

Magee CARES 2023 Research Award Application Instructions

A. Program Overview

The Magee CARES Research Award was established by Magee-Womens Research Institute (MWRI) and the Scaife Foundation to encourage perinatal substance use research among junior faculty and trainees across the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), and MWRI research community. The spirit of this award is to fund innovative, multidisciplinary research and to guide evidence-based health, healthcare, or community-based innovations in the field of perinatal substance use research.

B. General Information

- Projects should incorporate clinical, health services, education/training, qualitative, community-based, or implementation science approaches to addressing research questions relevant to perinatal substance use.
- Subjects can include anyone impacted by substance use (e.g., patients, children, or families/caregivers, social networks, health/service providers).
- Research questions should explore substance use-related topics that may be relevant before, during, or after pregnancy.
- Applications will need to describe how research findings could be incorporated into a community-based or clinical setting in the future.

C. Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include junior faculty (Assistant Professor level), fellows, residents, and post-undergraduate students in the health sciences (e.g., medicine, nursing) at the University of Pittsburgh, UPMC or MWRI.
- High school and undergraduate students are not eligible to apply.
- Trainees (i.e., fellows, residents, and health sciences students) must involve a University of Pittsburgh faculty mentor who will be committed to the project through its completion.

D. Funds Available

- **This year, 3 awards of \$50,000 will be available.**
- Applicants should propose one-year projects with an earliest start date of July 15. If the project is not completed in one year, the applicant can ask for a one-year 'no-cost' extension.
- Only direct costs of the research are supported by this award. Faculty salary is not an allowable expense. Research staff salary and fringe, materials and supplies, and other direct costs are allowed.

E. Application Preparation and Submission

Application and supporting documentation must be submitted via email in a single file (Word or PDF) to Ms. Kathy Smith (smithkj4@mwri.magee.edu) before **5:00 PM Monday, May 29, 2023**. Please use single spacing, 1-inch margins and 11-point Arial font.

F. Required Documents

1. Application Face Page. Use provided template.
2. Biosketch or CV for the primary applicant or principal investigator and all members of the research team.
 - a. NIH-style Biosketch is preferred; a Curriculum Vitae will be accepted for applicants who do not have a NIH Biosketch.

3. Abstract – 250 words
 - a. Include a brief description of the objective, design, and methods for achieving the stated goals of the project.
4. Research Project Description
 - a. Describe the proposed project using the headings listed below. The page limit is **4 pages**, excluding references.
 1. *Background* - Summarize the state of knowledge relevant to the proposal.
 2. *Research questions/specific aims* - State these clearly and concisely.
 3. *Research design/methods* - Give essential details of methods. Describe the study site(s), participants/population, recruitment, data collection procedures, outcome measures, and the method of data analysis proposed.
 4. *Relevance to clinical practice* – Describe how research findings could be incorporated into clinical practice or a community-based setting focused on improving outcomes for individuals affected by substance use in the perinatal period.
5. References
 - a. Compile these separately; they are **not** included in the page limit.
6. Budget and budget justification
 - a. Use the provided budget template.
 - b. Budget justification - describe the proposed use of funds including a breakdown of the budget into categories such as personnel (e.g., recruitment staff time, data analyst time), supplies, participant payments, technical support, etc. Funds must be used for the proposed research project, or a component added to an existing research project.
 - c. Funds can be used to support direct costs including research staff, supplies, patient recruitment, data analysis, or project-related travel. Funds *cannot* be used for faculty/candidate/investigator/mentor salary support or coursework.
 - d. **Magee CARES research staff (i.e., data analysts, recruitment staff) can be used for research teams who do not have their own staff.** Please see attached description of Magee CARES research staff with pricing available for applicant use.
 - e. Indirect costs are not permitted.
7. Co-Investigator, Mentor, Consultant, and Collaborator Documents
 - a. Co-Investigator/mentor - A NIH formatted biosketch should be submitted for each research team member. A Curriculum Vitae (CV) will be accepted for investigators who do not have a NIH biosketch.
 - b. Consultant and Collaborators - Include letters from essential consultants and collaborators, as required, confirming their availability and agreement to participate in the project.

G. Candidate Evaluation

The Magee CARES selection committee will review all applications. Decisions will be based on:

1. Scientific merit
2. Originality and creativity
3. Quality of the application
4. Relevance to the clinical care of patients with substance use disorder

H. Scoring of Proposals

An overall score will be assigned as well as a score for *Significance, Approach, Investigative Team, and Clinical Relevance*. Poorly written applications will result in a proposal being less competitive. The Magee CARES selection committee will independently review all applications and cast individual scores. To ensure consistency, the committee members will adhere to the following common scale.

Overall Impact or Criterion Strength	Score	Description
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

The members of the selection committee will convene for an open deliberation and discussion of the applications. The average rating score of each application will be reviewed and the final funding decision will be made. All applicants will be provided with a summary of the selection committee’s reviews of their proposal.

I. Publications/Presentations

Any abstracts, publications, and/or presentations that result from research activities supported by this Award, whether entirely or in part, must include the following written statement: *“Supported by The Magee CARES Research Award.”* A copy of the abstracts, publication, and/or presentations must be sent to Ms. Kathy Smith at smithkj4@mwri.magee.edu.

J. Timeline

Submission Deadline	May 29, 2023
Review Process	June 5 - June 19, 2023
Award Notification	July 5, 2023
Funding Start	July 15, 2023

Magee CARES Research Staff

A. Participant recruitment

Ellen Stewart, BS is a Research Associate at MWRI and the Magee Center for Perinatal Addiction Research, Education and Evidence-based Solutions (CARES). Ms. Stewart has been working at MWRI for the past 6 years on multiple studies evaluating clinical interventions for patients with substance use disorder. As such, she has developed expertise in recruitment, enrollment and follow-up techniques designed for the unique needs of patients with substance use disorder. She also has expertise in conducting qualitative interviews focused on sensitive issues such as substance use, the development of the IRB protocols, and the development of data safety and monitoring plans.

Costs associated with Ms. Stewart's time to conduct participant recruitment and enrollment are \$1,288 for 2.5% annual effort. Additional effort is available in 2.5% increments.

B. Data analysis

Katelyn Kasula, MS, MA is a Data Analyst at MWRI and the Magee Center for Perinatal Addiction Research, Education and Evidence-based Solutions (CARES). Ms. Kasula has been working at MWRI for the past year on studies evaluating clinical interventions for patients with substance use disorder. She has 6 years of research, data management, and data analysis experience. As such, she has developed expertise in survey methods, data extraction, data collection, data management, and data analysis. As a data analyst for Magee CARES, Ms. Kasula is responsible for the statistical design, collection, cleaning, management, and analysis of all research studies conducted at the Center. She also supervises student research assistants who regularly help facilitate data extraction for research purposes.

Costs associated with Ms. Kasula's time to conduct participant recruitment and enrollment are \$1,719 for 2.5% annual effort. Additional effort is available in 2.5% increments.

Requirements:

- Magee CARES staff can be budgeted in increments of 2.5% annual effort. Costs above include salary + fringe.
- Magee CARES staff are available to perform services at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital or Magee-Womens Research Institute.
- Magee CARES staff are MWRI employees. Any final award budget may be reduced by the cost of their services.
- Please contact smithkj4@mwri.magee.edu for any questions about Magee CARES staff.