



ECIR GROUP REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS 2024

The Equine Cushing's and Insulin Resistance (ECIR) Group began in 1999 and is currently the largest field-trial database for Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) and Equine Metabolic Syndrome/Insulin Resistance (EMS/IR) in the world. The group communicates the latest research, diagnosis, and treatment information, including dietary recommendations, for horses with these conditions through a central outreach group, website, and social media.

In 2013 the Equine Cushing's and Insulin Resistance Group Inc., an Arizona nonprofit corporation, was approved as a 501(c)3 public charity. Tax-deductible contributions and grants support ongoing research, education, and awareness of equine PPID and EMS/IR.

The mission of the ECIR Group Inc. is to improve the welfare of equines with metabolic disorders via a unique interface between basic research and real-life clinical experience. Prevention of laminitis is the ultimate goal. The ECIR Group serves the scientific community, practicing clinicians, and owners by focusing on investigations most likely to directly, immediately, and significantly benefit the welfare of the horse.

The ECIR Research Vision

The ECIR Group recognizes that quality scientific research is critical to the continuous advancement of knowledge. Funding projects relevant to the Group's mission is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of the ECIR Group membership, volunteers, and supporters. Funding to support research comes from private donations and educational conferences. Funds will be dispersed as available.

Our vision is to improve the quality of life of equines with metabolic conditions, to empower owners, hoof professionals, and veterinarians by advancing knowledge that will improve the health of equines with metabolic disorders, ease the burden of care for horse owners and, above all, prevent laminitis. This will be accomplished by funding research and encouraging collaboration between scientists, scholars, veterinarians, hoof care professionals, and those whose decisions and actions affect the welfare of horses with metabolic conditions.

With this vision in mind, the ECIR Group Inc. is announcing a call for research proposals in line with the mission of the group.

Types of Research Projects

Applications for funding should be limited to topics relevant to EMS and PPID, especially those within the Group philosophy and broad topics of diagnosis, diet, trim, exercise (DDT/E), and prevention of laminitis. Proposals that meet these general guidelines will all be considered. Examples of topics of interest would be development or improvement of diagnostic tests; effects of nutrients (protein, fat, carbohydrates) on insulin secretion; therapies to reduce hyperinsulinemia (SGLT2 inhibitors, incretin mimetics); effectiveness of

nutraceuticals or supplements in insulin regulation, pergolide dosing strategies, the interaction of hyperferritinemia and hyperinsulinemia, genetic studies, histopathological studies of PPID brain, and hoof laminae from confirmed hyperinsulinemia-associated laminitis cases. Studies in healthy, non-EMS/PPID horses will not be considered unless used as a control.

Who May Apply

All individuals with access to an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). A background in research and publication is considered a strength. Inclusion of animals with confirmed EMS and/or PPID is required.

Timeline

Deadline for submission is May 31, 2024, with notification of award on July 1, 2024.

The timeline for the funded project will be agreed upon by the ECIR Board of Directors and the investigators. Ideally, projects will be completed within 1 year. A written progress report is required at the 6-month mark with a final report due in 1 year. Highly innovative projects may be considered for a 2-year period; however, year 2 funding will depend on achieving the research goals in year 1. Consideration will be given to extending or enhancing existing projects, provided the research meets the mission of the ECIR group and there is no budget overlap. The final research results will be published on the ECIR website (www.ecirhorse.org) with the expectation that the investigator(s) will submit their results to a refereed journal. Acknowledgement of ECIR funding is expected.

Funding

The ECIR Group Inc. will support projects with a maximum budget of \$50,000 per year. Funds are intended to support care of animals, supplies related to the care of animals, supplies, laboratory tests, and publication costs. The ECIR Group will not support indirect costs, salary, or equipment costs and contracts.

Invasive Studies

Research requiring invasive surgery, general anesthesia, or interventions requiring euthanasia are discouraged.

Other Funding

The ECIR group is willing to support or extend existing projects provided investigators justify the need for extension, e.g., preliminary results require an additional aim or analytical approach. Likewise, investigators are not discouraged from seeking other funding for the

proposed project but no budget overlap will be allowed. Notification of the ECIR Board of Directors is required if other funding for the same project is obtained from another source. For example, if ancillary funding supports salaries, indirect costs, or equipment not covered by the ECIR Group, this is permissible. However, any overlaps should be reported to and reviewed by the ECIR Board of Directors with the expectation that duplication will require the return of those specific funds to the ECIR Group.

Style and Format of the Research Application

Submissions should be on 8.5 x 11 inch paper with 1-inch margins top and bottom and 0.5-inch margins left and right, using Arial 11 point font and non-justified margins. Pages should be numbered in the footer starting with the Introduction. Include the primary investigator's name in the Header, starting with the Introduction. The Abstract and Specific Aims should be limited to 1 page with no author identification. Submissions should be in PDF format with 5 sections: (1) A single-page Abstract and Specific Aims page; (2) the Research Application, consisting of an (1) Introduction and Rationale; (2) Methods; (3) Analysis Plan and Timeline; (4) confirmation of Equipment and Resources; and (5) the Budget and Justification. There are no page limits with the exception of the Abstract and Specific Aims page. General guidelines are listed below.

Items to Include in the Application

1. Primary Investigator (applicant) curriculum vitae
2. The Research Proposal
3. Abstract and Specific Aims – 1 separate page. This page will serve as the initial review process and will narrow the submissions to 5 finalists, so it must be compelling and convincing. Overly ambitious projects that cannot be reasonably completed in 1 year will not be accepted.
4. Introduction and Rationale – 1 to 2 pages. The rationale should include a brief description of how this project best serves the mission of the ECIR group. Figures and tables are encouraged.
5. Methods including analysis plan and timeline – 2 to 4 pages.
6. Equipment and Resources – 1 to 3 pages. Describe animals, housing, equipment, and laboratory to demonstrate the ability to complete the study.
7. Budget and Justification – 1 to 2 pages.
8. Proof of IACUC approval, application for approval, or proof of exemption (client consent).

IACUC Approval or Client Consent Form

The IACUC approval letter (or application if not yet approved) should be submitted with the research application. Research funding will not be approved without IACUC approval. Client-owned horses under the care of their private veterinarians are exempt; however, a

client consent form is required, and this form must be approved by the IACUC committee or other committee that approves clinical research.

Review Process

The ECIR Board of Directors and external reviewers will review all submissions. Notification of award will be announced on July 1, 2024. A written summary statement will not be included if a project is not funded. Resubmission is not possible and all decisions by the ECIR Board of Directors will be final.

THE EQUINE CUSHING'S AND INSULIN RESISTANCE GROUP INC., AN ARIZONA NONPROFIT CORPORATION, IS AN APPROVED 501(C)3 PUBLIC CHARITY. EIN: 45-3839561 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT ONGOING EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF EQUINE CUSHING'S DISEASE AND INSULIN RESISTANCE.