

Nichole Borchard Foundation Research Grant | *Submission Instructions*

The North American Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (NANETS) was established in 2007 with the mission of furthering neuroendocrine tumor disease diagnosis, treatment, and management. Since its inception, NANETS has remained dedicated to this mission through the provision of increased education and research opportunities.

NANETS is proud to announce a new research grant opportunity established in partnership with the Nichole Borchard Foundation (NBF), created in honor of Nichole Borchard. This grant is dedicated to advancing research in high grade neuroendocrine carcinoma (NEC), the aggressive form of neuroendocrine disease Nichole herself faced.

Award Overview

Award Sponsor

This grant is generously supported by the Nichole Borchard Foundation, a registered 501(c)(3) organization.

Grant Focus

This grant's primary focus is high grade neuroendocrine carcinoma (NEC). High grade neuroendocrine tumors (NETs) are included as a broader eligibility criterion, recognizing the significant clinical and biological overlap between high grade NET and NEC disease. Preference will be given to proposals focused specifically on NEC, and within that, extra-pulmonary NEC (epNEC) in particular, reflecting the significant unmet need in this underserved, high-severity patient population. Scope will not be formally restricted to epNEC, so as to allow for the strongest applications across related, similarly aggressive disease.

Appropriate research areas include (but are not limited to):

- High grade NEC-NET tumor biology and molecular characterization
- Epidemiology and risk factors specific to high grade NEC-NET
- Clinical outcomes and treatment patterns in high grade NEC-NET populations
- Novel treatment strategies for high grade NEC-NET
- Translational research with direct clinical relevance to high grade NEC-NET patients

Award Term

This grant provides up to \$100,000 in funding, over a term of 1 to 2 years. NANETS' preferred proposal is structured as \$100,000 over two years (\$50,000 per year); **applicants proposing a more accelerated 1-year timeline are encouraged to make the case for that structure within their proposal.** Strong applications may be considered for accelerated funding and a shorter award term. Funding is expected to begin on or about January 1, 2027.

Eligibility

NANETS welcomes applications from candidates who meet the following criteria:

- Candidates must have an MD, PhD, MD/PhD, DO degree, or equivalent
- Candidates must be a NANETS member in good standing
- Candidates must submit a research proposal focused specifically on high grade NEC-NET, with preference given to proposals focused on NEC

At the time of funding, candidates must meet one of the following career-stage criteria:

- Early career: Within 6 years of starting their first faculty position and currently hold an academic appointment at an accredited medical school or other institution in North America, OR hold a postdoctoral fellowship appointment at an accredited medical school or other institution in North America
- Mid-career: 5 to 15 years post-appointment, reflecting the complexity of this research area and the value of engaging more experienced investigators

Applicants from NANETS' 2026 BTSI/NCIS cycle who were not selected will also be contacted directly and encouraged to reapply if eligible.

Application Review and Notification Process

Applications are reviewed and scored by the NANETS Scientific Review Committee, composed of NET medical research experts, using the same rigorous, standardized process applied across NANETS' full grant portfolio. Each proposal is evaluated independently by three reviewers.

Criteria for selection include:

- Applicant qualifications
- Mentor and institution
- Strength of the research proposal and its aims
- Approach and feasibility
- Significance
- Perceived weaknesses

Strong emphasis is also placed on the applicant's career development plan and personal statement, alongside the research proposal itself.

Important Dates

Given the timing of this grant's launch, NANETS is condensing the standard submission window while maintaining the same rigorous review process. Applicants from NANETS' 2026 BTSI/NCIS cycle who were not selected will also be contacted directly and encouraged to reapply if eligible.

- Call for submissions opens: September 17, 2026
- Identification of reviewers complete: September 25, 2026
- Submission deadline: October 10, 2026
- Review period: October 10-24, 2026
- Scientific Review Committee meets to make final selection: week of October 19-23, based on committee availability
- Award notification sent: by October 26, 2026
- Last day to confirm acceptance of research grant: October 30, 2026
- Letter of Agreement signed: November 30, 2026
- All additional paperwork due from grantee: December 14, 2026
- Funding begins: January 1, 2027

Submission Process

- Applications must be submitted via NANETS' online system by the deadline. Photocopies or facsimile copies will not be accepted and will be discarded
- New applicants will be asked to create a portal account. Account creation requires completing a profile page, a conflict of interest form, and uploading a resume or CV
- Returning applicants should review and update their profile information, as additional fields may be required even if the portal has been used for prior NANETS activities
- Applications cannot be edited once submitted
- All communication will occur through the submission portal. Applicants will receive an email confirmation once their submission is received

Application Sections

The online system will guide applicants through the following required sections.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Required before a submission can be completed.

Title and Category

- Project Title: 20 words or less
- Category: High Grade NEC-NET Research Grant

Career Development Plan

750 word limit. Written together by the mentor and applicant. Should include intramural coursework and seminars, involvement in cooperative groups, participation in tumor boards, description of protected clinical time, and plans to attend national meetings focused on neuroendocrine tumors.

Personal Statement by the Candidate

500 word limit. Should include a description of past projects, evidence of interest in neuroendocrine tumors, and a description of how the project will contribute to the candidate's future development as a basic science researcher and/or clinician focused on high grade NET-NEC.

Mentor Development Plan

500 word limit. The mentor should describe how they will enhance the applicant's career opportunities and leadership skills, outline their role in the mentoring relationship, and describe the institutional commitment of support for the mentor's time.

Project Description

1,000 word limit. Should directly address the selection criteria above, with a clear focus on high grade NET-NEC. Tables and figures may be included via the rich text editor or uploaded as a one-page supplementary file (PDF or Word document).

Figures and Tables Optional

You may upload 1 file (1 page max) for relevant figures or tables associated with this project.

Proposed Budget

Grant funds may support the project costs. Travel and indirect expenses are capped at five percent (5%). A detailed budget spreadsheet must be uploaded (Excel format).

Eligibility Confirmation

Applicants must confirm eligibility per the criteria outlined above.

Uploads (Required)

- NIH Biosketch of Applicant (5 page maximum)
- NIH Biosketch of Mentor (5 page maximum)
- Letter of Mentor Support (1 page maximum)
- Letter of Institutional Support (1 page maximum)
- Detailed Budget Spreadsheet (Excel format)
- Optional: Figures and tables (1 page maximum)

Affirmations

Applicants must agree to the following before submitting:

- Funding is subject to the approval and availability of grant funds appropriated to NANETS. NANETS reserves the right to alter the number of awards, terms, and allowances
- Submission of a proposal does not guarantee funding
- If approved for funding, the proposed study must undergo review and approval by applicable oversight/ethics committees (e.g., IRB, EC, IACUC)

Mentors

At least one mentor must be added to the submission (name, email, institution, title). Mentors are notified by email once added.

Submission

Once submitted, applications cannot be edited. Applicants will receive an email confirmation of completed submission.

Recognition

This grant is made possible through the generous support of the Nichole Borchard Foundation, established in honor of Nicole Borchard. Naming rights for the grant belong to the Foundation. A representative of the Foundation will have the opportunity to present the award in person at the NANETS Annual Symposium. For more information about NBF email team@nicholeborchardfoundation.org or visit Nicholeborchardfoundation.org

Questions

Technical Issues: am_support+nanets@affinityced.com

Content Questions: NANETS Staff at staff@nanets.net or (718) 283-4783, Monday–Friday 8:00am–5:00pm ET

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