

Research Funding Announcement (RFA): Electroencephalographic Biomarkers of Consciousness after Pediatric Acute Brain Injury

Deadline for Letter of Intent: March 1, 2026

Invitations for Full Applications: March 9, 2026

Deadline for Full Application (if invited after letter of intent): April 30, 2026

Scientific Merit Review: Special Panel of the Grants review committee

Award Date: Flexible per investigator, but must be between August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2027

Earliest Start Date: August 1, 2026

Funding Period: 2 years

Budget: Up to \$100,000 + 10% F&A (up to \$10,000 total for the grant period)

Aim of EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics Grant

This grant mechanism is available due to a generous gift from a donor who is interested in improving the outcome of pediatric patients with brain injuries. The purpose of the EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics Grant is to allow research teams to develop pilot research that enhances clinical care of pediatric patients with disorders of consciousness. This year's EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics Grant will focus on research on electroencephalography (EEG) characteristics as a biomarker of injury or recovery after pediatric acute brain injury. The scope of this RFA is to provide 2 years of funding to support pilot studies that will enable the awardees to successfully compete for federal funding such as from the NIH, Department of Defense, PCORI, Library of Congress, foundation or similar international government entity.

Eligibility Criteria

The study is designed to promote research not quality improvement projects. More than one PI is acceptable. Applications are open to NCS members and non-members, although NCS membership is preferred. Investigators in all career stages are eligible to apply if the study requirements of this RFA are met. For purposes of career development, early career investigators and trainees are encouraged to apply for the NCS Research Fellowship Training Award. All healthcare professionals providing neurocritical care in different roles, including physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, and PhD- scientists are encouraged to apply.

Letter of Intent

Applicants should submit a one-two page letter explaining interest in submitting a full application. Only PDF documents will be accepted. The letter should include:

1. The hypothesis or question to be investigated.
2. The general approach to addressing the question.
3. How testing the hypothesis will improve patient care or advance the science.

The letter should be addressed to the Grants Subcommittee of the NCRC and emailed to info@neurocriticalcare.org by midnight Central Time of the date listed at the top of the RFA. Include the email title “**LOI Peds EEG proposal submission**” and your name. Late letters will disqualify the applicant from applying with a full proposal. Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the Grants Subcommittee chairs and invitations for full applications will be forwarded to the email of the letter writer.

Instructions for Full Applications by Request

- All documents should be generated using Word[®] processing software (or similar platform) and then converted to PDF. Only PDF documents will be accepted.
- Applications must be submitted as a single file and containing ALL the sections indicated in the table below under page limits. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**
- Please submit your application electronically to info@neurocriticalcare.org with the email title “**Full Peds EEG proposal submission**” (It is easiest to copy and paste this statement into the subject line of the email).
- If human subjects are to be enrolled or animals used, [the candidate must submit](#) a copy of the IRB/IACUC letter of approval prior to receiving the funds. However, such letter is not required with the submission of the application.
- **File Name:** Save all files with descriptive file names with the format: PI last name followed by the title of project. For example, “Suarez Rhubarb Juice in Subarachnoid Hemorrhage.pdf.”
- **Font:** Prepare the application using Arial or Helvetica typeface in black font color. Font size in each final PDF document must be 11 points or larger.
- **Paper Size and Page Margins:** Final PDF documents should be formatted to be no larger than standard U.S. letter paper size (8½" x 11"). The final PDF document should have at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- **Page Formatting:** Please use only a standard, single-column format for the text.
- **Figures, Graphs, Diagrams, and Tables:** You may use a smaller type size but it must be in a black font color, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirement. Color can be used in figures; however, all text must be in a black font color, clear and legible.
- **General Grantsmanship Style:** Use Standard American English and avoid jargon. Spell out all abbreviations at the first time they are used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses.

- **Page Limits:** 10-page limit, excluding cover letter, collaboration letters, biosketches, etc. **In the 6-page research page limit must include: Specific Aims and Research Strategy (including impact and innovation) [blue shaded area in table].** Detailed limits and order of sections as follows:

Section of Grant Application	Strict Page Limit Requirements
Cover Letter	1 page
Specific Aims	1 page
Research Strategy	5 pages
Letters of Support from Collaborators, Contributors, and Consultants	As needed
Description of Institutional Environment	1 page
Biographical Sketch (newest NIH Biosketch Format)	5-page maximum format
Budget	1 page
Budget Justification	1-2 pages

All pages should be numbered in sequential order starting with the Cover letter. Page numbers should appear at the bottom center part of the page.

Specific Instructions

Research Strategy

A sound research strategy to achieve the specific aims of the project must be provided. The research description should specifically address the impact, innovation, and approach of how the candidates intend to answer the scientific questions proposed in the specific aims. The research idea will be judged on impact and innovation. The approach will be judged primarily on feasibility and the ability to address the proposed specific aims within the one-year funding period.

The purpose of the **EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics Grant** is to allow investigators to develop pilot research strategies that forward the field of EEG biomarker development in pediatric disorders of consciousness in the acute setting. The scope of this RFA is to provide 2 years of funding to support studies that will enable the awardees to successfully compete for federal funding such as from the NIH, Department of Defense, or PCORI.

Research Objectives

The EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics Grant is designed to promote creative research. In 2016, the leaders of the Neurocritical Care Research Central (NCRC) and the Neurocritical Care Research Network (NCRN) identified important gaps in our research portfolio and envisioned an approach to begin to work constructively on these gaps. In conjunction with an interested donor, the 2026 EEG Peds Grant will address a gap identified by the NCRN, the lack of biomarkers for pediatric brain injury patients.

The EEG Markers of Consciousness in Pediatrics RFA has a distinct clinical focus; however, translational science with direct application to clinical care is also broadly within the scope. NCS wishes to foster longitudinally meaningful scientific projects that will be competitive for future funding from NIH, DOD or similar; and which serve to create a pipeline of research and enhance one of more scientific lines of research. NCS desires to enhance collaborative research and team science and enhance the rigor and visibility of neuroscience intensive care among existing and future team science collaborations.

Letters of Support from Collaborators and Consultants (IMPORTANT)

Applications must contain signed letters on their letterhead from ALL individuals listed as collaborators or consultants confirming their participation in the project and describing their specific roles. Collaborators and consultants do not need to provide their biographical sketches, but information should be provided clearly documenting the appropriate expertise in the proposed areas of consulting/collaboration. Letters written and signed by collaborators and consultants are not included in page limits.

Description of Institutional Environment

The institutional environment is extremely important in the success of a project. This section should outline the institutions' commitment to the continued success of clinician-researchers, including specific information about the facilities and resources that will be brought to bear for the candidate in the award period.

There must be clear documentation that the sponsoring institutions have a strong interest in the research candidate's area of interest, including a high-quality research environment. The application must include a clear description of the resources and facilities that will be available and how the institutional research environment is particularly suited for the candidate's proposed research.

Budget Justification

The maximum award, including indirect costs up to \$100,000 including indirect (F&A) costs up to 10% (\$10,000). A single award will be issued for a 2-year award period. The award must be spent within the period of the award notice, with a no-cost extension permissible with appropriate justification. In the case of multiple PIs from different institutions, one institution will be designated as the administrative center and all funds will be disbursed to that institution.

Post Award Responsibilities

Successful applicants will have reporting responsibilities after the awarding of the grant. At one year after initiation of the award and at the end of the award period, the grant awardee group will fill out a questionnaire describing work output of the proposed work. No-cost extensions can be solicited with a letter of intent to the NCS emailed to info@neurocriticalcare.org prior to the end of the funding period. In addition, the Neurocritical Care Society may send subsequent questionnaires to determine more distant work output from the award. It is expected that at the end of the 2-year award, the PI will present their findings at the NCS Annual Meeting either as an oral presentation or a poster session.

The grant awardee is encouraged to publish papers that result from the grant in the journal *Neurocritical Care* (this is only solicitation of submission and does not constitute promise of publication). The applicant should notify the NCS of publications, presentations, and grants that derive from work output from this grant.

Questions?

For all questions related to this RFA, please email: info@neurocriticalcare.org or Wendy Ziai at weziai@jhmi.edu.