardee must maintain one of the designations listed above throughout the duration of the award.

Location of Project
The award must be conducted at an accredited institution in the United States. Preference will be given to the SSCI geographical region. SSCI research awards are limited to non-profit institutions, including medical, osteopathic, schools of public health, universities and colleges, public and voluntary hospitals, and other institutions that can demonstrate the ability to conduct the proposed research. Applications from institutions outside the United States cannot be considered.

Budget
Award: $25,000 per year plus indirect costs
Indirect Costs: 10 %

Salary/Fringe: No amount for salary and fringe of the principal investigator, any collaborating investigators, and other participants with faculty appointments is allowed.

Project Support: Salary supplementation for personnel without faculty appointments (i.e., laboratory technicians) essential to the project (up to 20% of the total budget) is allowed, in addition to supplies, equipment, and publication costs.

Travel: Up to $500 annually for travel expenses is allowed for the required presentation of the funded research at the SSCI Annual Meeting in February.

Duration: One year.

Award Activation: July of the corresponding year's application.

Matching Funds: Matching funds by the applicant's local institution/department/division are encouraged, and applications with a clear commitment to matching will be given preference. However, matching funds are not essential for submission and consideration.

Restrictions
- The awardee may not hold more than one SSCI Research Scholar Award concurrently.
- If not funded, the applicant may resubmit the same or similar application three times (the original plus two). The same or similar application submitted the fourth time will be administratively withdrawn.

Peer Review Criteria
Applications are reviewed in a fashion similar to NIH proposals (including in an anonymous fashion, and with similar scoring criteria (see below). Applicants and Reviewers are prohibited from discussion of applications. Such communication is considered to be a form of scientific misconduct and will result in removal of the application from funding consideration and institutional notification of such misconduct.

To judge the merit of the application, reviewers will review the following 6 criteria.

1. *Significance:* Does this study address an important problem broadly related to Internal Medicine or its subspecialties? How will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced?
2. *Approach*: Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned and feasible (as determined by preliminary data) and appropriate to the aims of the project?
3. *Innovation:* Is the project original and innovative?

4. ***Investigator and Mentor:*** Both the investigator and mentor should be appropriately trained and well suited to carry out the proposed work.
5. ***Environment:*** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
6. ***Impact:*** How does this project relate to and support the mission of the SSCI?

Interim Reporting
An awardee must submit an annual progress report (for 2 years) that includes research findings, abstracts, publications, and names of trainees supported. Presentation of the funded research project at a subsequent SSCI meeting in February is an essential requirement.

Application Instructions: See Research Scholar Award Application Form.

SSCI Research Scholar Award
Application Form

Project Director/Principal Investigator Information:

Name:

Title:

Department:

Institution Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Mentor Information

Name:

Title:

Department:

Institution Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Co-Investigator(s)

Name:

Title:

Department:

Institution Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

E-mail:

Title of Proposal:

Proposed Starting Date:

Amount of Funding Requested: $

Brief explanation of research project, in lay terms (100 words or less):

Signatures:

Principal Investigator/Project Director   Date

Applicant's Mentor   Date

Department Chairman   Date

Have you applied for an SSCI Research Scholar Award in the past?   ____ Yes   ____No

If yes, list each application title and date, and indicated grants received if any.

```

```

Allocated funds are to be spent within 12 months after receipt. Do you expect your project will need additional time to complete?

```

```

If yes, please provide a brief explanation below OR on a separate sheet of paper. (If yes, you and/or the institution are responsible for any difference in original quote for associated costs.)

```

```

Please complete all areas below (*single space with 3 inch margins if attaching a document*).

1. **Project Summary/Abstract (250 words or less).**

```

```

2. Introduction to Resubmission Application (when applicable) (250 words or less).


3. Specific Aims of the Research Program: In 250 words or less, succinctly describe the proposed project. Highlight the scientific or clinical significance of the work and the experimental approach to be employed.

**4. Previous Research on this or Related Problems (1000 words or less).**
- **By applicant** (if none, state so) - Describe any related research completely. Include pilot studies demonstrating feasibility. Append appropriate material, such as figures, tables, reprints, manuscripts. CLEARLY INDICATE THE ROLE OF THE APPLICANT IN THE RESEARCH PROJECT.
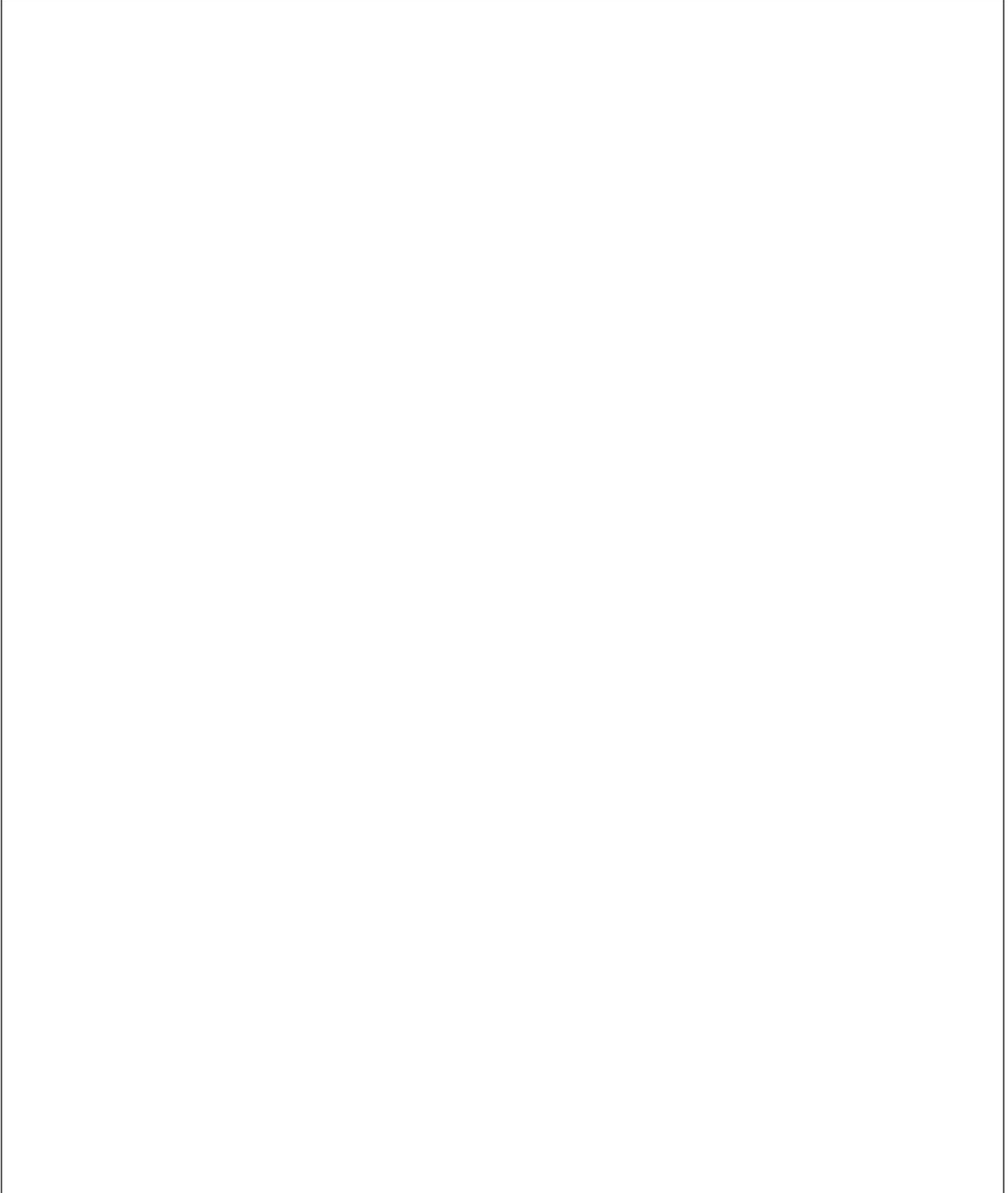
- **By others** - Provide critical summary of important work by others. Support statements with key references. Give background to problem.
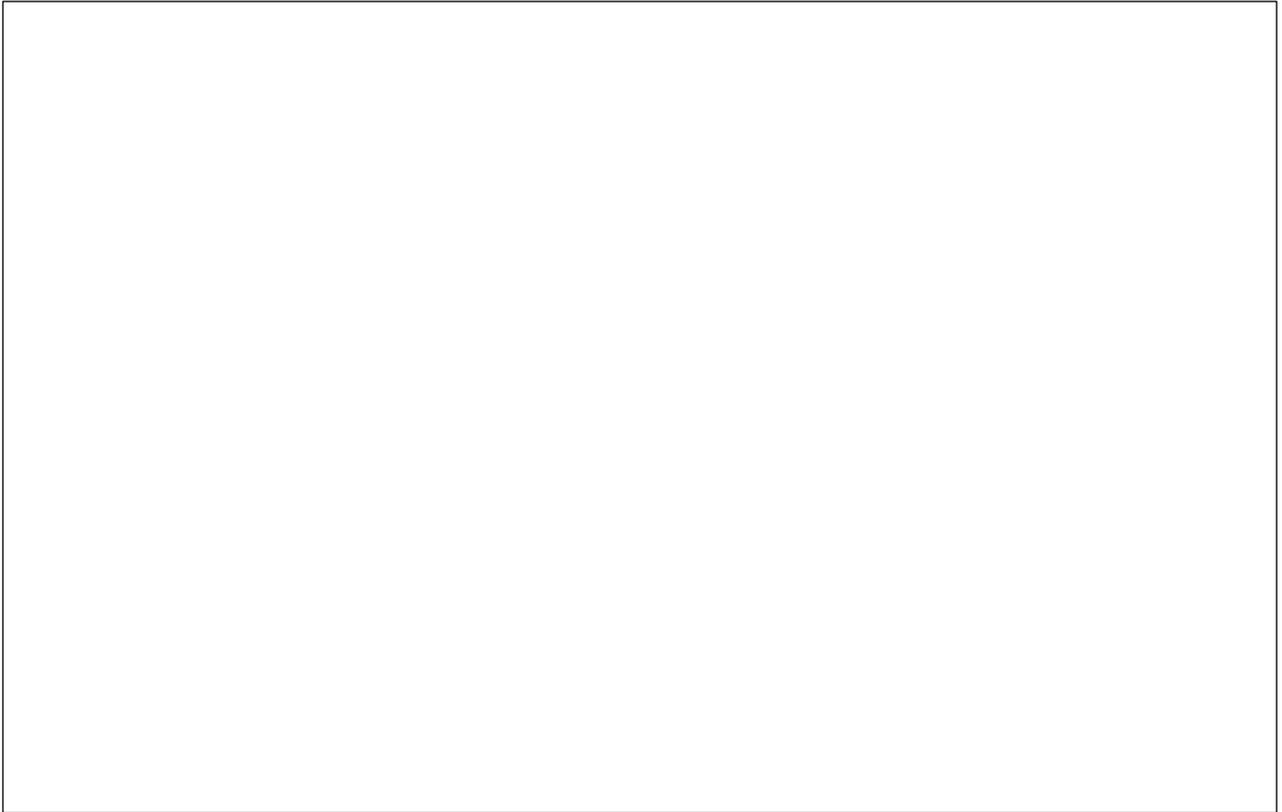
5. **Originality and Innovation of the Research Project (250 words or less).**
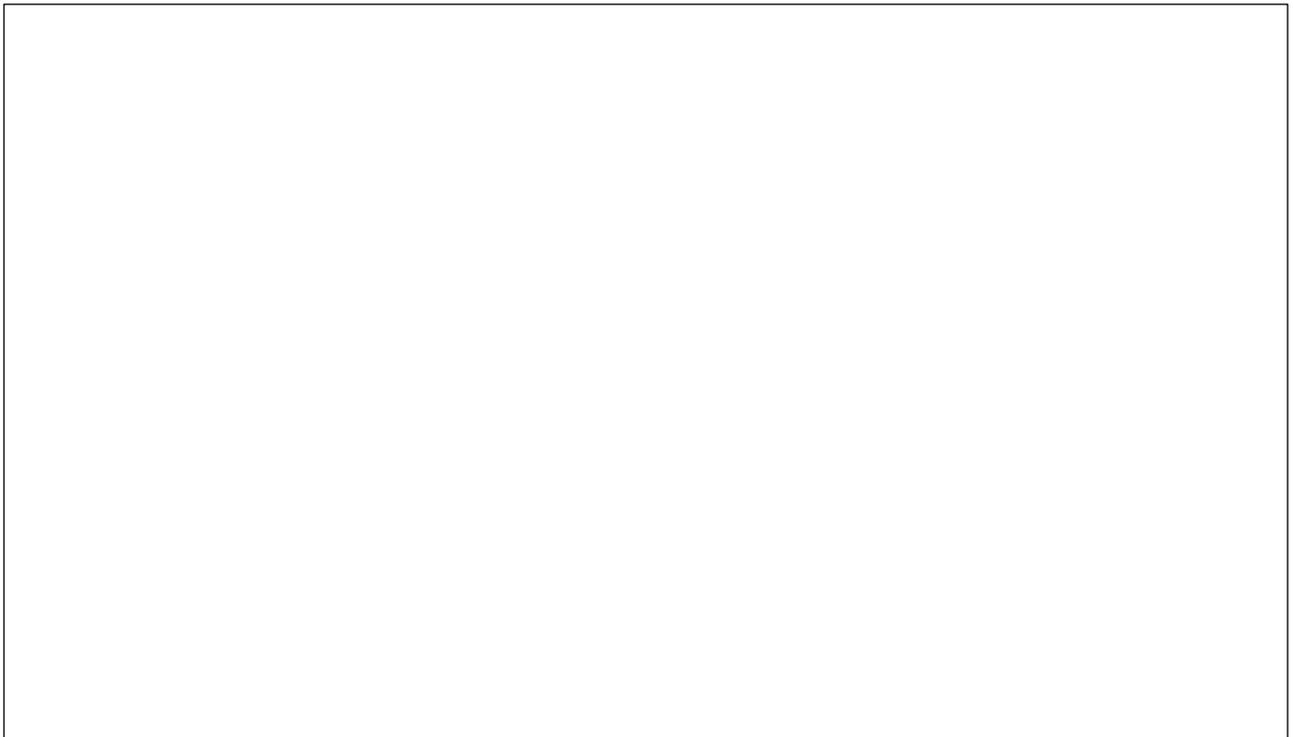
6. **Proposed Method of Approach to the Problem (1500 words or less):** Describe method of approach to the problem. Procedures should be explicit and sufficiently detailed to allow adequate evaluation. Describe clearly the overall design and rationale with consideration of statistical aspects and adequacy of controls.
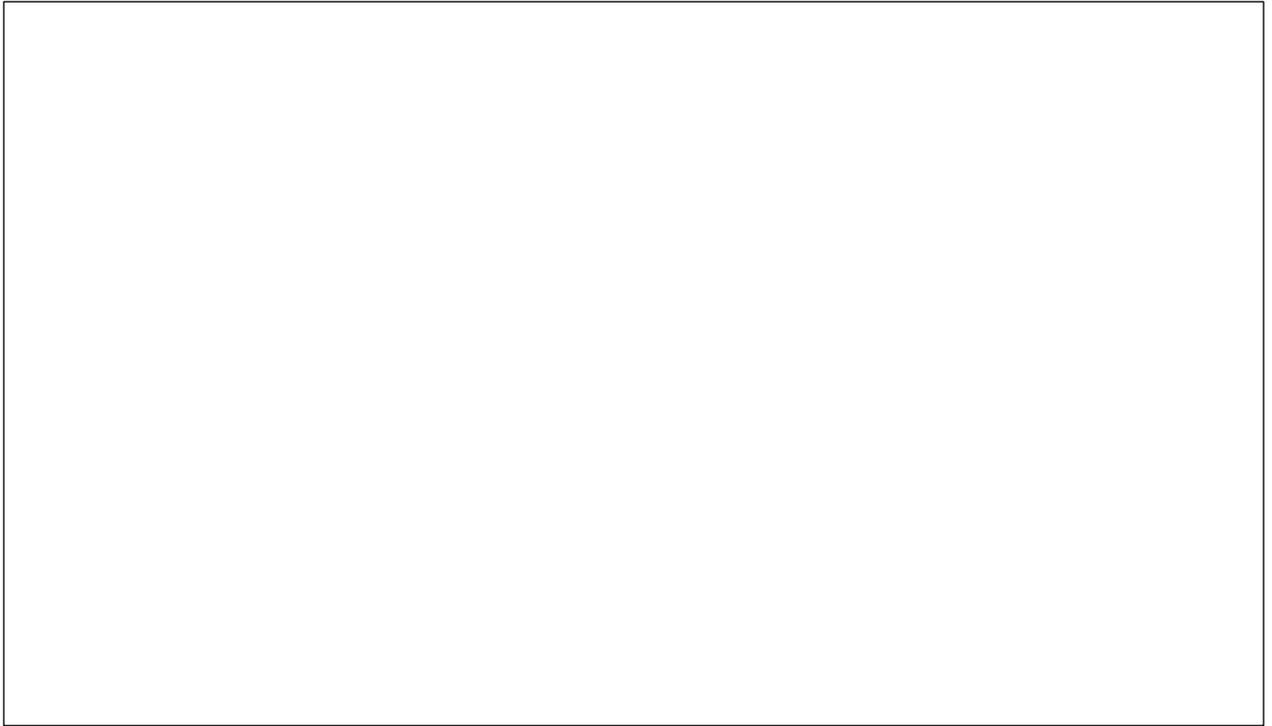
7. **Potential Problems and Solutions (250 words or less):** Describe any potential experimental obstacles which must be overcome to achieve goals of project and how you will overcome them. If none, state so.
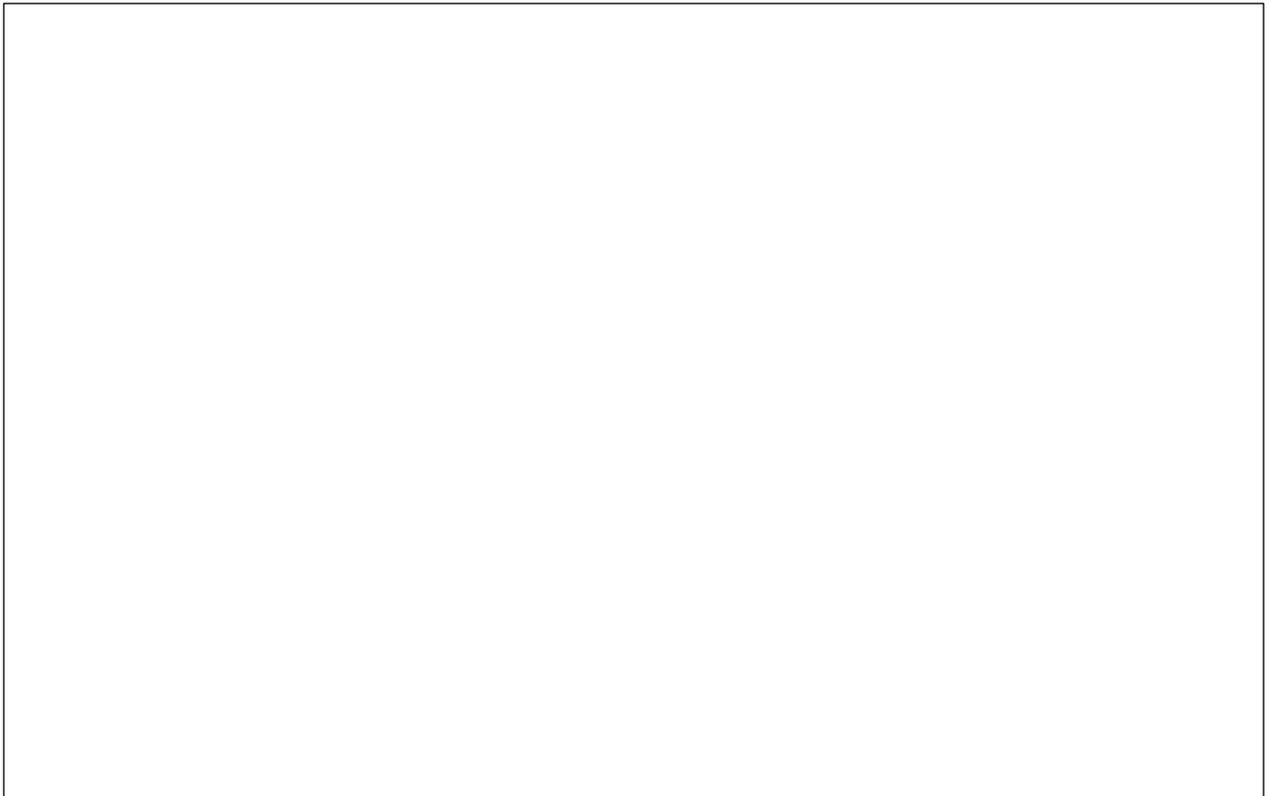
8. **Significance of Research including relevance to human health and SSCI Mission. (250 words or less).**
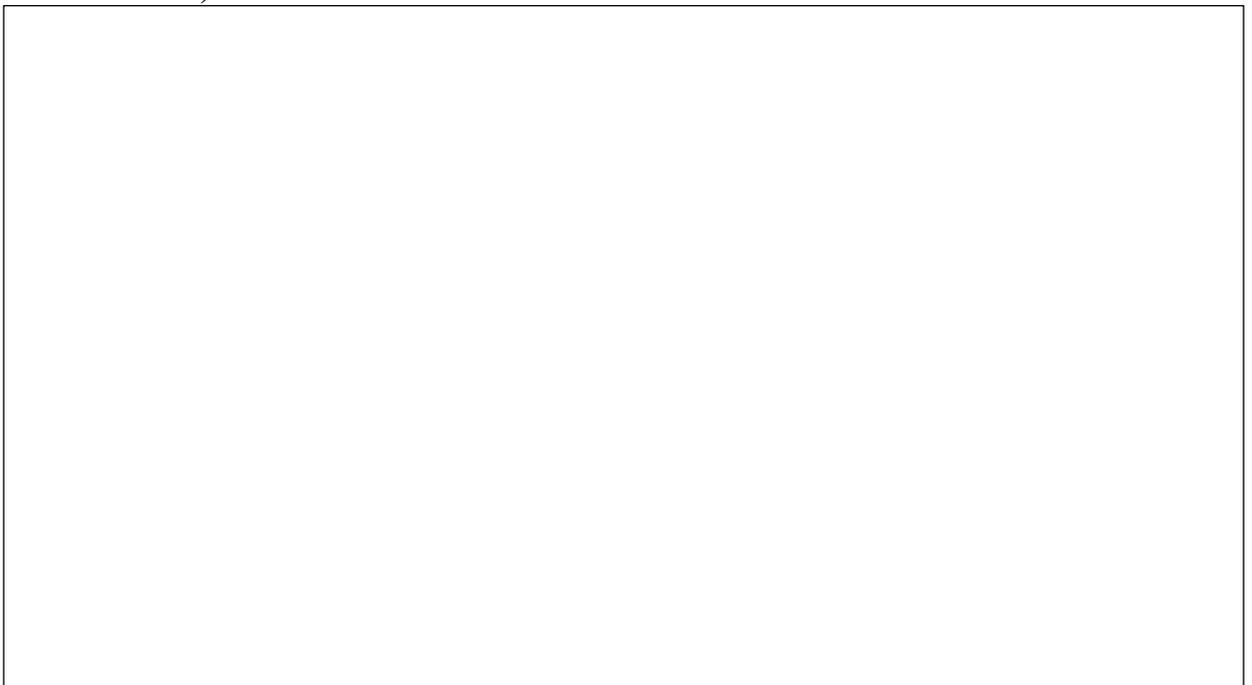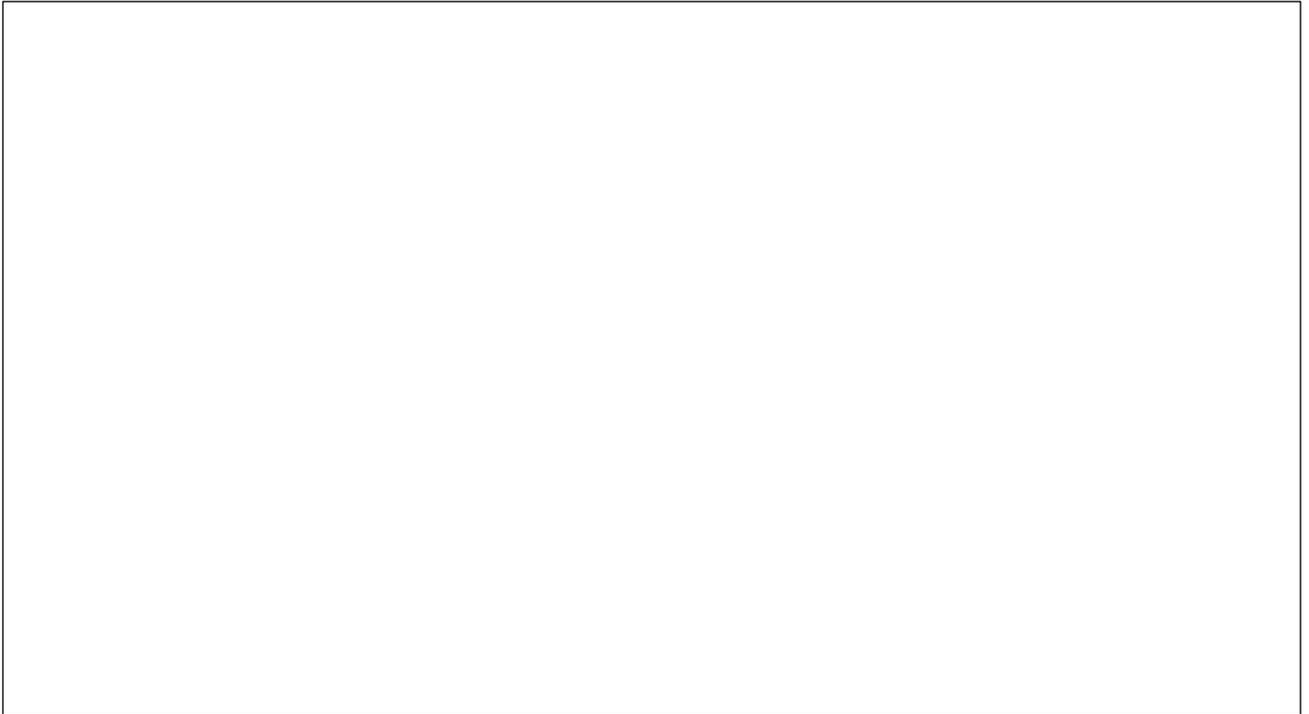
9. Literature Cited in 1-5.

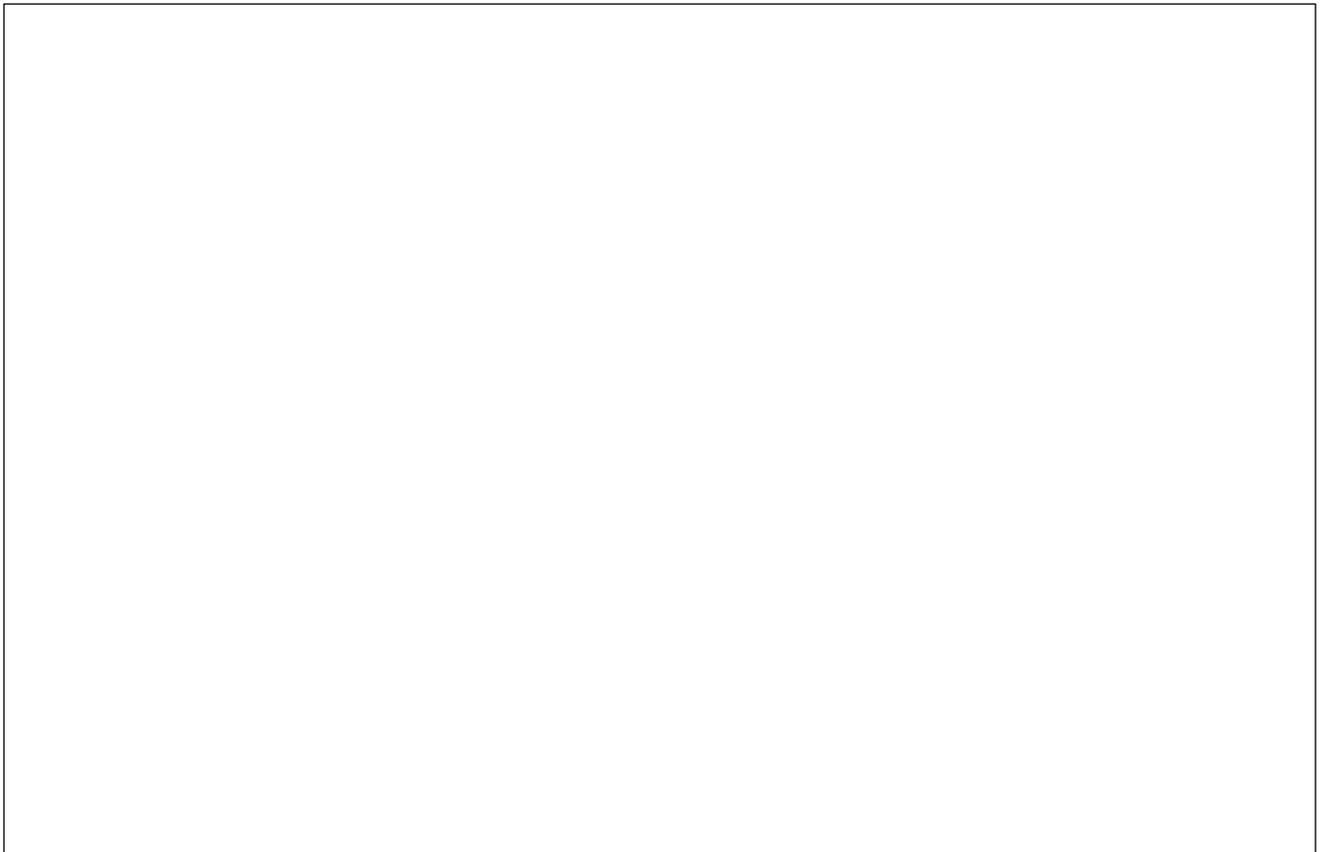**10. Facilities (250 words or less).**

11. Applicant's NIH biosketch.

12. Mentor's NIH biosketch.

13. Applicant's career goals and objectives (250 words or less).

14. Mentor's interface with applicant's career development (250 words or less).

15. Description of Institutional Enrichment and Commitment to Teaching (250 words or less).

16. Matching Funds: Briefly describe the amount and utilization of institutional/departmental/divisional matching funds for the present application. If none, state so.

17. **Please enclose support letters from departmental chair and mentor (see SSCI Research Scholar Award program description).**

18. **Please enclose one copy of submitted grant proposal to primary agency (ie NIH, AHA, etc) with its critiques and score.**

19. **Please enclose copy of Letter of Intent submitted to the primary funding agency (i.e., NIH, AHA, etc).**

IRB Information

I. Name of Principal Investigator: [   ]

II. Does this grant involve human subjects?   ____ Yes   ____ No

If yes, is project approved?   ____ Yes   ____ No

Or is approval pending?   ____ Yes   ____ No

If project has been approved, attach copy of IRB approval letter to this form and sign certification below. If approval is pending, you must submit IRB approval letter as soon as it is received.

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT DIFFER IN ITS INVOLVEMENT OF HUMAN SUBJECTS FROM THAT WHICH THE IRB HAS REVIEWED AND APPROVED.

_____   _____
Date   Signature of Principal Investigator

III. Does this grant involve live vertebrate animals?   ____ Yes   ____ No

If yes, is project approved?   ____ Yes   ____ No

Or is approval pending?   ____ Yes   ____ No

If project has been approved, attach copy of approval letter to this form.
If approval is pending, you must submit approval letter as soon as it is received.

If live vertebrate animals are involved, this form must be signed by the Director of Laboratory Animal Research.

_____   _____
Date   Director of Laboratory Animal Research

IV.   Does this grant involve recombinant DNA?   ____ Yes   ____ No

Does this grant involve work with infectious
agents that are potentially hazardous to man
or animals? (A list of such agents is available
from the Research Administration Office.)   ____ Yes   ____ No

If the answer to either of the above is yes, clearance must be obtained from the Institutional Bio-Safety Committee and a copy of approval letter must be attached to this form.

	Amount Requested
Equipment: Please provide a listing of all equipment. Application must include a CURRENT QUOTE and Technical Specifications (dated within the last 30 days) from the manufacturer, as well as a signed Institutional Technical Specifications Approval form. The manufacturer's quote should include the equipment price, model number and the shipping, handling and installation charges, if applicable, and any anticipated increases. All standard purchasing procedures should be followed. Attach your "Technical Specifications Approval" to the application. Allocations are based on current quotes, any additional expenses or maintenance will be the department's responsibility. Technical specification review may take up to two weeks if review is required by all parties indicated (Physical Plant, Information Management, Radiation Safety and Clinical Engineering). Please plan accordingly in preparing your submittals for review by these departments in anticipation of meeting the deadline for submittals.	
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Equipment Total	$

	Amount Requested
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
Supplies Total	$

	Amount Requested
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$
	$

	Amount Requested
Personnel – list name and title. It is very unlikely that salary support will be approved unless there is reasonable assurance that such support for subsequent years will be available.	
	$
	$
Personnel Total	$
Detailed Budget Total Cost	$

BUDGET ITEM JUSTIFICAITON

Please give details for each item on your Detailed Budget, and show the relationship of the proposed budget to other support.

CHECK LIST OF ENCLOSURES

1. Completed SSCI Research Scholar Award application form including appropriate signatures. ☐

2. Departmental chair's letter of support. ☐

3. Mentor's letter of support. ☐

4. Copy of submitted grant proposal to primary agency (ie NIH, AHA, etc) with its critiques and score. ☐

5. Copy of Letter of Intent submitted to primary agency, (ie NIH, AHA, etc). ☐

6. Institutional IRB approval letter(s). ☐

7. Applicant's NIH biosketch. ☐

8. Mentor's NIH biosketch. ☐