

**SCLERODERMA CLINICAL TRIAL CONSORTIUM / SCLERODERMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION
BETTY Z. BENEDICT AWARD**

***2021 Request for Grant Applications for Proposals to Advance
Outcome Measures and Translational Medicine in Systemic Sclerosis***

PURPOSE: The purpose of the 2021 SCTC-SRF Betty Z. Benedict Award is to provide support for a high impact, collaborative project that advances a shared mission of the SCTC and SRF: to advance the conduct of clinical trials for patients with systemic sclerosis. Applications promoting the development, improvement, and/or validation of outcome measures using translational scientific methods are particularly welcome.

ELIGIBILITY: Applicants must be from a SCTC member institution in good standing (<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/about-the-scleroderma-clinical-trials-consortium/membership-application>). This funding mechanism is not restricted to the SCTC-based Working Groups, however, they are eligible to apply, but cannot accept funding for both the Betty Z. Benedict Award and a Working Group Grant in the same funding cycle. Funding decisions are based primarily on merit, although favor will be given to collaborative proposals involving multiple institutions.

FUNDING LEVEL: The funding is for up to \$100,000 (USD) for a two-year period (\$50,000 at the start date and \$50,000 after the year 1 progress report is received and accepted). There may be an opportunity for continued funding, but the grantee will compete with all other new applicants for the following cycle. The awardee is expected to provide a progress report at one year after the initial award date in order to be eligible to apply for continued funding in the following cycle.

COSTS: This award is meant to support the actual project and no indirect costs are permitted. Faculty salary support is permitted.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: The deadline for receipt of the application is midnight (EST) on September 1, 2021.

REVIEW AND RANKING OF THE APPLICATIONS will be done by the SRF/SCTC Scientific Research Committee in September/October 2021. The decision to fund a project will be made and applicants will be notified by October 29, 2021. The awardee will be given one week to accept or decline funding. Funding would begin January 1, 2022. The SCTC Executive Committee, upon the recommendations from the SRF/SCTC Scientific Research Committee, reserves the option of not funding any applications if none meet the standards and expectations set forth; furthermore, the Committee may seek clarification from applicants or may choose to only fund portions of the proposals.

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING: Projects will be judged based on scientific merit, contribution to a shared mission of the SCTC (<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/index.php>) and SRF as stated above, feasibility, budgetary factors, and the extent of collaborative effort. Applicants are strongly encouraged to be inclusive in participation of centers and junior investigators.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING THE APPLICATION: Applications should use Arial font, 11-point type, single-spaced with ½ inch margins, and follow the following format:

Title page including the application title, Principal Investigator, Institution, amount of funding requested, name and address of institutional official who would process grant.

Key Personnel page (including collaborating investigators) listing positions and institutions.

Budget and budget justification

Biosketch of Principal Investigator and all Key Personnel in NIH format

Introduction: For resubmissions only, please include up to 1-page of point-by-point responses to reviewer comments.

Body of grant: This portion of the application cannot exceed 5 pages and must include a Project Summary, Specific Aims, and the Approach to accomplish these aims. Applicants are encouraged to include a plan for continued funding after the two-year period ends. Applications are strongly encouraged to specifically include the involvement of trainees or junior faculty investigators and detail the exact roles on the project and anticipated credit/authorship of the trainees/junior investigators. Similarly, collaborative/multicenter projects will be favored.

Letters of support/agreement from collaborating investigators, if applicable.

SUBMISSION PROCESS: Proposals should be collated in the proper order, converted to a single PDF document, and submitted to Ms. Adara Borys by e-mail (sctcinc01@gmail.com).