

SCLERODERMA CLINICAL TRIALS CONSORTIUM
2023 Request for Grant Applications
for Proposals to Advance the Objectives of the SCTC Working Groups

PURPOSE: The purpose of the 2023 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 1ST 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 June 1, 2023.

REVIEW AND RANKING OF THE APPLICATIONS will be done by the Scientific Research Committee in June 2023 and the decision to fund individual projects will be made by the Executive Committee by July 1, 2023. Funding would begin July 15, 2023. 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
- Introduction: For resubmissions only (either Working Group or Betty Benedict prior submissions), please include up to 1-page of point-by-point responses to reviewer comments.
- 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.