



ACVIM Cardiology Diplomate Grant Competition

Spring 2026 Request for Proposals

Submissions Open: Spring 2026

Submissions Deadline: April 30, 2026

Winners Notified: June 2026

A 2017 vote of the Membership of the ACVIM Specialty of Cardiology established annual competitive research awards in the amount of \$15,000. A total of \$45,000 is allotted annually leading to the funding of 3 or more partially or fully funded awards. Application for these awards is open to all active members of the Specialty. The grants are intended to support research that will elucidate the pathogenesis, pathology and/or treatment of heart disease in animals. In the event that 2 grants are judged to be of equal merit, preference will be given to a grant that involves investigation of cardiac conduction system diseases. Presentation of final data obtained from the project as an ACVIM Forum research abstract is strongly encouraged, and publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, such as the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine or the Journal of Veterinary Cardiology, is expected.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is April 30, 2026.



Grant Instructions

Grant applications must be typed in 12-point Arial font, single-spaced, with 1" margins, and follow the format described below. The entire grant application must be no longer than 5 pages total.

Grant applications should be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Two copies of the grant proposal should be submitted: one with requested applicant information and one that has been de-identified to ensure blinded review. It is the responsibility of the applicant to remove identifying information from one copy of the application (including the top section of the template). "Masked for review" may replace any information that could be used to identify the individual or the institution in the text. File names should clearly identify the investigator for both copies of the application, as follows: principal investigator last name, hyphen, institution name (single word or acronym), hyphen, the word Diplomate, hyphen, and grant year (4 digits). Example: Braunwald-MGHDiplomate-2018. The Cardiology Secretary will relabel the blinded copy with a number. Please e-mail grant applications as attachments to Dr. Sarifa Lakhdir at acvimcardiosecretary@gmail.com.

The grant application should include the following sections (use of the attached grant and budget template is required; Sections 1 through 9 must be no longer than 5 total pages).

1. *Title of study*
2. *Background* (including any preliminary data & appropriate references)
3. *Hypothesis* of the proposed study
4. *Aims and significance* of the study
5. *Materials and Methods*, including planned statistical analysis and power analysis if applicable, and information on current caseload if case accrual is important for completion of study
6. *Ethical Approval* (confirmation that the research has been approved by an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee {IACUC} or submitted for approval to an IACUC). When a standard IACUC is unavailable (e.g., foreign country, veterinary practice, animal ranch/ sanctuary, wildlife preserve, etc.), the Cardiology Research Committee (CRC) requires the review of the proposed animal use by an equivalent institutional review committee/agency or an established collaborating institution's IACUC.
7. *Timeline* (predicted schedule of activity). Diplomate grants must be completed within 2 years.
8. *Pitfalls*. Anticipated limitations and means by which the study will address or circumvent them
9. *Resubmission Summary*. If the grant was previously submitted and not funded by ACVIM, the investigator must describe how the previous grant comments and criticisms were addressed in the new submission.



10. *Budget* (including justification; maximal amount \$15,000 per grant).
 - a. In the event that the entire budget for a given project is greater than \$15,000 (i.e., the Research Grant is requested to fund only a portion of an overall budget), then the application must include written assurances from the entity funding the residual balance, describing the funds that they have provided or are committed to providing. These can be included as letters of support and the amount committed must be reflected in the budget page.
 - b. Up to \$500 may be requested for travel for presentation or publication costs.
 - c. No university overhead or capital equipment costs will be paid, and no salaries will be paid (excluding minimal student and technical support as required to complete the study).
 - d. A one-page budget template is provided and must be utilized.
11. *References* (limited to <40)
12. *Disposition of previous ACVIM Grant funding* for the investigator(s) should be detailed.
13. *Letters of Support*: Provide if needed. If the proposal requires special agreements or additional funding sources, these should be detailed by relevant letters of support.



Grant Evaluation Criteria

Individual proposals will be scored according to the scheme outlined below by the CRC. Provided suitable proposals are submitted three or more grants will be fully or partially funded based on merit, according to the highest scores (a total of \$45,000 annually).

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- *Importance* of the hypothesis & purpose of the study to clinical veterinary cardiology
- *Scientific validity* (do the proposed methods likely to answer the proposed question?)
- *Feasibility* (can the investigators actually perform the work in the time allotted?)
- *Budget Justification*

The decision of the CRC will be final. Grants will be scored, and funding announced within 2-3 months of the submission deadline and prior to the ACVIM Forum. Projects will be completed within 24 months. All unused funds must be returned to ACVIM (Cardiology) at the end of the project, or on the request of the CRC if the project duration has surpassed the proposed timeline excessively in the opinion of the CRC without any approved no-cost extension.

Project Reporting

Annual reports to the CRC are required by December 31st of each year until the research project is completed. The annual report should include a summary of the work completed in the past year, a review of any difficulties encountered in the research, an updated budget (indicating approximately how much of the grant has been spent) and an anticipated timetable for completion of the research. Annual reports should be submitted by email to Dr. Sarifa Lakhdhir at acvimcardiosecretary@gmail.com.

A final report of the data obtained from the grant is required. It can take the form of an accepted abstract published at a national or international meeting, a peer-reviewed publication, or a formal report to the CRC detailing the main results of the study. Presentation of the results of the study as a research abstract or a research report at the annual ACVIM Forum is strongly encouraged. Final reports should be submitted by email to Dr. Sarifa Lakhdhir at acvimcardiosecretary@gmail.com.

Data Accessibility

At the time of publication, or in the event of failure of publication (18 months after the recorded project completion), data arising from the funded project should be made publicly available.



This data should either appear within the manuscript or in the event that a publication is not generated within 18 months of project end within a public database. A number of publicly accessible databases can be used to meet this requirement. The committee suggests Dryad Digital Repository as an acceptable cross-disciplinary generalist data repository (<https://datadryad.org/stash>). The citation for data must be provided to the Secretary and will be made publicly available. If funds are used for biobanking samples, these samples should be made available to the membership for future use with approval of the CRC. Investigators may request extensions to the data availability policy, which will be adjudicated by the CRC.

The titles of grant proposals and names of applicants and their institutions will be in the public domain from the time of grant award onward