

**SCLERODERMA CLINICAL TRIAL CONSORTIUM**  
**2022 Request for Grant Applications for Proposals to Advance**  
**the Objectives of the SCTC Working Groups**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the 2022 SCTC Working Group Research Grants is to provide support for projects that advance the mission of the SCTC and particularly to enhance the productivity of current or new Working Groups. Applicants must be from SCTC member institutions whose membership is current and in good standing at the time of application.

**FUNDING LEVEL:** A maximum of four awards of up to \$25,000 (USD) for a one-year period are anticipated. We will consider continued funding for past awardees based on merit and depending on availability of funds.

**PROGRESS REPORTS:** The awardee is expected to provide a progress report nine months after the initial award date (APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR) including an accounting of funds used. Those groups who do not provide a progress report will not be eligible to apply for continued funding. Each funded working group is expected to present updates at the SCTC Annual General Meeting during the American College of Rheumatology Annual Scientific Conference and at virtual Working Group Update meetings.

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

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** The deadline for receipt of the application is midnight (U.S. Eastern Time) on May 1, 2022.

**REVIEW AND RANKING OF THE APPLICATIONS** will be done by the Scientific Research Committee in May 2021 and the decision to fund individual projects will be made by the Executive Committee by June 15, 2022. Funding would begin July 1, 2022. The Executive Committee reserves the option of not funding any applications if none meet the standards and expectations set; furthermore, the Committee may seek clarification from applicants and may fund portions of the proposals.

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

**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 key personnel in NIH format
- Body of grant: This portion of the application cannot exceed 3 pages (excluding references, tables, and figures) 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 one-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.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING PROGRESS REPORTS DUE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> OF EACH YEAR:** 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, name and address of institutional official who would process grant.

Summary Accounting from prior 9 months

Budget and budget justification if requesting no cost extension at the end of award

Biosketch of Principal Investigator and all Key Personnel in NIH format

Body of report: This portion of the application cannot exceed 3 pages (excluding references, tables, and figures) and must include: brief Project Summary; brief summary of Specific Aims; summary of progress over the past year; problems encountered over the past year; changes in research plan and rationale; and work plan for continuation of the project. Applicants are encouraged to include a plan for continued funding after the one-year period ends.

Publications emerging from the project: published, in press, submitted, abstracts and works in preparation should be included

SUBMISSION PROCESS: Proposals and progress reports 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](mailto:sctcinc01@gmail.com)).