

This message is intended for faculty members contemplating applying to the **American Heart Association's Atrial Fibrillation Strategically Focused Research Network**.

The American Heart Association (AHA) announces a Request for Applications for the Atrial Fibrillation Strategically Focused Research Network (SFRN). This Strategically Focused Research Network provides the AHA with a mechanism to enhance the understanding of the causes, biology, pathophysiology and epidemiology of Atrial Fibrillation, and to develop more effective ways to prevent and treat it with an ultimate improvement in patient outcomes.

Unique to this Strategically Focused Research Network, special project funding is also available through a collaboration between the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) and the AHA. The PCORI/AHA funding initiative seeks to use comparative effectiveness research focused on Decision-making and Choices to Inform Dialogue and Empower A-Fib Patients (DECIDE). The rationale is to enrich the overall scientific and community deliverables of the Network by testing and delivering a specific set of Shared Decision-Making Tools to help patients with atrial fibrillation and their clinicians engage in a meaningful conversation and collectively arrive at the best individual choice for the use of oral anticoagulants.

Letter of Intent (optional) Deadline: November 30, 2017 5:00 p.m. CT

Full Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 5:00 p.m. CT

An institution may submit only one AHA strategically focused research network application for any SFRN competition. Individuals at the applicant institution who are not participating in their institution's center application (and/or its three project applications) may participate in another separate institution's center application. Individuals participating in their institution's center application, other than the Center Director, may participate in a separate institution's center application.

Because of the restriction on the number of applications per institutions, Research and Sponsored Programs is requesting that all those interested in applying to this program submit an abstract for their project to Deborah Lundin by **Monday, November 20**. If the number of abstracts we receive exceeds the number of applications we are allowed to submit, we will advise the relevant faculty on how a nomination selection will be determined and how to proceed with the application submission.

For more details regarding this program, visit the sponsor's web site at the following: http://professional.heart.org/professional/ResearchPrograms/StrategicallyFocusedResearchPrograms/UCM_490878_2018-Atrial-Fibrillation-Research-Network.jsp. If you have any questions about the program or nominating procedure, you may contact our office at ext. 2425.