2025 AHA Research Funding Application Instructions

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Assistance

AHA research programs and proposal deadlines:
https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-information

Contact Altum/Proposal Central 800 875 2562 (toll-free U.S. & Canada) or +1 703 964 5840 (direct dial international) or pcsupport@altum.com with technical questions/issues such as:

- I cannot access my ProposalCentral account.
- I cannot find the proposal/pre-proposal/letter of intent that I just started.
- I keep getting an error message when I try to access a page in my proposal.
- I keep getting an error message when I upload a PDF file.
- The link to provide my reference letter does not work.
- I need to update my institution and contact information, but I am not sure how to do that.
- The institution that I put in my profile is not a confirmed institution. What do I do?
- It seems that I have more than 1 login for ProposalCentral. Can I merge them?
- I validated my application but the submit button is still not available.

Please note, Altum/Proposal Central offices will be closed on the following holidays. Inquires made on these days will be answered as quickly as possible after office reopening.

In 2024:

January 1 – New Year's Day
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 19 – Presidents' Day
May 27 – Memorial Day
June 19 – Juneteenth
July 4 – Independence Day
September 2 – Labor Day
October 14 – Columbus Day
November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving
December 23-27 - Christmas Holiday

Contact the American Heart Association apply@heart.org or (214) 360-6107 (option 1) with program questions/issues such as:

- Do I meet the eligibility requirements for the program to which I wish to apply?
- How much detail do I need to input for the Research Plan in my proposal?
- May I submit more than one proposal?
- Can I add figures and/or legends to the proposal?
- It says to upload my biosketch. Can that be in NIH format?
- I need help with AHA Professional Membership.
- May I pay a collaborator (or other personnel) from this grant?
- I would like to request an extension to the deadline.
- I need to replace a document in a proposal I submitted.
- I want to apply for a grant but cannot find the opportunity listed in ProposalCentral.

Please note, American Heart Association offices will be closed on the following holidays. Inquires made on these days will be answered as quickly as possible after office reopening.

In 2024:

January 1 - New Year's Day
January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
May 27 – Memorial Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 2 - Labor Day
November 28 & 29 - Thanksgiving
December 23-27 - Christmas Holiday

AHA Funding Opportunities

Program descriptions of funding opportunities are generally posted on the AHA website several months prior to the proposal deadline. The program descriptions contain important information that will help you determine which program is right for you. Review the posted program descriptions to ensure that you have the most up-to-date program requirements. View descriptions of the AHA research programs.

AHA advises beginning the proposal

Required AHA Professional Membership

Each applicant must be an AHA Professional Member. Join or renew when preparing a proposal in ProposalCentral, online, or by phone at 972-349-5803 or 1-888-242-2453. Membership processing may take 3-5 days; *do not wait until the proposal deadline to renew or join.* Current AHA awardees are permitted to use award funds to renew annual AHA Professional Membership dues.

Each applicant must be an American Heart Association Professional Member (membership levels are based on career stage). This applies to Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Applicants. *This requirement was developed by the AHA Research Committee, AHA's Council Leadership Committees, and the Council Operations Committee. It was considered and approved by the Science Advisory Coordinating Committee (SACC) and the Board of Directors.*

Until an applicant joins or renews as an AHA Professional Member, she/he will not be able to submit the proposal to the AHA.

If you are already an AHA Professional Member, enter your membership number. The last name on your proposal must match the last name associated with the membership number. If you do not know your membership number, visit Professional Heart Daily and click 'Log In' at the top right corner of the screen, then select 'find my account'.

Visit the AHA Professional Members page to find out more about membership levels and benefits. Member dues are not refundable. Questions about the AHA Professional Membership requirement may be directed to apply@heart.org or call 214-360-6107 option 1.

AHA Member Frequently Asked Questions

As a fellowship applicant, may I use my mentor's Member number?

Predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowship applicants must have their own memberships. They are not covered under their mentors' accounts. AHA wants to more actively engage these training-level investigators to become involved with AHA professional councils and to explore the many

you enter your account information or join via the link in the proposal.

My member number is not recognized because my name has changed and my new last name has been pre-populated. What should I do?

Please update your profile by following these steps:

1. Visit Professional Heart Daily and choose 'sign-

proposal to your grants officer.

Will my grants officer be able to see my credit card or AHA Member information?

Get an ORCiD iD

You are not required to have an ORCiD number to log into proposalCentral, however, it is now required to submit applications to the AHA.

Application Preparation

Page Setup/Formatting

Most required documents may be prepared prior to creating the application in ProposalCentral. Adherence is mandatory to the page limits and format requirements below. No applicant should have an advantage over other applicants by providing more content in

Multiple Submissions

A PI may submit only one application per program type in a fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Exception: An applicant may submit more than one Innovative Project Award proposal, each with clearly distinct aims.

Regarding applications to different program types in the same fiscal year:

> An individual may hold more than one AHA award concurrently but may only hold one award that is dependent on career stage (Career Development Award,

If you have one of the following training grants:

The Application Sections in ProposalCentral

The sections of the application and the required document uploads vary by program. Required documents for each program are listed on the Required Application Documents page. To follow the standard flow of the proposal, click "Continue" at the bottom of each page. You may also select the section you wish to work on by clicking on it in the menu on the left side of the screen.

Question marks throughout the application contain instructions for each section. You must save each section as you complete it.

If you upload an incorrect document prior to submitting the application to your grants officer, repeat the upload task and select the correct document. The new document will replace old one upon saving.

1 Project Title

Title: You must first create a title of up to 120 characters.

Start and End Dates: The award start and end dates are set, according to the award type.

Resubmission of a Proposal
Indicate if this is a resubmission. If a resubmission, indicate if the previous application was created in ProposalCentral or in another system, which you would choose for a proposal created in Grants@Heart. See Document Uploads, item G for Resubmission Modification instructions.

Some AHA programs permit resubmission of the same or similar application (similar aims) up to three times (the original plus two resubmissions). The same or similar application submitted for the fourth time will be withdrawn.

If major changes are made to the application or if this is an entirely different/new project, it should not be checked as a resubmission. It is not acceptable to resubmit an application originally submitted by another investigator. Such applications may be withdrawn or disapproved.

To have the benefit of critiques from the previous submission, a resubmitted application will be assigned to at least one of the primary reviewers that it was assigned to in the previous round, whenever possible. Reviewers for resubmitted applications will be provided with the critiques and scores from the previous round for reference.

Programs eligible for resubmission

- AHA Predoctoral Fellowship
- AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Career Development Award
- Collaborative Sciences Award
- Established Investigator Award
- Transformational Project Award
- Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training
- AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)

2 Download Templates & Instructions

Links in this tab go to this Instructions document and to lists of documents required of applicants and third-party personnel for each award type.

3 Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal

Access Permissions: This screen allows you to give other users access to your proposal.

You can give one of three levels of permissions:

View (View only. Cannot change any details.)
Edit (Can view and change information in the grant application. Cannot Submit or view this Access Permission screen)
Administrator (Can view, edit, and submit the application. Can give access rights to others.)

To Give Another Person Access to Your Grant Application:

1.

(2500-character limit)

Write a concise description or abstract describing the proposed work. The project summary is a brief synopsis of the proposal and NOT the detailed Research Plan, which may contain proprietary information.

Note: This field will not accept special characters or keystrokes (such as superscript or subscripts, special characters, Greek symbols, quotation marks, italics, underlining, bolding, etc.) into this form field.

Please indicate your permission to share overview information about this proposal:
Periodically, donors (individuals and other organizations) wish to co-sponsor awards with AHA. Tsh.265

14 Organization Assurances

Assurance numbers cannot be entered on this screen – they will appear only if properly entered in the institution profile (for the institution you selected in the institution section of the proposal). If no assurance number appears here, please contact your institution's grants and contacts office to have them add the assuont(o)2.583-1 inur8per to the institution profil. 8f you theted Pr5 (e)-8

Convert your Word document to Portable Document Format (pdf) and upload in the "Upload Attachments" section. The system will only accept a .pdf file.

Institutional Award for Undergraduate Student Training Program Directors:
You do not need to upload this document into the proposal. Instead, please email it to apply@heart.org and reference your AHA Application ID number on the subject line.

A-TRAC Pilot Program applicants do not need to upload the file into the proposal.

The AHA has adopted just-in-time IACUC assurances for animal subjects. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to submit his/her project to the appropriate animal care and use committee at the time of application. Funded applicants will have a maximum time of three months following the original activation date to submit the IACUC approval for their projects to the AHA. (For example, if the activation date is July 1, IACUC approval must be received prior to September 30.) If the IACUC approval is not provided to the AHA within three months of the originally posted activation date, the award must be relinquished. There are no exceptions.

Any significant change in the scientific research plan or scope/aims of the project after AHA submission must be reported to the AHA when submitting the just-in-time IACUC approval.

15 Upload Attachments

Attachments required for each program type –

17 Validate

Click the 'Validate' button below to check for any missing REQUIRED information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step.

18 Signature Page(s)

The AHA does not accept any printed application material.

Printing: If you wish to print After you complete all the proposal sections, click one of the Print buttons on this page to open and print the cover/signature pages and application files.

Click “Print Signatures Pages” to print only the signature pages. Clicking the print button will open the cover/signature pages in PDF format. Data that you entered in the other sections of the proposal are automatically included in the cover/signature pages. If information is missing in the cover/signature pages, it could be because you have not entered the information in one of the proposal sections OR the information is not required for this grant program.

Click “Print Signature Pages with Attachments” to print the signature pages with attachment files.

> Before printing, please use the 'Validate' option (in the navigation menu to the left) to verify that you have entered all the required information.
> You must have the FREE Adobe Acrobat Reader installed to view either of the above options.
> Attention Apple/Mac users: The default Apple PDF viewer will not work properly. Download the latest version of the Acrobat Reader from Adobe at http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html

Signatures: The Applicant and Grant Officer are to type their names in the signature box, exactly as it appears on this application. Click the “sign” button. If successful, the date and time signed will appear to the right of the signature line.

19 Submit

To submit your proposal, please click the 'Submit' button. You will be unable to submit if you have not provided all the required information. Any missing information will be listed on the screen. If your submission is successful, you will receive a confirmation message on the screen, and a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant.

Once the application is submitted to AHA, no changes can be made.

After the application deadline, no supplementary material (additional preliminary data, new publications, etc.) will be accepted unless requested by AHA staff. However, if a publication listed as pending is accepted after the application is submitted, you may notify the AHA by email to apply@heart.org and attach the acceptance letter (but not the publication). You must first obtain consent fromfy

Proposed Research Plan Page Limits*

AHA Foundational Research Awards	Pre-proposal (letter of intent), if required	Proposed Research Plan
AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award		8
ASA/Bugher Foundation Award	5	17
Career Development Award		8
Collaborative Sciences Award	3	10
Established Investigator Award	2	8
Innovative Project Award	1	5
Institutional Award for Undergraduate Training (Implementation Plan)		12
Merit Award	2	6
Predoctoral Fellowship		5
Postdoctoral Fellowship		5
Research Supplement to Promote Diversity		3
Transformational Project Award		8

The trainee and mentor should collaboratively provide a thoughtfully planned, systematic proposal aimed at clearly answering an investigative question in cardiovascular, cerebrovascular or brain health research. A fellow must have primary responsibility for the writing and the preparation of the application, understanding the mentor will play a significant part in providing guidance to the applicant. Because the fellow receives only a stipend from the award, additional monetary support for the proposed work MUST come from the mentor's laboratory. Therefore, the proposal will likely be related to the mentor's currently funded work. The mentor should clarify the role the applicant played in developing the proposal, the relationship of the proposal to ongoing work in the mentor's laboratory, and how the proposal will contribute toward the training and career development of the applicant.

A new fellow may not have had adequate time to generate preliminary data; therefore, applicants may present preliminary data generated by the mentor. The assessment of preliminary data, whether generated by the mentor or the applicant, should be put into perspective so that bold new ideas and risk taking by beginning investigators are encouraged rather than stymied. Submission of an application to the AHA with identical or significantly similar content as a submission by another investigator is prohibited. Also, the submission of an application to the AHA with identical or significantly similar content from a mentor to a grant program and their fellow to fellowship program is prohibited. In such cases, both applications may be removed from funding consideration. If a grant application is submitted by the mentor of a fellowship application, both applications may be funded if there is no duplication of aims.

Type the research plan specifically following the outline below, in the same sequence. Address all items. Indicate N/A or None if not applicable to this proposal. The entire proposed research plan must not exceed the five-page limit.

Important: *If you are applying for only one year of support, state this in the research plan.*

1. Specific Aims - Provide a clear, concise summary of the aims of the work proposed and the project's relationship to your long-term goals. Note the significance and innovation of your research; then list two to three concrete objectives.

2. Research Strategy - Describe your research rationale and the experiments you will conduct to accomplish each aim. Structure as follows:

Significance: Sketch the background leading to this proposal. Summarize important results outlined by others in the same field, critically evaluating existing knowledge. Identify gaps that this project is intended to fill.

State concisely the importance and relevance of the research to cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular function or disease, or to related fundamental problems. Also, it is incumbent upon the applicant to make a clear link between the project and the mission of the AHA. The significance section will be assessed in terms of potential impact on the AHA mission; this will be factored into the overall priority score as noted in the peer review criteria.

Preliminary Studies: Describe concisely previous work related to the proposed research by the applicant that will help to establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project. Include pilot studies showing the work is feasible. (If none, so state.)

AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA)
Proposed Research Plan, 8-page limit

1. Specific Aims
   Provide a clear, concise summary of the aims of the work proposed and its relationship to your long-term goals. State the hypothesis to be tested.

2. Background and Significance
   Sketch the background leading to this proposal.

sampled must include a compelling scientific rationale for such research design as part of the proposed research plan. There is not a separate upload for this explanation; it must be included within the allowable page limit for your proposal.

ASA/Bugher Foundation Awards

The intent of this initiative is to support a collaboration of basic, clinical and/or population researchers from different disciplines. The Centers within the Network will propose projects related to a specific, targeted topic of research. Refer to the RFA for specific details regarding the focused topic and program requirements.

Each applicant will submit a Center application and a

Career Development Award
8-page limit -- Address the following topics, and how the members of your Mentoring Team will assist with each aspect.

1. Specific Aims
   Provide a clear, concise summary of the aims of the work proposed and its relationship to your long-term goals. State the hypothesis to be tested.

2. Background and Significance
   Sketch the background leading to this proposal. Summarize important results outlined by others in the same field, critically evaluating existing knowledge. Identify gaps that this project is intended to fill.

   State concisely the importance and relevance of the research to cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular function or disease, or to related fundamental problems. Also, it is incumbent upon the applicant to make a clear link between the project and the mission of the AHA. The significance section will be assessed in terms of potential impact on the AHA mission; this will be factored into the overall priority score as noted in the peer review criteria.

3. Preliminary Studies
   Describe concisely previous work related to the proposed research by the applicant that will help to establish the experience and competence of the investigator to pursue the proposed project. Include pilot studies showing the work is feasible. (If none, so state.)

4. Research Design and Methods
   Description of proposed tests, methods or procedures should be explicit, sufficiently detailed, and well defined to allow adequate evaluation of the approach to the problem. Describe any new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies.

   Clearly describe overall design of the study, with careful consideration to statistical aspects of

Collaborative Sciences Award
Pre-proposal (required letter of intent), 3-page limit

A pre-proposal (letter of intent) is required to ensure responsiveness to the novel, collaborative nature of this program. The novel relationship and proposed collaboration of investigators from at least two widely disparate disciplines will be given the most weight in evaluating the pre-proposal to determine which teams will be invited to submit full applications.

The pre-proposal must describe the specific inclusion of at least one early or mid-career Co-PI, and an innovative, collaborative approach to research which incorporates a novel grouping of investigators from at least two widely disparate disciplines and/or areas of expertise. The written summary must focus on the collaborative relationship of the investigators, such that

Established Investigator Award
Pre-proposal (required letter of intent), 2-page limit

AHA will contact applicants with the highest-rated pre-proposals and invite them to submit a full proposal. Applicants will receive no reviewer feedback on letters of intent.

A Pre-proposal (letter of intent), limited to two (2) pages, should briefly describe why the AHA should invest in your proposed vision for the future in terms of the following:

Likelihood of transforming and advancing the future of CV and stroke science.
Potential to move your research into emerging and/or difficult areas of inquiry, being consistently at its forefront.
Ability to develop new tools and methods that support creative experimental approaches to questions, encompassing concepts or techniques from other disciplines.
Capacity to forge links between disparate disciplines.
Strong track record of collaboration with other distinguished scientists across disciplines.
Evidence of great promise for future original and innovative contributions.
Demonstrated commitment to the mission of the American Heart Association and to advancing the ideals and guiding principles through volunteer service.

Proposed Research Plan, 8-page limit
After submitting a pre-proposal, if you are invited to submit a full proposal:

1. The Established Investigator Award (EIA) abbreviated proposal format is not the same as those used for other AHA grants or individual NIH research grants (R01). The eight (8)

Innovative Project Award
Pre-proposal (required letter of intent), 1-page limit

A pre-proposal, limited to one (1) page, will be required. This pre-proposal should briefly address the following points.

Clearly and explicitly articulate the project's innovation and the potential impact on cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular research.
The Innovative Project Award (IPA) promotes unexplored ideas; therefore, if you include information about preliminary work, then the proposal is not innovative. You may refer to previous projects you have conducted to demonstrate that you possess a competency or technique that equips you to take on this new direction. Proposals may also refer to existing, unanalyzed datasets and the types of data they contain (e.g., geospatial, demographic, billing, molecular) that could be leveraged in conducting the proposed work, but there should be no preliminary descriptive summaries of the data itself.

the approach, the adequacy of controls, and number of observations, as well as how results will be analyzed. Include details of any collaborative arrangements that have been made.

For all applications that include vertebrate animals or human subjects, applicants must explain how relevant biological variables, such as sex, are factored into the research design, analysis and reporting. Furthermore, strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations, must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.

Discuss the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims.

Ethical aspects of the proposed research are to be addressed in the subject use approval documents.

Institutional Award for Undergraduate Training
This program requires an Implementation Plan, as outlined below, 12-page limit

1. Provide a history of the institution's student training program. Include a description of institutional support that is available to mentors and students.

2. List the training opportunities available to students, including potential mentors. Provide brief details about each mentor's background, nature of work, training pl-2 (o)-7 '2.nep6 (u)4Tw [(m)-12.9 (e)-4 -4/m66dg222otn4e2tn6ja073atiti 022g 0gtn12.8 1e mentor

Merit Award
Pre-proposal (required letter of intent), 3-page limit

Proposal, 6-page limit
After submitting a pre-proposal, if you are invited to submit a full proposal, refer to this web page for detailed application instructions: https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/aha-funding-opportunities/merit-award/merit-award-invited-applicant-instructions

Upload the following documents into the Science/Evaluation section

1. Major Research Achievements (1 pg. limit)
   A summary of the applicant's major research achievements. This should be written so that a non-scientist reviewer can readily understand the summary.

2. Ongoing and Planned Research Progress and Future Vision (8 pg. limit)
   A summary of the applicant's ongoing and planned research program and a statement of why the AHA should support the applicant's research (references and up to one page of figures are counted toward the 6-page limit).

   This section should build upon the pre-proposal by focusing on how the proposed research would

   transform and advance the future of cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascu3.5 (p0 0 l (e)-13.4e0

Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Science
The documents required from the Mentor and the Fellow (applicant):

Mentor:

Biosketch of Mentor and Co-

Strategically Focused Research Network (SFRN) Awards

Details for each SFRN may vary; always refer to the current Request for Proposals (RFP). The intent of this initiative is to support a collaboration of basic, clinical and population researchers whose collective efforts will lead to new approaches related to a specific, targeted topic of research. Each Center must propose two (2) or three (3) projects representing at least two of the following research disciplines: basic, clinical, and population science. Population studies are inclusive of projects ranging from cohort studies to translational or implementation research involving community interventions. Refer to the RFP for specific details regarding the focused topic and program requirements.

The pre-proposal/letter of intent is REQUIRED and must be initiated by the proposed Center Director and submitted in ProposalCentral by the deadline. Refer to the RFP for specific details and requirements for the pre-proposal/letter of intent.

Each applicant will submit a Center application and a specified number of Project proposals. Refer to required application documents for instructions about the documents required for the SFRN for which you are applying. Required documents may vary for each SFRN, and those required will be listed in ProposalCentral.

Health Equity Research Network (HERN) on Community-Driven Research Approaches

The Pre-Proposal is REQUIRED, please refer to the respective RFP for specific details and requirements. Each applicant will submit their respective application in ProposalCentral. Refer to required application documents for instructions about the documents required for the respective HERN for which you are applying. All possible required documents are listed here as well as in ProposalCentral.

Health Equity Research Network (HERN) on Community-Driven Research Approaches – Partner Hub

The key outcome of this HERN is the establishment of new models for community-driven research that can be scaled and used as a founda7 (n)3.57(cal)-17.35dada7 (n-3.5 (o)u-3.5 (e)3.7 95(n)3.57(cd[

Health Equity Research Network on Community-Driven Research Approaches – Community Engagement Resource Center

The Community Engagement Resource Center (CERC) will, under leadership of the Director, incorporate a multidisciplinary approach to provide capacity building, training, evaluation, and the management of a Community of Practice for the full Network. The CERC will facilitate engagement across the Partner Hubs and service as a coordinating center, facilitating capacity building, study optimization, communication, evaluation, and a Community of Practice.

Community Engagement Resource Center Applicant:

- Budget Justification (2 pages)
- Community Engagement Resource Center
- Administration Structure (2 pages)
- Director(s) CV/Biosketch (5 pages)
- Director(s) Letter of Support (2 pages)

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AHA RESEARCH PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

FACILITIES:

LABORATORY:

CLINICAL:

ANIMAL:

COMPUTER:

OFFICE:

OTHER:

MAJOR EQUIPMENT:

F. Budget Justification Form

2-page limit

The Budget Justification form requires minimal narrative explanation of expenses proposed for the project. Follow the AHA template form, which outlines the information to include in this document. Access the template: Budget Justification Template (DOCX)

If the proposal is funded, the budget will be reviewed prior to award activation to confirm that budget items comply with AHA Guidelines and allowable expenditures.

Below is a list of Allowable and Non-allowable budget items. These are defined in the AHA Award Guide (PDF).

Expense Types	Allowed
Alterations and Renovations	No
Books, Subscriptions	No
Collaborating Investigator Salary/Fringes	Yes
Computers	Yes
Consultative Services	May be requested, AHA approval required
Data Network chargebacks	No
Equipment	Yes
Expenses in Obtaining a Visa	No
Indirect Costs	Yes, up to 10% of total annual expenses reported
Malpractice Insurance	No

G. Resubmission Modifications

2-page limit

Some AHA programs permit resubmission of the same or similar proposal (similar aims) as one submitted in a previous cycle, up to three times (the original plus two resubmissions). Resubmissions are accepted for the AHA Predoctoral Fellowship, AHA Postdoctoral Fellowship, Career Development Award, Collaborative Sciences Award, Established Investigator Award, Transformational Project Award, Institutional Undergraduate Student Fellowship Program, and AHA Institutional Research Enhancement Award (AIREA).

If your proposal is a resubmission of a proposal unfunded in a previous AHA review, you must create a document to explain the changes. In this document, specify significant changes made in response to major comments/criticisms from the scientific critiques, and explain how the proposal has been strengthened or modified (additions, deletions, revisions).

It is essential that this document complies exactly with the association's

Peer Review

Assignment: When a proposal is submitted to the American Heart Association, it is assigned to a peer review committee based on the award type and the first major science classification choice of the proposal. Two scientists from the peer review committee provide an independent, in-depth review. A third reviewer is also assigned as a reader of the proposal, to assist with differences of opinions and to balance the discussion. Readers are not required to post critiques, but sometimes comment on the overall impression of the proposal. These scientists are assigned a proposal based upon their broad knowledge of the science and methods contained in the proposal. Each peer reviewer is assigned a limited number of proposals to review in detail. All peer reviewers may access all proposals in their committee, if not in conflict, and may review on their own initiative proposals not specifically assigned to them.

Summary for Non-scientists (lay summary): Proposals for research funding will be assessed for their potential impact on the AHA Mission, and on the applicant's ability to effectively describe the proposal and its potential outcomes to non-scientists. This potential impact assessment will be based primarily on the Summary for Non-scientists (lay summary) and any lay reviewers' impressions. This assessment will be factored into the Impact peer review criterion, which will account for 5-10% of the overall priority score.

A lay reviewer is an individual who does not have formal training as a scientist, and who has strong interest in advancing the prevention and/or management of cardiovascular and/or cerebrovascular disease and/or brain health. Lay reviewers specifically help evaluate how well the applicant explains the potential impact of the proposal. This assessment will be factored into the overall priority score, as noted in the peer review criteria.

Scoring: The committee meets and discusses the scientific merit of each proposal and then each committee member privately assigns a score. After a proposal is scored, the reviewer's individual scores

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Funding Notification

When peer review is complete, the AHA Research Committee will meet to make funding decisions. An email notice will be sent to