

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:

CNOC INVESTIGATOR AWARD 2021

Program Description

The Cardiac Neurodevelopmental Outcome Collaborative (CNOC) is excited to announce a Request for Applications (RFA) for our inaugural **CNOC Investigator Award**.

CNOC was founded in 2016 with the mission to determine and implement best practices of neurodevelopmental services for *every* individual with pediatric and congenital heart disease and their families through clinical, quality improvement, and research initiatives.

Since then, CNOC has grown to include 47 institutional member sites and more than 1100 individual members across North America and Europe.

Purpose of Award

The purpose of the inaugural CNOC Investigator Award is to provide funding support for CNOC members to leverage the CNOC infrastructure to conduct research and/or quality improvement science aimed at improving neurodevelopmental, psychosocial outcomes, and/or quality of life for children and families affected by congenital heart disease (CHD).

Background

Every year, approximately 1 million children are born with CHD. About 1 out of every 4 of these children is born with a form of “critical” CHD requiring intensive surgical intervention within the first year of life. Critical CHD poses a serious threat to quality of life across the lifespan. Beginning in utero and extending into adulthood, CHD has the potential to alter brain development and adversely impact a wide range of neurodevelopmental and psychosocial outcomes. Despite improved understanding of these risks, to date, we have been unable to significantly improve neurodevelopmental and psychosocial outcomes for the growing population of CHD survivors.

CNOC Clinical Data Registry

In 2019, CNOC launched its Clinical Data Registry. The goal of this registry is to serve as a repository for high-quality, longitudinal CHD neurodevelopmental, psychosocial, and quality of life outcomes data. As a founding member of Cardiac Networks United (CNU; <https://cardiacnetworksunited.org/>), CNOC neurodevelopmental and psychosocial outcomes data can be linked with additional cardiac medical and surgical data.

To date, more than 3300 neurodevelopmental assessments from over 2900 unique individuals have been entered into the CNOC registry. Registry data fields can be reviewed in the CNOC Manual of Operations and the data dictionary can be made available upon request.

Questions regarding data counts, missing data, and permissions related to the CNOC registry and associated CNU registries are welcome and should be directed to the CNOC Co-Chairs (email addresses below).

Award Priorities

Proposed study aims must address neurodevelopmental and/or psychosocial outcomes within the context of CHD and utilize data from the CNOC Clinical Data Registry. All applications that have the potential to advance knowledge and/or improve neurodevelopmental, psychosocial, and/or quality of life outcomes in CHD will be considered. Collaboration across multiple sites and disciplines is strongly encouraged.

Areas of priority include:

1. Social determinants of health and disparities in care
2. Child and family mental health
3. Interventions to improve neurodevelopmental, psychosocial, and/or quality of life outcomes
4. Innovative models for predicting neurodevelopmental, psychosocial, and/or quality of life outcomes
5. Comparative effectiveness research
6. Implementation science for improving cardiac neurodevelopmental follow-up

Award Information

Funding Instrument	Grant
Application Types Allowed	Pilot study Clinical research study Collaborative studies involving multiple centers Ancillary studies to other projects
Funds Available and Resources Available	A single award up to \$50,000 in total costs over two years may be funded. Sub-awards to collaborators must be included in the overall budget. In addition to direct costs, applicants may propose data analysis time, to be conducted by the CNOC Data Analysis Center (DAC), which will be funded by CNOC at no additional cost to the investigator.
Award Budget	Application budgets should reflect actual needs of the proposed project.
Budget Limitations	Indirect costs are not allowed
Award Project Period	The period of support will be for 2 years.

Key Dates

Posted Date	November 18, 2021
Letter of Intent Due	January 31, 2022
Invitation for Full Proposals	March 1, 2022
Full Application Due	May 1, 2022
Notice of Awards	June 15, 2022
Earliest Start Date	July 1, 2022

Eligibility

Investigator(s) from a CNOc Institutional Member

Review Criteria

Letters of intent will be reviewed by a committee comprised of individuals from CNOc leadership and the Research Committee along with other required content experts based on relevance, impact, and feasibility. Invitations for full proposal will be based on review. Full proposals will be reviewed and scored based on modified NIH criteria of Significance, Investigator(s), Innovation, Approach, and Environment.

Application Components

Letter of Intent: All applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to CNOc Secretary, Anjali Sadhwani, PhD, at anjali.sadhwani@childrens.harvard.edu by January 31, 2022. Please include in the LOI:

- Descriptive title of the proposed research
- Specific aims and brief description of research design and significance (1-2 pages)
- Special review expertise, if applicable
- Name, email address of the Candidate Principal Investigator (PI)
- Names of other key personnel

Full Applications: All applications must be submitted as a single pdf document, submitted via email to (email address) and should include the following:

- Specific aims, significance, innovation, approach, and impact (Maximum 6 pages total)
- Budget
- Biosketch (Current NIH format) of Principal Investigator (required) and relevant other key personnel (optional, up to 3 total)
- Up to 2 letters of support

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact CNOc Co-Chairs, Tom Miller (tamiller@mmc.org) and Adam Cassidy (Cassidy.Adam@mayo.edu).