



Mentorship plans for PERF® Infrastructure and Registry Grants

The primary goal of this grant mechanism is to establish and/or expand the scientific scope of multicenter clinical research collaborations to (1) support meaningful clinical research to improve the lives of children with neurologic disease, and (2) prepare the investigators to develop competitive subsequent research grant applications (e.g. to NIH, PCORI, CIHR etc.). Mentorship is a key value for PERF®. Therefore, *every application must provide a mentoring plan* (maximum 2 pages).

Early-Stage Investigators (faculty less than 10 years post-training who have not held major independent grants – e.g. NIH R01, CIHR Project Grant or equivalent – or those beginning new lines of research topics or methods) who serve as principal investigators (PIs) on PERF® grants must demonstrate that their mentorship plan provides the necessary support for them to execute the proposed study.

- (1) *PERF® grants are not traditional career development awards.* They are intended to develop multicenter research networks. Thus, the mentorship plans for these grants should be specific to the proposal.
- (2) This plan should clearly indicate how the PI will be supported as an early-stage investigator to be successful in leading this multicenter study. The plan should include a detailed strategy for professional activities/responsibilities and specific mentorship that will enable the PI to successfully lead the proposed research project and foster the PI's development as an independent pediatric neurology researcher.
- (3) Ideally, the primary mentor shall be local (i.e., at the same institution as the PI). However, in some circumstances the most appropriate primary mentor may be at another institution/organization. In this case, provide a clear description of how the PI will work with the primary mentor and how the PI will receive local mentorship on navigating the internal systems at their home institution.
- (4) Research mentors must have a track record in (1) pediatric neurology research or another area that is relevant to the application, and (2) multicenter study leadership. It is acceptable to have multiple mentors for different aspects of the study. The mentors' involvement in the proposal design and planned execution should be clearly described.
- (5) For each mentor, provide evidence of a track record of mentoring productive early-stage investigators, as evidenced by the mentor's career evolution, productivity, extramural funding, publication record, and the productivity of their prior mentees.
- (6) In the mentorship plan, indicate how often the PI will meet with their mentor(s), how these meetings will be conducted (in person, Zoom, etc.), etc. If there is a mentorship team, outline how this team will work together to support the PIs successful leadership of the multicenter project.

Established Investigators may also serve as PIs for PERF® Infrastructure and Registry Grants. These PIs must demonstrate the appropriate skills to lead the multicenter study. They shall explain in their mentorship plan how they will mentor early career investigators involved in the study (e.g., assistant professors, instructors, fellows, or people who are new to clinical research).

- (1) Provide evidence of a track record of mentoring productive early-stage investigators, fellows and other trainees. Include information about experience in providing the proposed research mentorship, as evidenced by the PI's career evolution, productivity, extramural funding, publication record, and the productivity of prior mentees.
- (2) Provide a comprehensive mentoring plan which details how the PI will facilitate the research career development of more junior investigators who participate in this multicenter research. Include information about potential impact of the proposed mentoring plan. Describe plans for virtual communication strategies, teleconferences, networking, training, etc., along with how frequently these activities will occur and how their outcomes will be assessed.

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