



Neiman Institute Grant for Radiology Policy and Practice Research

2021 Request for Applications

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Neiman Institute grants program will advance our mission by funding novel research that provides evidence to inform health policy and radiology practice that promotes the effective and efficient use of health care resources with the goal of improving patient care.

We seek proposals that meaningfully expand the evidence base that paves the way for new health policy and advances radiological practice that improves patient outcomes, reduces health disparities, informs the appropriate use of that care, and demonstrates value to support adequate reimbursement needed to ensure patients have access to a high level of care from trained radiologists.

Neiman Institute grants will advance the broader ACR strategy to engage in imaging research that will advance the practice of radiology.

Specific program objectives

- To facilitate novel, empirical research that contributes directly to the NHPI mission
- Funded research proposals will:
 - o be pertinent to current policy priorities in radiology
 - o be hypothesis driven (versus hypothesis generating)
 - o include a research plan that will provide actionable information that can be readily understood by stakeholders; and
 - o have the potential to directly inform health policy and practice.
- Extend Neiman Institute's current capabilities¹ in areas of expertise, research methods, populations, or data sources
- Build a coalition of health policy researchers with the aim to foster ideas, innovation and collaboration within current or future research objectives.

AWARD

We invite applications up to \$75,000 total budget (including indirect costs, capped at 15%). We anticipate funding two awards this cycle.

ELIGIBILITY

Individuals or groups may submit proposals. Grants are available to full-time faculty and trainees with an MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent degree at educational institutions within the United States. Preference will be given to applicants who are current members of the American College of Radiology; applications from researchers outside of radiology will also be considered.

¹ For more information about NHPI current capabilities, see the NHPI website (www.neimanhpi.org) or contact staff at grants@neimanhpi.org



AWARD TOPIC CATEGORIES

The Neiman Institute seeks applications in any of the following three priority areas of research

AI & Emerging Technology Award

Radiology is a technology driven field and the Neiman Institute is interested in research that explores (identifies, explains and tests) opportunities and challenges that are presented by emerging technologies with the potential to impact radiology practice.

A high priority focus within this grant topic is artificial intelligence (AI). Additional applicable areas of research include digital health technologies, telehealth, emerging imaging technology, etc. and should include objectives that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Health policy
- Economics
- Health equity
- Practice management; workflow
- Quality and outcomes

Emerging Payment & Population Health Models Award

There is a renewed focus on value-based payment models in Washington that highlights the need for research that ensures radiology is not left behind. Grants under this topic will fund research on avenues for radiology to continue to provide the needed services for patients, with adequate reimbursement to sustain the practice and access within new health care payment and delivery models. Research that models the impact of proposed/future policy for radiology or radiology patients, that demonstrates the value of radiology in the context of emerging models, or that evaluates innovative approaches (within a local delivery system) are also of interest.

Practice Advancements to Improve Equity, Efficiency, or Outcomes Award

With an eye toward solutions, grants in this area will propose innovative ideas or established approaches from other fields and will study the impact on measures of health equity, efficiency or cost, and/or patient outcomes. Using quantitative research methods, proposals under this topic should seek to bring new, actionable ideas to radiologists for how to better serve patients in a manner that will improve value and advance clinical practice, or to generate the evidence needed to support further clinical study.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applicants are to submit their complete application via email to grants@neimanhpi.org

Applications must be received by 8 pm EST on December 20, 2021. Applications not submitted by this time or that are incomplete will not be considered.

REVIEW PROCESS

Submitted applications are first reviewed by ACR staff to confirm that they are complete and meet eligibility criteria. Complete, eligible applications advance to the members of the NHPI Research Selection Committee (RSC). The RSC reviews eligible applications and makes recommendations on projects for award funding. Applications are reviewed and ranked in priority order. Applicants will be notified of the results of the RSC review process.



The review process and scoring guidelines are modeled on the NIH scoring system. The review process will score proposal based on the following criteria:

1. **Significance:** Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is the project timely with respect to the current health policy and practice environment? Will the methods provide generalizable results? Does the project align with the ACR strategic priorities?
2. **Investigators:** Are the investigators capable of performing the research described? Do they have the needed skills and expertise?
3. **Novelty or Innovation:** Does the project explore a novel research question or fill an important gap or meaningfully extend existing literature? Does it challenge and seek to shift current policy or clinical practice paradigms? Does it employ innovative approaches or methodologies?
4. **Impact:** Will the study produce actionable conclusions that have the potential to impact current policy and/or practice?
5. **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Is the research approach rigorous?
6. **Extension of NHPI Resources/ Infrastructure:** Does the proposal extend the current capabilities of the NHPI?
7. **Timeframe:** Can the project plan reasonably be completed within the funding period? Does the project timeline support the timely publication of project results?

In addition, the RSC will take the following factors into consideration:

- **Budget and Project Timeline.** Reviewers will consider whether the budget and requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research, and whether the project can reasonably be completed within the proposed timeline.
- **Letters of Support.** Letters of support with collaborators will be taken into consideration; at least two are required.

Applicants with proposals that meet key funding criteria but would benefit from further refinement may be offered the opportunity to present their proposal via video conference to the NHPI Executive Director and staff, and in some cases members of the selection committee. These meetings can result in revisions to the design of the study, resources required, and budget to ensure the success of the study in achieving the grant's objectives. Final project design and budget will be submitted to the RSC for final review and award decision.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDED PROJECTS

Reporting

Interim Update. Within 60 days of the halfway point of the project period, the investigator(s) will provide a report to the NHPI with an update on project status, barriers, and budget. This report should be provided during 30 to 60 minute video conference with NHPI staff and may include other NHPI collaborators or advisory board members, as applicable. This format offers the opportunity for discussion and active feedback that could aid in project success. It is the responsibility of the grantee to schedule this meeting; in the case that a written report is preferred, the grantee should request this alternative in advance with an explanation of the reason.



Final Report. The final written report should cover the entire grant period and must be submitted within 60 days of the end of the grant period. The report is to include information as specified in posted instructions. In the event a grant has been extended without additional funds, the final report is not due until 60 days after the official termination date of the grant.

In the case that the grantee has a reasonable need for a no-cost extension, that request must be made no less than 30 days prior to the grant termination date. Please note that up-to-date reports are required when requesting any grant modifications, including transfers or no-cost extensions.

Publications and Presentations

Toward the goals of impact and action stemming from funded projects, funded investigators are expected to submit a manuscript to the Journal of the American College of Radiology or other high impact journal. The manuscript must be submitted to the NHPI Executive Director for approval prior to submission. The NHPI staff can provide editorial review of the manuscript upon request.

Project investigator is also expected to submit a proposal on the funded study to a national conference.

In the case that a project may not result in publishable findings, that determination must be made in collaboration with the NHPI leadership following a final project report.

Publications resulting from research or training activities supported by the NHPI must contain the following acknowledgment: “Supported by grant funding from the Neiman Health Policy Institute”. The NHPI’s support should also be acknowledged by the grantee and the institution in all public communication of work resulting from this grant, including scientific abstracts (where permitted), posters at scientific meetings, press releases or other media communications, and internet-based communications. If your institution plans a press release involving NHPI-supported research, please notify Nichole Gay, Communications and Media Manager at the Neiman Institute (ngay@neimaninstitute.org)

Participation in Health Policy Research Coalition

Grantees become members of a coalition with the aim to foster ideas, innovation and collaboration. The coalition will provide a sounding board to aid the progress and success of NHPI grant-funded projects.

The coalition will launch with the funding of 2 grantees and will grow as additional grants are funded and will also include other NHPI researchers (i.e., staff, academic centers, grantees and collaborators). It is expected that grantees will be members of the coalition for the funding period and 12 months following, or as defined in the charter for the coalition upon its inception.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Upon submission of a fully executed grant agreement, awarded funds are transmitted to the institution(s) for support of the grant recipient(s) and the project. The project period is up to 12 months.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The application must contain a detailed research plan and a budget for the planned research with all budget needs indicated.



A complete application will include a **Research Narrative** limited to five (5) pages, not including a one (1) page **Executive Summary, Reference List, Letters of Support, Budget and NIH Biosketches or CVs** for Key Personnel.

The **Research Narrative** must include the following elements:

1. Title of the Activity/Project
2. Abstract
3. Background and Significance
 - Include any preliminary analyses if available
4. Research Strategy
 - Specific Aims
 - Methods
 - Analysis Plan
5. PI capabilities
6. Institutional capabilities, if applicable
7. Extension of Neiman Institute capabilities
8. Project Timeline, including brief descriptions of major milestones

Letters of Support:

At minimum, include two (2) letters of support with one being from the applicant's Department Chair. A letter of support from the chair of an ACR commission or committee is preferred to demonstrate alignment with ACR strategy and mission. Additional letters may be submitted at the applicant's discretion.

Biosketches: NIH Biosketch for all Key Personnel or CV if Biosketch is not available.

Reference List

Budget: A project budget is required and must account for all that is necessary to run the project. Budget expenses can be used for materials and supplies, equipment, services, travel expenses, consulting expenses, salary support for staff working on the proposed project, and publication costs.

To maximize direct funding to research and project collaborators, indirect cost reimbursement is capped at 15% of direct costs on projects funded through this mechanism. This indirect cost rate is consistent with ACR policy for other similar grant funded programs.

Applicants must work with their Research or Contracts Office to create their project budget. This ensures its accuracy and completeness.

Format: 8.5x11 page size, at least 1.5 spacing, 1" margins, Times Roman font, 10-point size.

The application must be submitted electronically via email to grants@neimanhpi.org **by 8 pm EST on December 20, 2021**. Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

NOTE: Applicants with questions are encouraged to reach out to NHPI staff using grants@neimanhpi.org during the application period.



GRANT APPLICATION FORMAT

1. Research Narrative limited to five (5) pages, not including the Reference List
2. A one (1) page Executive Summary,
3. Letters of Support
4. Budget
5. NIH Biosketches or CVs for Key Personnel

When sending your application elements to grants@neimanhpi.org, you must save your files using the naming convention below.

2021_NHPI_<Element Name>_<PI First Initial Last Name>

- 2021_NHPI_Research Narrative_J Doe
- 2021_NHPI_Exec Summ_J Doe
- 2021_NHPI_LoS_J Doe
- 2021_NHPI_Budget_J Doe
- 2021_NHPI_Biosketch_J Doe OR 2021_NHPI_CV_J Doe