

American Chemical Society



[www.acsPRF.org](http://www.acsPRF.org)

# Introduction to ACS PRF, Guidelines for Proposal Submission, and Grants Administration

ACS Office of Research Grants

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## Welcome & Introductions



- ACS Office of Research Grants Team

Nancy Jensen, Assistant Director, Program Manager

Helina Kebede, Office Administrator

David Riper, Research Data Base Manager

Joerg Schlatterer, Director

- Type into the chat your institution

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## Session Outline



### Main Session (30 - 35 min):

- What is ACS PRF?
- Proposal Submission
- What do grants officers have to do?
- General Q&A

### Topical Q&A with PRF Specialists (20 – 25 min)

Dr. Nancy Jensen (PRF & Supported Research Areas)

Mr. David Riper (Grants Management System)

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## ACS PRF



- ACS Petroleum Research Fund (PRF) grant program
- ACS manages the PRF Trust (~\$18M/year)
- PRF Trust Agreement – set of rules and requirements
- “The recipient shall use all funds ... **exclusively for advanced scientific education and fundamental research in the ‘petroleum field,’** which may include any field of pure science which in the judgment of [ACS] may afford a basis for subsequent research directly connected with the petroleum field.”



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## Impact of ACS PRF



- ACS PRF grants are known for **launching careers**. New investigator “starter grants” have given many assistant professors and PhD degree granting and undergraduate institutions their first peer-reviewed funding.
- “**Seed money**” grants emphasize novel research directions, and allow development of worthwhile but risky ideas (proof-of-concept data).



- To date, more than 30 Nobel laureates have received ACS PRF funding for their research projects.

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## Impact of ACS PRF in 2022



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## Seed Money Grants



- Proposed work must be **significantly different** that previous work.
- Preliminary **data not necessary** and if available modest in amount.



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## Research Must be Petroleum Relevant



### AND

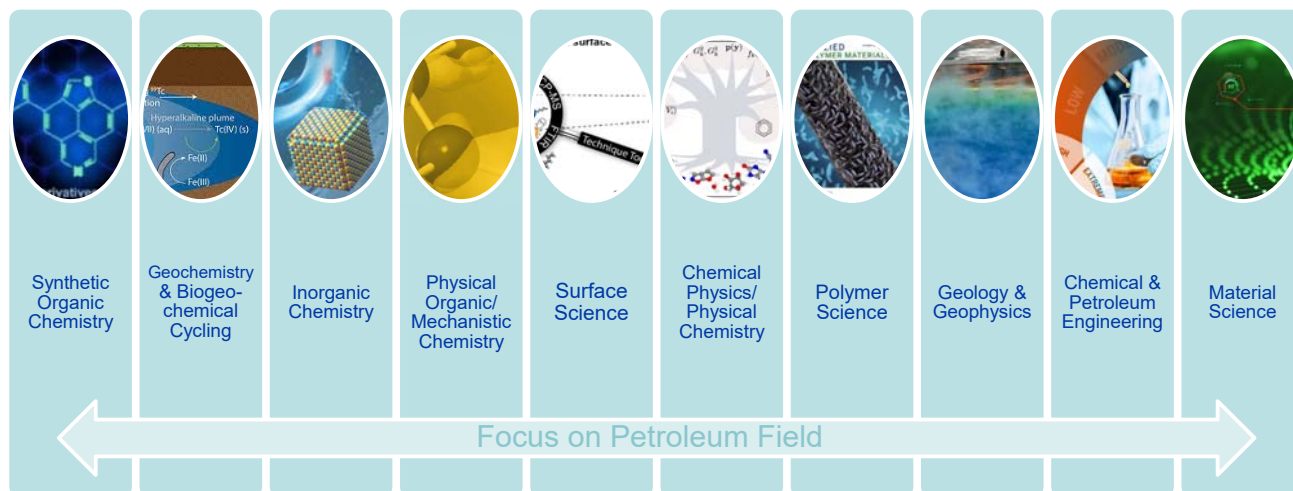
- The relationship to the “petroleum field” should be obvious, not a stretch of one’s reasoning.
- PI must articulate a description of how the proposal is “**fundamental research in the petroleum field**”.
- Proposed research must be in one of the ten specified disciplines.

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## Ten Disciplines



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## ACS PRF – Grant Types



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Institution Type	PRF Grant Type
Doctoral Degree Granting	New Directions (ND) Research Grants
	Doctoral <u>New Investigator</u> (DNI) Grants
Primarily Undergraduate	Undergraduate Research (UR) Grants
	Undergraduate <u>New Investigator</u> (UNI) Grants

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## Grants to Doctoral Departments



### New Directions (ND) Research Grants

- Faculty in Ph.D.-granting departments
- To enable PI to initiate a “new research direction” not previously published or funded
- Two-year grants, \$125,000 total

### Doctoral New Investigator (DNI) Grants

- New faculty **within first three years of first appointment**, who meet ACS PRF eligibility criteria
- To enable PI to establish independent research different from Ph.D. or postdoctoral research topic
- Two-year grants, \$110,000 total

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## Grants to Non-Doctoral Departments



### Undergraduate Research (UR) Grants

- Faculty in non-Ph.D.-granting departments
- Major objective to support undergraduate research, but M.S. stipends may also be requested
- Three-year grants, \$70,000 total

### Undergraduate New Investigator (UNI) Grants

- New faculty **within first five years of first appointment**, who meet ACS PRF eligibility criteria
- To enable PI to establish independent research involving undergraduates, which differs from previous Ph.D. or postdoctoral research
- Two-year grants, \$55,000 total

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## Budget



- Support of students (60% at R1, 40% at PUI)
- Principal Investigator Stipend
- Travel
- Capital equipment
- Excluded: No overhead, secretarial and/or administrative salaries may be charged against the grant.



For budget details:



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## Next ACS PRF Submission Window



August 14, 2023 – September 8, 2023



Window closes at 5 p.m. Eastern time

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## ACS PRF – Proposal Submission



- Read guidelines
- Contact PRF program manager
- Submit proposal through [www.acsPRF.org](http://www.acsPRF.org) website
- ORCID is required (for PIs)
- PRF Preregistration required

### ACS Petroleum Research Fund

[About PRF](#)
[Grant Programs](#)
[For Applicants](#)
[For Reviewers](#)
[For Grantees](#)
[Contact PRF](#)
[Annual Report](#)

The Petroleum Research Fund is an endowed fund, managed by the American Chemical Society that supports fundamental research directly related to petroleum or fossil fuels at nonprofit institutions (generally colleges and universities) in the United States and other countries.

ACS Petroleum Research Fund (ACS PRF) grants are intended as seed money to enable an investigator to initiate a new research direction. The investigator should not have published or received financial support from another funding agency for the proposed research. Also, proposals that the ACS PRF Committee feels are a logical extension of an investigator's previous research may be deemed as "not a new direction."

Since the first ACS PRF grants were approved in 1953, several grant programs have evolved to serve segments of the scientific community, including "new investigator" grants and grants to support researchers in departments that do not award doctoral degrees.

#### Scope of the Fund

Proposals must be for fundamental research in "the petroleum field," which is defined in our founding document as "petroleum, natural gas, coal, shale, tar sands and the materials." Fundamental research encompasses the properties of these materials, whereas the petroleum industry undertakes "applied research," which is outside the scope of ACS PRF.

See our list of [Research Areas](#) that are supported and not supported by ACS PRF.

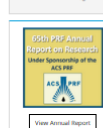
- **About ACS PRF**  
History of the fund, research areas supported, recent grantees and FAQs.
- **Grant Types**  
Information for principal investigators on grant programs and eligibility criteria.
- **Information for Applicants**  
Read this first if you are thinking about submitting a proposal.
  - Proposal Requirements: Forms, budgets, and submission.
- **Manage Your Grant**  
Information and forms for grantees to manage PRF grant requirements.
- **Reviewers**  
Information for peer reviewers asked to evaluate proposals submitted to PRF.
- **Contact Us**  
ACS PRF Staff.

#### Proposal Submission

We are not currently accepting proposals for the 2022-2023, 2023-2024, and 2024-2025 grant programs.

The next submission window will be from Monday, February 14, 2022 to Friday, March 11, 2022 and the submitted proposals will be considered at the October 2022 ACS PRF Committee Meeting.

- [New Applicants: Pre-Registration Required](#)
- [Principal Submission Help](#)
- [Principal Submission FAQ](#)
- [View a tutorial on the new system and proposal submission processes.](#)



#### Celebrating 65 Years of Awarding Research Grants

In celebration of 65 years of Petroleum Research Fund (PRF) Grants, the Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS) has published a special open access virtual issue. This issue is a retrospective featuring articles recently published in JACS by established chemists who have at some point in their career received PRF funding.

Recipients of PRF Grants were invited to share their PRF stories.

#### Grantees in the News

ACS PRF grantees receive [award recognition](#) for their significant contributions to science.

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## ACS PRF – Proposal Submission



Complete proposal consists of:

1. **Web-submitted information** (Signature pages, budget and budget justification; education and experience; current and pending research support; publications and presentations: safety statement; suggested reviewers; collaborations, abstract and technical proposal)
2. **Signed Pages** (cover page and a budget page are generated from the information entered by the applicant for **signatures of the Principal Investigator and the Institutional Representative**. Electronic signatures are processed using [DocuSign](#).)
3. **Technical Proposal** (single PDF – incl. the scientific text of the narrative, references cited, figures, and tables. The text body may not exceed 4,000 words,

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## ACS PRF – Grants Administration



- **Annual Report (due Oct 1):**
  - Financial Report (form available in portal)
  - Personnel Report (form available in portal)
  - Narrative Progress Report (max 2 pages as pdf)
- Acknowledgement in Publications:

*“Acknowledgement is made to the donors of the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund for support (or partial support) of this research.”*

Detailed instructions at:



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## Actions for Grants Officers



- Monitor PRF Home Page for latest updates
- Complete two step process for portal access (details in next slides)
- Review entire proposal for completeness prior to submission (including budget)
- Verify/provide institutional signatory name and email (remember signatures from PI and institutional representative is required)
- Understand DocuSign electronic signature sequence—PI=>Institutional Endorser=>Co-PI (if present)
- *Note:*
  - DocuSign signature sheet must be completed to submit application
  - Application download does not include documents uploaded by applicant

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## How to log into the PRF Grants Management System



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- ACS **User Name** and **Customer/Member Number** are needed to submit Pre-Registration form

Created  
by you

Initiate by  
you, created  
by ACS



<https://prfgrant.acs.org/register/s/>

ACS User Name  
and  
Customer/Member  
Number are  
required on the Pre-  
Registration form.  
ORCID is required  
for PIs.

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Guidance at



<https://www.acs.org/funding/grants/petroleum-research-fund/applicants/salesforce-registration-help.html>

F r q w d f w S U I V x s s r u w C d f v l r u j i r u k h s 1

Note: PRF staff will have to approve your pre-registration before you can access the system!

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## Help Improve ACS PRF Grants Management System



PRF constantly improves its processes. This fall we will focus on the grants administrator interface of the grants management system.

Focus group meeting (1.5h) via ZOOM in fall 2023

Interested?

Please express your interest via chat to **Helina Kebede**, or  
send an email to **[PRFinfo@acs.org](mailto:PRFinfo@acs.org)**



## ACS PRF



**We are your best resource.**

If you or faculty have questions, contact us by email.  
We gladly answer your question/schedule a ZOOM conversation.

Program Officers provide guidance to applicants:

- *Clarify rules and guidelines*
- *Assess “fit” of proposed research*
- *Assist with “framing” proposed research within funding scope*
- *Provide reviewer and decision panel insights.*

## ACS Office of Research Grants



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### PRF Program Officers:



**Dr. Clancy, Thomas:** t\_clancy@acs.org  
Polymer Science; Chemical and Petroleum Engineering



**Dr. Dunn, Dean:**  
Geochemistry and Biochemical Cycling, Geology, Geophysics



**Dr. Fahr, Askar :** a\_fahr@acs.org  
Physical Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry/Chemical Physics



**Dr. Lee, Burt :** b\_lee@acs.org  
Surface and Materials Science



**Dr. Jensen, Nancy :** n\_jensen@acs.org  
Organic, Inorganic Chemistry



**Edwards, Marie**



**Haizlip, Patricia**



**Johnson, Kailynne**



**Kebede, Helina**



**Nicholson, Shari-Joi**



**Peterman, Gayle**



**Riper, David**



**Dr. Schlatterer, Joerg**



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## Q&A



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~ 5 - 10 min (now) - submit your questions via chat and PRF staff will answer in main ZOOM room

~ 20 min – Two breakout rooms will be available

### Room 1

Program Questions with  
Dr. Nancy Jensen



### Room 2

PRF Portal Questions with  
Mr. David Riper



Note: Feel free to hop off the ZOOM call after your questions were answered during the breakout session. You will receive the slides and access to the recording within the next week.

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## Acknowledgements



We acknowledge the donors of the  
American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund.

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Hydrocarbon Research**



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American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund  
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