Early Career Nutrition Pilot Grant Seed Funding Program
Supported by National Pork Board

Deadline to Apply: July 7th, 2023

Description & Justification
Pilot grants are stipends for preliminary or pilot phases of young investigators’ research projects. These grants support an investigator’s efforts to address focused research questions, obtain preliminary data to support larger grant proposals in the future, and develop a line of research that can be carried forward into an academic career.

The Seed-funding Program’s primary objective is to provide pilot funding that can significantly contribute to the success of an early investigator’s career trajectory. Pilot funding is necessary to obtain preliminary research that will increase an investigator’s likelihood of obtaining larger grants. This is especially important for early career researchers who may not yet have evidence of grant success.

One $10,000 pilot grant and costs to attend ASN’s annual meeting, NUTRITION 2024, will be awarded to one ASN ECN member who is an early career researcher (within 10 years of terminal degree) and has not yet received major extramural funding (e.g., PI or Co-PI on NIH K-awards or R-awards).

*Travel (basic economy roundtrip airfare from within continental US), registration, and hotel expenses covered up to $2,000 total.

Eligibility
Applicants must:
- Be an ASN ECN member and has not yet received major extramural funding (e.g., PI or Co-PI on NIH K-awards or R-awards).
- Must be residing in the continental United States
- Be junior faculty (within 10 years of terminal degree)
- Have demonstrated an interest in food and nutrition security, underrepresented populations, and/or culturally diverse populations

Application Guidelines and Instructions
All applications must be submitted via the ASN Foundation Portal. The following information will be required during the application process.
**Application Information**
- Contact information
- ASN membership status
- Program director contact information
- Letter of recommendation author contact information

**Proposed research project information:**
- Proposed research project title (150-character limit without spaces)
- Proposed research project dates (anticipated start and completion dates)

**Statement:**
- Statement written for a non-scientific audience, explaining the contribution of the proposed research to knowledge in nutrition. Tables, images and/or graphs should not be included or referenced in the Statement. (3,500-character limit without spaces, approximately one single-spaced typewritten page)

**Summary:**
- Summary of your proposed research project including objective, experimental approach, and selected references. Up to 4 tables, images and/or graphs can be included to supplement the Summary. Tables, images and/or graphs (uploaded as image files in .jpg, .png, .gif or .bmp format) will appear separate from the Summary text in a different task. (14,000-character limit without spaces, approximately four single-spaced typewritten pages)

**Required upload (in PDF format)**
- A letter of recommendation from a program director, dean, chair, or other faculty member (1-page limit)
- A curriculum vitae (2-page limit)
- A statement including short-term and long-term goals as well as how the proposed research fits into that research pipeline (1-page limit)

**Application Parameters**
- Topics:
  - Food and nutrition security
    - Protein quality
    - Lean red meat (e.g., pork) intakes
    - Food frequency questionnaires/non-invasive data collection approaches
- Population(s):
  - Underrepresented populations/at risk communities
  - Culturally diverse populations
  - Older adults
Millennial moms (within pregnancy or new moms)

- Application Research Questions:
  - Are there ways to improve or develop novel food frequency questionnaires that are culturally relevant, serve underrepresented target populations, and consider protein quality of the diet (emphasis on lean meat such as pork)?
  - Can you develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork and pork cuts from other red meat categories, to better understand pork’s impact as a culturally appropriate food on nutrition and health outcomes?