



## 2022 SUFU Foundation Study of Neuromodulation Research Proposals RFA

With the support of Medtronic, SUFU Foundation will offer a research grant in the area of Neuromodulation.

Examples of topics that could be addressed include:

1. Efficacy and cost effectiveness of sacral neuromodulation vs other therapies for OAB treatment.
2. Outcome parameters and their validity in the evaluation of OAB or fecal incontinence sacral neuromodulation therapies.
3. Investigation into alternative methods of neuromodulation for the treatment of urinary and fecal disorders.
4. Efficacy and cost effectiveness of electrical neuromodulation therapies for the treatment of chronic pelvic pain syndromes.
5. Standardization and optimization of therapeutic pathways and methods as it pertains to sacral neuromodulation for urinary or fecal disorders.
6. Investigation into the mechanisms of action of sacral neuromodulation as it pertains to urinary and fecal disorders.

Submissions for this grant competition will be reviewed by a SUFU-designated review committee using the standard peer-review process.

### 2022 Grant Process Timeline

Call for Applications Open: September 23, 2022

Application Deadline Closes: October 31, 2022

Grant Notification: December 15, 2022

Funding Begins: December 16, 2022

### Submission Process

Please submit your grant application, along with all of your supporting documents by completing the form link in Part 1 . **Please note: all grant applications and supporting documents must be submitted in a single PDF. Grants that are not assembled into a single document will not be accepted.**

The completed project must be submitted for presentation at the corresponding Annual SUFU meeting (anticipate February 2025 for award funded December 2022). Manuscripts are to be submitted for publication in *Neurourology and Urodynamics* within one year of project completion. A signed letter of agreement will be required, along with a progress report (half way through funding cycle) and final report. Researchers acknowledge that they (and their institutions) are reportable under the Sunshine Act.

### **Eligibility:**

- The PI or Mentor of PI must be a SUFU Member in good standing, or must identify a faculty mentor who is a SUFU member in good standing.
- The PI must be a trainee (Resident, Fellow) or Junior Faculty Member (<5 years since completion of training) at the time of award. Applicants with faculty appointments must be at Instructor or Assistant Professor level.
- A previously SUFU funded grant cannot be resubmitted for additional funding.

**Funding:** SUFU Research Foundation Grant up to \$25,000.00

**Duration:** Grant must be completed within two years – the grant design should be such that it can be completed in two years. If the grant research extends beyond two years, it needs to be easily continued by another investigator (with the same SUFU supervising member) who would be expected to present the grant findings at a future SUFU Winter Meeting.

## Peer Review Criteria

### Significance

- Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in this area of neuromodulation?
- If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved?
- How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services or preventative interventions that drive this area of neuromodulation?

### Investigator(s)

- Are the PIs, collaborators and other researchers well suited to the project?
- If Early Stage Investigators or New Investigators, or in the early stages of independent careers, do they have appropriate experience and training?
- Is appropriate and relevant mentorship demonstrated?
- If established investigator, have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)?

### Innovation

- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?
- Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

### Approach

- Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
- Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?
- If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?
- If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for 1) protection of human subjects from research risks, and 2) inclusion of minorities and members of both sexes/genders, as well as the inclusion of children, justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed?

### Environment

- Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success?
- Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed?
- Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

## Part I. Project Information/Application Form

Complete and submit the [2022 SUFUR Grant Submission Form](#)

## Part II. Research Proposal

### Grant requirements (to be included on the submission form)

**NIH-Style Biosketch** (four-page maximum): Include a biographical sketch of the applicant and senior mentor. Additional biosketches may be included if appropriate. Biographical Sketch Sample and instructions can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>. For the purposes of this RFA, meeting abstracts and presentations may be placed in the "Other" section of the biosketch. Applicants should use the "Personal Statement" section to describe their career goals and career development plan and how the proposed research project will help them develop into an independent researcher.

- **Abstract** (200 words): A concise description of the proposed project.
- **Research Plan** (up to six pages, excluding references): The research description should demonstrate significance, creativity and approach, as well as the ability of the candidate to carry out the research. Elements of the plan should include:
  - Specific Aims, including hypotheses
  - Research Strategy - Organize into sections
    - Significance- Briefly sketch the background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing needs, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance and relevance of the project described in this application by relating the specific aims to the broad, long-term objectives. If the aims of the application are achieved, state how treatment, educational practice and/or urology training will be advanced.
    - Innovation- Explain how the application challenges current research or clinical practice paradigms. Describe any novel concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - Approach- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims.
  - Include a time table and plan for completing project within the established time frame
  - Arial 11 font and ½ inch margins should be used
- **Environment:** A description (one-page maximum) of departmental/institutional environment and resources available to the candidate and appropriate to the research, including an account of available space and equipment and a list of key personnel (e.g. Applicant, Mentor, co-investigators, research assistants, research coordinators, consultants).
- **Budget and Budget Justification:** Provide a budget detailing how the grant funds will be used to support the planned project. This award may be used for candidate salary support (may not exceed 50% of the award), purchases of equipment and supplies, laboratory tests, technician/research assistant salaries, Institutional Review Board (IRB) costs, and/or statistical support. Up to \$2,000.00 of the total award may be used for travel purposes to attend an SUFU Annual Meeting for presentation of the research findings.

*Budget items NOT allowed:*

- Indirect costs to the institution
  - Co-investigator or mentor salary support
  - Other applicant travel
- **Mentor's Letter of Support:** A statement from the mentor must be provided for all Resident and Fellow applicants. Junior Faculty applicants should provide a mentor letter as appropriate depending on their level of experience and track record. The letter may include the mentor's qualifications in the research area proposed by the candidate, previous experience as a research supervisor, a description of the nature and extent of supervision that will occur during the proposed award period, and how the mentor will support the candidate's plan for career progression to move from the mentored stage of his/her career to independent research investigator status.
  - **Additional Letters of Support:** One to two additional letters may be included from individuals familiar with the applicant's research activities. One letter must be included from the applicant's Chairperson or other supervisor, which demonstrates institutional commitment to the candidate, their proposed research and career development plan. Additional letters may be submitted from co-investigators or co-mentors. Letters may address issues of space and effort commitment and a rationale as to why the individual is worthy of the award.

Candidates can submit application without IRB approval. However, if a candidate is awarded a grant, an IRB approval number must be forwarded prior to receipt of funding. Candidates are encouraged to apply and obtain IRB approval in advance in order to avoid any delays if funding is awarded.