

**McPherson Eye Research Institute
Kenzi Valentyn Vision Research Trainee Grant
Grant Application Guidelines 2019**

Funded by the McPherson Eye Research Institute's Cycle for Sight event, two Kenzi Valentyn Vision Research Trainee Grants of \$4000 each will be awarded in 2019.

Purpose/rationale:

1. To provide funding for trainees to advance their research
2. To give trainees an opportunity to write a grant application
3. To advance vision research on campus
4. To augment professional development
5. To encourage the next generation of vision scientists

Eligibility: Applications will be accepted only from trainees whose direct principal investigator mentors are members of the McPherson Eye Research Institute at any Wisconsin institution. Trainees invited to submit include graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and medical or veterinary students.

Submission deadline: **April 5, 2019**. Submit grant applications to Gail Stirr: gmstirr@wisc.edu

Application format:

1. **Complete page one of the application on the provided fillable form** using single-spaced text, Arial font no smaller than 11 point, and page margins of 0.5 inches. The form must be signed by both the trainee applicant and his/her principal investigator.

2. Submit the following two sections in a single pdf file:

- a. **2-page research proposal (including text and figures). Do not exceed two pages.** *[single-spaced text, Arial font no smaller than 11 point, page margins of 0.5 inches]* Proposals should include these sections: background/rationale; specific aims; methods; anticipated results; significance/innovation; and budget statement.

The budget statement should represent the best use of funds – up to \$4000 – over a one-year award period. Funds can be used toward trainee salary, but not tuition remission. Other possible allocations include equipment, reagents, laboratory animal costs (including RARC fees), or human subjects/Institutional Review Board fees. *Travel can only be included *if critical to conduct of research*. Do not include travel to attend meetings/conferences.

- b. **References cited.** This section is not counted as part of the two-page research proposal, and can be as many pages as needed.

3. **A CV or biosketch (two-page maximum) must be submitted with your application.**

4. **A compliance form** indicating use/non-use of human or animal subjects & biosafety protocol.

Award restrictions: A Kenzi Valentyn Vision Research Trainee Grant award is non-transferable. Funding is available for use over a one-year period. Award funds cannot be used for tuition remission or for meeting/conference attendance.

Proposal review: Proposals will be reviewed by the McPherson ERI Research Committee, as well as by a McPherson ERI-member or UW-Madison expert in the applicant's field. Review criteria include the quality of the proposal and how the project pursues a promising avenue of vision-related research, as well as clarity/style, significance, approach, innovation/impact, and completeness.

2019 Timeline:

April 5 – Submission deadline

April/May – Review period

June – Grant recipients announced

September – Funding available to grant recipients for one full year (9/1/2019 – 8/31/2020)

Points to Remember

The following are guidelines to keep in mind while preparing your proposal:

- Propose a research plan that is realistic and that complements your ongoing research. Consider how your proposed research complements your thesis. For each aim you propose, be sure to discuss your research plans. However, do not try to include *all* of the specific aims pertinent to your thesis goals; rather, limit your proposal in scope, considering the one-year timeframe and funding limits of this grant award.
- Proposals must be written by trainees, in your own words. Do not cut and paste text from other existing documents.
- Consider your audience. McPherson ERI Research Committee members who will review proposals come from a wide variety of departments and have different areas of expertise. This means that it is essential to explain your work at a level such that everyone on the committee will understand (1) the motivation and importance of your proposed plan, and (2) your approach and the potential contribution of your work to your field. [Each application will additionally be reviewed by an expert in your field.]
- Budget statement. Be as specific as possible in a few sentences.
- You are strongly encouraged to provide a written proposal draft to your PI advisor(s) well in advance of the application submission deadline, to get meaningful feedback and to incorporate revisions into the application you submit.