

Kidney Stones and AI Award

Research Grant Program Instructions

The Kidney Stone Collaborative (KSC) Research Grant Program aims to advance the scientific understanding, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management of kidney stone disease, while fostering collaboration among researchers and clinicians with the goal to improve outcomes and quality of life for patients living with this condition. The Program directs charitable donations toward peer-reviewed, high-merit research through a transparent, accountable, and scientifically rigorous award process.

Purpose

The Kidney Stone Collaborative (KSC) is funding a competitive research award to advance the understanding of how and whether Artificial Intelligence (AI) affects the care of patients with kidney stones. This award supports research evaluating the role of specialized AI-based patient educational tools, specifically, UroGPT™, in patient education, healthcare utilization and communication between patients and their teams.

Eligibility

- MD, PhD, DO, or equivalent doctoral degree
- Full-time faculty/research appointment at a U.S. nonprofit academic, medical/research institution or large group practice
- Postdocs/instructors eligible with a faculty mentor letter
- No concurrent KSC grant funding
- This cycle is open to U.S.-based investigators only; future cycles may expand eligibility as the Program grows.

Application Instructions and Formatting

General Formatting

- Font: 11-point Times New Roman (or equivalent), minimum 1-inch margins on all sides.
- Single-spaced text throughout, including references.
- All required components must be combined into a single PDF file in the order listed below; appendices/letters may be appended as PDF as well.
- Page limits below are strict; content beyond the limit will not be reviewed.

Required Application Components

Component	Description	Page Limit
1. Face Page / Cover Sheet	Project title, PI name/degree/institution, mentor (if applicable), requested amount, project period, signature block.	1
2. Specific Aims	Concise statement of the hypothesis, aims, and expected outcomes.	1
3. Research Strategy	Significance, Innovation, and Approach (including preliminary data, methods,	3-4

Component	Description	Page Limit
	timeline, and potential pitfalls/alternative approaches).	
4. Relevance to KSC Mission	Short paragraph describing relevance of the proposed research to kidney stone disease and KSC's mission.	½
5. Budget & Budget Justification	Itemized budget (personnel, supplies, equipment, travel, others) with narrative justification.	template
6. Biosketch(es)	NIH-format biosketch for PI and any co-investigators.	4 each
7. Mentor Letter (if applicable)	Required for postdoctoral/instructor-level applicants; mentor accepts oversight responsibility.	1
8. Regulatory Status	Statement of IRB/IACUC approval status (approved, pending, or not applicable), and any human subjects/biohazard considerations.	½
10. References	Full citation list.	No limit

Submission and Review Process

Every application is independently scored by at least three members of KSC's Scientific Review Board — an independent panel of expert researchers and clinicians — using a standardized scoring rubric listed below.

- (1) Importance of the Research: (Significance, Innovation), scored 1-9
- (2) Rigor and Feasibility (Approach), scored 1-9
- (3) Alignment with the funding cycle's stated priorities, scored 1-9
- (4) Expertise and Resources (Investigator, Environment), to be evaluated as either sufficient for the proposed research or not. Not given a score.

*All applicants receive written feedback regardless of outcome. Reviewers with any conflict of interest will recuse themselves

- KSC's program is supported by a restricted grant from WPE Digital, Inc. ("WPE"). The competition and award-selection process are independently administered by KSC. KSC has sole responsibility for reviewing and scoring applications, deliberating on funding decisions and selecting the application, if any, to be funded. WPE has no role in these activities.

Resubmissions

Applicants may resubmit a previously unfunded application once. Resubmissions must include a 1-page introduction directly addressing the prior Summary Statement's critiques and describing changes made in response. Resubmissions are reviewed as new applications, competing against all applications in that cycle.

Timeline

Milestone	Timing
RFA released	Month 1
Full application deadline	Month 3 (11:59 PM ET)
Administrative eligibility screen	Month 3
Reviewer assignment & independent written critiques due	Month 3–4
SRB review meeting & final scoring	Month 5
Award notification to applicants	Month 5–6
Funding begins (grant agreement executed)	Within 90 days of notification

Award Terms, Stipulations & Reporting Requirements

Payment Structure and Stipulations

- Award funds are paid to the recipient's institution (not the individual investigator), in two installments: 50% upon full execution of the grant agreement, and 50% upon KSC's receipt and approval of the required 6-month progress report
- First payment will be paid after IRB approval has been obtained.
- Additional funds beyond the original award amount may not be requested or granted for any reason
- All unexpended funds must be returned to KSC at the end of the funded period, if no cost extension not obtained
- Awarded funds may be used for: personnel (salary/effort directly supporting the funded project), supplies, equipment (with justification), travel directly related to the project, and other direct research costs. Indirect costs are not permitted

*The award is not conditioned on any purchase, lease, recommendation, referral or other business involving WPE, UroGPT™ or any WPE product or service, or on the study producing any particular result. Neither KSC nor WPE may require the investigator or the institution to reach, change or suppress any finding or conclusion. No repayment is required because the findings are negative, inconclusive or unfavorable. Award funds must be returned if they are unused or misapplied, if the required approvals are not obtained, or following a material uncured breach.

Reporting Requirements

- 6-Month Progress Report: A brief written update on project status, due 6 months after the funding start date, required to release the second payment installment.
- Final Scientific Report: A non-technical report written for a lay audience, describing the project's findings and impact, due no later than 90 days after the end of the funded period.
- Final Financial Report: A report from the institution's fiscal office showing final disposition of funds, submitted concurrently with the Final Scientific Report.
- KSC may publish final report summaries (in lay language) in its public materials and on its website to demonstrate donor impact.

Publications & Acknowledgment

- Investigators are expected to disseminate scientifically valid findings, including null or negative results, through appropriate peer-reviewed publications, scientific meetings, or public research reports.
- Publication, presentation, or public communication of findings from KSC-funded work must acknowledge KSC's support (e.g., "Supported by a grant from the Kidney Stone Collaborative (KSC).").
- The Principal Investigator is responsible for notifying KSC of all publications and major presentations resulting from the funded work.

Application Face Page / Cover Sheet

Applicant: _____ Degree(s): _____
(Please do not list any Co-Investigators)

Institution Name: _____

Institution Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
(Outside of the U.S. please be sure to list Country & City Codes)

E-mail Address: _____

Title of Proposal: _____

Total Budget Amount Requested Year 1:
(based on years available): _____

Authorized Organizational Representative/Grants Office Contact:

Name: _____ Title: _____
(please print)

Institution Name: _____

Address: _____ Signature: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Telephone: _____
Fax: _____

Conflict of interest: List key personnel that have financial, advisory, consulting, research, equity, employment, or intellectual-property relationships with the donor/sponsor.

CERTIFICATION: We, the undersigned, certify that the information submitted is accurate and complete to the best of our knowledge and accept the terms and conditions of the KSC as outlined in both our grant instructions and the KSC framework document, if this application is funded.

SIGNATURES: Applicant: _____

Responsible Administrative Official: _____
