



Cutting Edge Research Grant Program

Research Tips and Pearls

From previous CERG Winners!

“First, identify an area of interest, whether it is something that you are already involved in (such as was the case with this study idea) or one that you are not and are looking to expand your fund of knowledge and skill set. Second, identify a mentor, someone that may share your interest or possess the knowledge or expertise to help guide you in your study design and implementation. Third, review the material provided by the ASDS and reach out to the committee or past recipients to answer any questions you might have,” stated Jeremy Brauer, MD 2013 CERG Winner.

“Be sure to have a clear purpose and objective prior to designing your study. If this is your first time designing a research study, it would be helpful to find an ASDS mentor to help guide you through the process,” stated Arisa Ortiz, MD, 2013 CERG Winner.

“If you are in a private practice setting the use of an independent IRB such as Western IRB is very straight forward, efficient, and easy to use. The process is completed online and includes all the necessary forms, training, and tutorials to make it easy to complete, especially if this is a candidates first time using an IRB. Large academic centers often have a large, prolonged and challenging IRB process,” stated Patrick M. Ellison, MD, 2012 CERG Winner.

“Do it! You will be surprised at how much you learn about applying for grants, the IRB, research and writing. I was lucky enough to have done a year of clinical trials so had some experience, but I would encourage anyone at any level of research experience to apply-- the process and people you get to deal with are encouraging and it is a great experience,” stated Jennifer Gordon, MD, 2013 CERG Winner.

“It is important to really think through the research question before starting, so as not to waste time and resources. Working with a good statistician beforehand can really help for clinical/translational questions,” stated Rajan Kulkarni, MD, PhD, 2012 CERG Winner.

“Statistical analysis of your data can be a challenge. Sometimes a University has a group of statisticians that can help with your analysis for free. But you get what you pay for both in quality and prioritization. Hiring a medical statistician can be expensive {\$155/hour} but can save a significant amount of time. Have them evaluate your study design in the beginning to ensure your study is designed to accrue an adequate number of subjects, data points are clearly defined and measurable, the study is powered correctly, and the design is appropriate to answer the question{s} you are hoping to answer. Having this done ahead of time significantly cuts costs and time on the back end once data is collected,” stated Patrick M. Ellison, MD, 2012 CERG Winner.

“The process is straightforward, would suggest that applicants have already some experience in the chosen field, have specific questions they want to answer with their project,” stated Nathalie C. Zeitouni, MD, 2012 CERG Winner.

“Prepare early, ask you mentor(s) to help guide the outcome you choose to measure, and make sure you are asking a question that has clinical relevance,” stated Jeremy R. Etzkorn, MD.

“Start the process early! Overall the application process was very straightforward and the online application form was easy to use. As this was the first grant I applied for, it was my first time working with my institution’s research management services for assistance and approval in submitting a grant. I would advise residents and young faculty members to start early on their application and look into resources available at their institution who can assist with the process,” stated Amanda Raymond, MD, 2013 CERG Winner.

“Create an easy to use infrastructure to collect the data. Use of an online form, such as Adobe forms central, allowed for secure collection of patient data. Creating an easy to use form that is used contemporaneously with the appointment made initial data collection easy. The format was exactly as it appeared in the computer. A nurse or MA transcribed the information from the paper record to the centralized form online. The form data could be downloaded as an excel document thus making it easy for statistical analysis,” stated Patrick M. Ellison, MD, 2012 CERG Winner.

“I never thought I would be selected, but I was! I would encourage anyone with an innovative idea that could impact our field to apply. If I could do it anyone can,” stated Yoon-Soo Cindy Bae-Harboe, MD, 2011 CERG Winner.