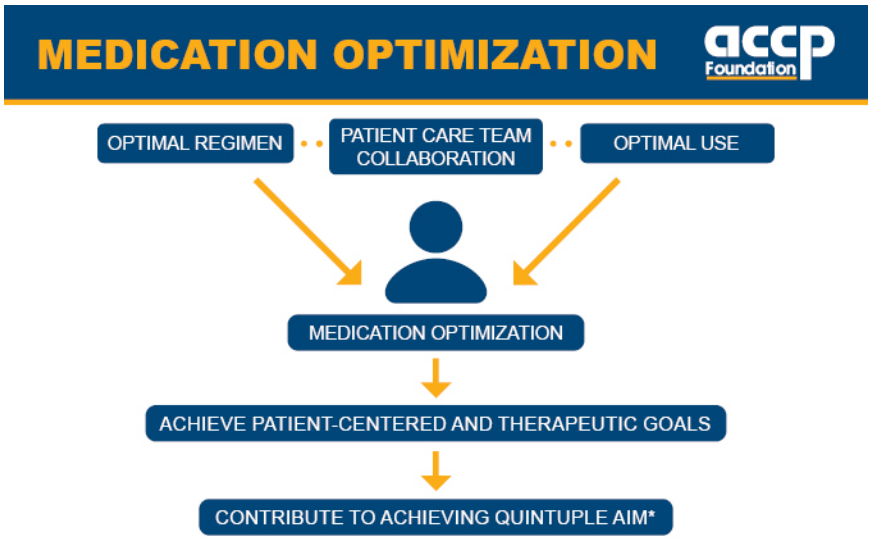
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Last Revision: April 17, 2023

Medication Optimization Improving Human Health

Funding Opportunity Description

Background and Rationale. Medication optimization contributes to the quintuple aim of health care: improving health outcomes, enhancing the patient experience, reducing costs, expanding health equity, and improving clinician wellness. Medication optimization is central to ACCP's view of the mission of the pharmacy profession. Medication optimization in the context of this funding opportunity is conceptualized as services or approaches that can be employed to achieve optimal medication safety and effectiveness.

A graphic (below) has been developed to characterize medication optimization as the synergy achieved by establishing optimal medication regimens and ensuring their optimal use. The graphic illustrates the importance of team-based and patient-centered care in achieving medication optimization. Finally, the graphic provides a representation of the Foundation's support of varied approaches and settings to achieve medication optimization.



Research Scope and Opportunity.
The ACCP Foundation is requesting research proposal applications that focus on novel and innovative patient-centered and team-based approaches that may be employed by clinical pharmacists to achieve medication optimization. As one example, the College has pursued strategies to promote medication optimization in the primary care setting, including funding a previous study of the implementation and effectiveness of comprehensive medication management (CMM) provided by clinical pharmacists – a holistic, consistent approach to the patient care process that optimizes medication-related outcomes.

Examples of areas of research within the desired scope of this funding opportunity include:

- Research improving the efficiency, reach (e.g., primary or non-primary care settings), and clinical impact of existing medication optimization services or approaches.
- Research that informs the expeditious adoption, scaling, sustained implementation, and continuous quality improvement of evidence-based medication optimization services or approaches.
- Research to establish evidence for novel approaches to facilitate medication optimization.
- Research on innovative service delivery models to reduce or eliminate known health disparities related to race, ethnicity, geography, sexual and gender minority status and/or socioeconomic status, to dramatically improve outcomes in understudied populations in diverse United States and global communities, and to ensure high value medication optimization services or approaches are readily accessible to those in need.
- Research to evaluate the public health impact of medication optimization services or approaches using large representative data sets and novel computational approaches.

The following are examples of proposals that will be considered outside the scope for this RFA and will therefore not undergo a full review:

- Research that does not incorporate a team-based or interprofessional approach.
- Proposals that are exclusively educational or training programs.
- Medication optimization research determined to have limited generalizability or low likelihood of translation to clinical care.
- Research that lacks methods to assess the fidelity of the proposed medication optimization intervention or approach.

Award Information. The ACCP Foundation has committed up to $200,000 to fund medication optimization research for this RFA. The total budget for a single application may not exceed $100,000. Up to 10% indirect costs are allowed, but must be included in the $100,000 budget cap. The total project period for an application submitted in response to this funding opportunity should not exceed two years.

Eligibility Information. The following minimum qualifications must be met to apply for the award.

Applicant Organization:

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education, Private Institutions of Higher Education, Clinical/Healthcare institutions, or other clinic or research settings that can provide an environment in which the proposed research can be conducted
- Settings proposed as research environments must have established team-based relationships with clinical pharmacists.
- Approval from the appropriate/applicable Institutional Review Board(s) (IRBs) prior to the initiation of study procedures is required. Applicants are encouraged to apply for IRB approval at the time of full proposal submission to avoid delay in project initiation.

Principal Investigator(s):

- Individual(s) with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Principal Investigator(s) (PIs) are invited to develop an application for support.

- Individuals from diverse backgrounds, including underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, and women are encouraged to apply.
- The PI (or at least one PI in the case of a multiple PI application) must be a member of the ACCP.
- Investigators engaged in the ACCP/ACCP Foundation funded 'Enhancing Performance in Primary Care Medical Practice Through Implementation of Comprehensive Medication Management' grant are ineligible.

Selection Criteria. Applications meeting the minimum qualifications will be reviewed by an expert panel. Applications will be assessed on the following:

- Qualifications of the research team and adequacy of the research environment to conduct the proposed research.
- Completeness of the project plan.
- The novelty and innovation of the proposal, the potential for the results to drive system change improvements, and ability to catalyze efforts that will improve medication optimization.
- The likelihood that the aims, methods, strategies, analyses, and contextual environment are realistic and appropriate to meaningfully advance medication optimization.
- The anticipated deliverables.
- The plan for scalability, dissemination, and sustainability.
- The extent to which the proposal considers diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the grant application.
- Feasibility of the budget and timeline for completing the proposed work within two years.

General Provisions

The Foundation reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all letters of intent or full proposals submitted.
- Request additional information from any applicant.
- Conduct discussions with applicants for the purpose of clarification to assure full understanding of and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements.
- Modify/reduce portions of the applicant's budget submission.

Application Logistics and Timeline

Required letters of intent will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. Central Time**, **July 14, 2023**. Notification of the invitation to submit a full proposal will be sent no later than **August 11, 2023**.

If invited, full proposals will be due on or before **5:00 p.m. Central Time**, **October 31, 2023.** Applicants will be notified of an award decision by **December 20, 2023**.

Inquiries

Online inquiries will be accepted until **5:00 p.m. Central Time**, **July 7, 2023**, through the RFA Web site at www.accpfoundation.org/MedOpRFA.

How to Apply

Online Letter of Intent: Submit a one-page letter of intent at the RFA Web site (www.accpfoundation.org/MedOpRFA) that includes the following:

- Applicant Organization(s)
- Primary Investigator(s) and contact information (email address and telephone number) for the corresponding applicant.
- Proposed partners (e.g., key partnering organizations or groups), co-investigators
- Anticipated specific aims/research questions.
- A brief description of the approach, including study design, measures, and evaluation.

Online Application: Upon notification to submit a full proposal, applicants must complete the online application process. The research proposal should not exceed 8 pages and the proposed budget and budget justification should not exceed 3 pages. These page limits do not include references, letters of commitment or letters of support. The proposal should be single spaced using Arial font (no less than 11 point size) and margins of 0.5 inch or greater. Please submit all application materials as a single merged PDF in the order specified below (A-E).

A. Research Proposal (8 pages)

1. Overview and Specific Aims (1 page)

2. Research Strategy (6 pages)
    a. Background and Significance (~1 page)
    Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress that the proposed project addresses. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of prior research or knowledge (both published and unpublished) that serves as key support for the proposed project. Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical approaches to improve medication optimization.

    b. Innovation (~1/2 page)
    Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms surrounding medication optimization. Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions to improve medication optimization. Describe what it is about your approach to addressing this problem that makes your proposal unique, innovative, and well-suited to significantly advance Medication Optimization across the care continuum.

    c. Research Approach (~4.5 pages)
    Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Describe the experimental design and methods proposed, and how they will achieve robust and unbiased results. Describe the outcome measures, and how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted. Provide a detailed description of the medication optimization approach to be studied and how fidelity of the intervention will be assessed. Include descriptions of any practice or clinical sites proposed, and the patient population to be studied. The roles, responsibilities, and qualifications of study team members should be detailed. Describe approaches to

involving stakeholders (e.g., providers, patients, practice staff, practice administrators, payers, policymakers) and incorporating stakeholder-relevant outcomes into this research. If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility and address the management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work. Discuss any potential problems and alternative strategies to ensure success in achieving the aims of the proposal. Describe how the proposal considers Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the research design.

3. Plan for Sustainability, Scalability, and Dissemination (1/2 page)
   Outline the methods for sustaining, scaling, and disseminating the medication optimization services delivered and studied.

4. Timeline for completion of the proposal (1/2 page)
   Outline the milestones and deliverables that will be produced throughout and at the end of the proposed study.

5. References (not included in page limit)

B. NIH Style Biosketch of the Primary Investigator(s) and co-investigators
See: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

C. Proposed budget and budget justification (3 pages)
Include the budget amounts requested per year, budget justification, and a brief overview of in-kind support. Up to 10% indirect costs are allowable but must be included in the $100,000 budget cap. In-kind contributions and/or matching funds will be weighed positively in application evaluation.

D. Letters of commitment.
Submit a letter of commitment from key stakeholders ensuring cooperation and support necessary to conduct the proposed project.

E. Letters of support.
Submit a letter of support from each principal investigator's primary supervisor attesting to the availability of the necessary time and resources to successfully fulfill the objectives of the application.