

IACAN YOUTH PROGRAM

South Asian Cancer Health Research Scholarship 2023

APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Sunday, October 1st, 2023, 5:00 PM

Applicants must submit the application form, research plan, and other supporting documents electronically before the deadline.

All scholarship-related queries will be sent to scholarship@iacanetwork.org

FUNDING

South Asian Cancer Health Research Scholarship entails undergraduate scholarships of \$500 and graduate scholarships of \$1000.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications will be accepted from graduate or undergraduate students enrolled in a Texas-based University.
- Applicant should be a resident of the United States (US citizen, permanent resident, or residing in the U.S. for at least the last 6 months)
- Applicant may submit only one proposal as PI.

CRITERIA OF THE PROPOSAL

- The scholarship will be a one-time fund based on the merit of the research proposal.
- The research must be conducted by a single individual.
- The outcome of the research must be consistent with the mission and vision of IACAN
- The proposal must be unique
- If a repeat and/or follow-up study, it must either be on a new population, or use a new methodology or data or have an added component (intervention, etc.)
- The scope of the work must include studies associated with either the development, implementation, dissemination, and evaluation of health programs at IACAN or any clinical, behavioral science, population science, **OR** global health studies in the South Asian context pertaining to breast and cervical cancer screening and prevention, HPV vaccination, bone marrow donation, nutrition, mind-body health and general men and women's health issues pertaining to cancer. The proposal should be unique. However, if it is a repeat and/or follow-up study, it should either focus on a new population, methodology, data, or an added component (intervention, etc.).

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REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications will be peer-reviewed by the scholarship program review committee comprised of internal and external members with relevant subject matter expertise. Reviewers will evaluate and score the proposals based on the following criteria:

- **Significance:** Explain how the proposed research project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields
- **Innovation:** Does the application impact current research or clinical practice by utilizing new theoretical concepts and methodologies?
- **Approach:** Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?
- **Feasibility:** Having adequate institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available for the project proposed.
- **Timeliness/milestones:** Having feasible milestones for the proposed project plan.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

The Scholarship program will notify the applicants of the review outcome via email on Friday, December 1st, 2023. The anticipated project start date is January 1st, 2024.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDEES

Awardees are expected to send a written report of their project updates to the scholarship program leadership by December 1st, 2024.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For any publications or findings resulting from this award, the following acknowledgment must be included: "This work was supported by the South Asian Cancer Health Research Scholarship as a part of the Youth Program of the Indian American Cancer Network (IACAN)."

APPLICATION FORMAT

All pages must be typed using Times New Roman 12-point font size, ½-inch margins; and numbered at the bottom.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS (single pdf document)

Applicants must submit the following using the template provided:

- Application form
- CV
- Two reference letters (one must be from the faculty mentor)
- Brief research proposal. Limit to 5 pages maximum; see "Research Plan components" below for details
- University support letter through faculty sponsor/advisor/chair of the department/ IRB approval number that the candidate has access to infrastructure to support the research

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RESEARCH PLAN COMPONENTS

- **Specific Aims:** Introduce the topic, state what is known about the topic, and state what is not known (the gap in knowledge related to the objective of your overall proposal). State the central hypothesis you propose to test or the purpose of the overall proposal. It should be related to the gap in knowledge. List the specific aims by which you will test the hypothesis or accomplish your purpose.
- **Significance/Relevance:** Briefly describe the background relevant to the proposal and critically evaluate existing knowledge. Describe how your study will contribute to South Asian cancer health literature. Explain how your study will bridge the gap in the existing scientific literature.
- **Design and Procedure:** Describe the research design and the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the work described in the application. Describe the protocols to be used and the tentative sequence of the investigation. Describe how the data will be analyzed and interpreted. Describe the new methodology and its advantage over any existing methodology. Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims. Discuss the project timeline and budget/funding (if applicable). Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be exercised. Include a brief description of physical resources available if appropriate.
- **References:** Cite published literature to substantiate contentions, with either citation numbers in parentheses or as superscripts, and provide the complete references in a list at the end of the Research Plan. Each reference must include the names of all authors, the name of the book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.