

American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery (ABCRS) Foundation Research Grant

Purpose

The American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery (ABCRS) Foundation invites applicants to submit proposals for its research grant program. This program is aimed at supporting high-quality research in the field of colon and rectal surgery certification. The goal of this funding opportunity is to advance knowledge regarding the process and/or value of board certification in colon and rectal surgery.

Research areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Effect of Board Certification on clinical outcomes
- Effect of Board Certification on professional behavior and malpractice claims
- Effect of Board Certification on research productivity
- Best Practices in Written and Oral Board Exam Delivery
- Continuing medical education curriculum development
- Impact of In-Training Examination on Certifying Examinations
- Longitudinal analysis of diplomates (Long-term effects of continuing education programs on colorectal surgeons?)
- Effect of diversity on evaluations and certification
- Physical wellness and burnout
- Competency-Based Medical Education in Colon and Rectal Surgery
- Eliminating Implicit Bias in Written and Oral Board Exams

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** August 1, 2025
- **Review and Notification Date:** September 2025

Funding

- Up to \$20,000 for a one-year project.
- Grant awards may be funded in whole or in part, limited project grants (LPG) may not be awarded every year.
- **No consortium/contractual arrangements with collaborating organizations allowed.**

Limited to direct costs only. Grant does not support salary for the Principal Investigator. **Award**

Eligibility

- Research must be investigator-initiated and hypothesis-driven.
- Research must be conducted within the United States or Canada.
- ABCRS diplomates are eligible to apply.
- General Surgery Residents, Colorectal Surgery Residents, and early career faculty can apply.

Award Expectations

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- The Principal Investigator must submit an interim written report to the ABCRS Foundation at the six-month mark of the grant period.
- A final written report must be submitted within six months of grant completion.
- Awardees are encouraged to present project findings at appropriate scientific meetings such as the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS) conference.

Grant Review and Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by the ABCRS Foundation Research Grant Review Committee composed of five members, including:

- ABCRS Foundation Officers (ABCERS President, ABCERS President-Elect, and ABCERS Executive Director)
- Two additional ad hoc members

Grants will be evaluated and awarded based on the following criteria:

1. **Significance and relevance** to the ABCRS mission
2. **Investigator(s)** qualifications and experience
3. **Innovation** of the research approach
4. **Methodology and** scientific approach
5. **Research environment and feasibility**

Submission Instructions

Applicants must submit a **single PDF document** via email to the ABCRS Foundation at foundationgrant@abcrs.org. The application must adhere to the following formatting requirements:

- Font size **minimum 11-point**
- Margins **at least 0.5 inches** on all sides

The application must include:

1. **Title Page:** Title of grant, investigator(s)' name, title, and institution
2. **General Information Form:** Included as Appendix A
3. **One-Page Summary** with Specific Aims.
4. **Research Strategy** (maximum 4 pages): Include significance, innovation, and research methodology.
5. **References:** professional, minimum 2
6. **Resources/Environment** description
7. **Budget Narrative and Detailed Budget**
8. **NIH-Format Biosketch** for all investigators

Scoring Criteria

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Each application will be evaluated using the **ABCRS Grant Scoring Form (Appendix B)**, which assesses the following categories on a scale from 1 (best) to 5 (worst):

- Significance/Relevance to ABCRS Mission
- Investigator(s) qualifications
- Innovation
- Scientific Approach
- Research Environment and Feasibility

Reviewers will provide comments for each criterion to guide funding decisions.

For any questions or further information, please contact our staff at foundationgrant@abcrs.org

We look forward to your submissions and the opportunity to advance colon and rectal surgery research through this funding initiative.

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Appendix A: General Information Form

Date of Application:

Name of the Principal Investigator:

Title:

Institution:

Mailing Address:

Email:

Phone Number:

Project Title:

Grant Amount Requested:

Total Project Budget:

Project Start Date:

Project End Date:

Population Served:

Signature, Principal Investigator

Printed Name and Title

Date

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Appendix B: Sample Evaluation Rubric

Grants are to be reviewed for each of the five aspects listed below.

(1 is the highest score and 5 is the lowest score.)

Significance/Relevance to ABCRS Mission: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Investigator(s): 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Innovation: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Scientific Approach: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments:

Environment and Feasibility: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: