

Burgun Research Fund by the Sprague Foundation

Research Grant Application Guidelines

2026-28



J. Armand Burgun, FAIA, FACHA

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BURGUN RESEARCH FUND

HISTORY

The **Burgun Research Fund** was established in 2015 by the **Sprague Foundation**. The Fellowship is named in honor of **J. Armand Burgun, FAIA, FACHA**, a true pioneer of the Facilities Guidelines Institute Guidelines “in grateful acknowledgement of his 50 years of extraordinary leadership, dedication and vision in the development and use of many generations of this document.”

The Sprague Foundation supports the mission of the Facilities Guideline Institute: to establish and promote consensus-based guidelines and publications, advised by research, to advance quality healthcare. The Burgun Research Fund focuses on graduate research and education in the practice of healthcare architecture with an emphasis on the FGI Guidelines. (<http://www.fgiguideines.org/>)

The Burgun Research Fund by the Sprague Foundation is administered through the Foundation for Health Environments Research (FHER). FHER’s mission is to advance the knowledge and effectiveness of those who design healthcare environments by sponsoring research.

2026-28 GRANT

The Sprague Foundation has allocated **\$40,000** for research grant funding for the 2026-2028 fiscal year. Depending on the grant applications submitted, the whole award amount may be dedicated to one research project or may be divided over multiple projects.

For the 2026-28 cycle, the Burgun Research Fund is accepting research grant applications on a single topic:

Flexibility for Patient Safety:

The 2026-28 cycle of the Burgun grant invites research on how design and architectural strategies can promote the flexibility and resilience of healthcare facilities to support patient safety. Applicants are encouraged to propose studies examining the effectiveness of design solutions that enable healthcare spaces to adapt to safety needs—such as infection control, prevention of cross-contamination, mitigation of environmental hazards, and reduction of workflow disruptions that may lead to adverse events. Relevant areas of inquiry include, but are not limited to:

- 1. The design of high-risk healthcare environments, such as isolation and protective rooms, operating rooms, intensive care units, and transplant units.*

2. *The evaluation of modular systems, retrofitting approaches, adaptable infrastructures, and other design strategies that support both short-term and long-term change with minimal disruption to patient care.*
3. *Spatial and operational practices implemented during unpredictable or emergency situations that required rapid modifications to healthcare environments, and how lessons learned from these experiences can inform future design for flexibility and resilience.*

The Burgun Research Fund opportunity is open to applicants from both the public and private sector. Favorable consideration will be given to research proposals that are carefully planned to result in shareable knowledge that supports design practice. While the Burgun Research Fund aims to fund research that is relevant to professional design practice, most successful applications include or are comprised of individuals with formal, advanced training in research methods.

QUESTIONS - Please contact Dr. Herminia Machry at hsmachry@ku.edu

DETAILS TO ADDRESS IN YOUR APPLICATION

Please read below important details on completing the “Burgun Research Grant Application, 2026-28”. The sections noted in parenthesis correspond to sections of the grant application.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL SECTION (SECTION III)

For the 2026-28 cycle, the Burgun Research Fund is seeking proposals on a single topic that was identified as important to contemporary practice based on consultation with stakeholders in the design and construction of healthcare settings (see above).

The *Dissemination Plan* (Section III.viii) should include planning for three components.

1. A conference presentation
2. A peer-reviewed journal publication
3. A practitioner-friendly short research summary and/or tutorial (e.g., for digital tools) to be posted to the AAHF public Web site. Tutorials can be in video and/or downloadable pdf format

The dissemination plan should include the presentation of findings at a major conference within two years of the commencement of the grant. Traditionally, conference presentations have been made at the annual *Healthcare Design Conference* or *ASHE Planning Design and Construction Summit*, though other conferences are eligible. Research proposals should list potential peer-reviewed journals that they will target. Identification of Burgun Research Fund by the Sprague Foundation as a sponsor in conference presentation/s, publication/s, and other public-facing activities is expected. A short, practitioner-friendly summary of the completed research summary of the findings of the study must be received and reviewed by the FHER prior to the release of the final payment. Upon request, the practitioner-friendly summary will be held in confidence until after peer-reviewed publication to protect the researcher's/s' intellectual contributions.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST (IN SECTION IV, RESEARCHER QUALIFICATIONS)

The FHER Board of Trustees and its consultants are not eligible to serve as principal investigators. FHER Board Trustees, consultants, and volunteers may serve as consultants to projects led by other researchers. Applications that include participation by FHER or the AIA Academy of Architecture for Health Board members must be clearly identified. Those participants will be recused from the evaluation and selection process.

Other potential conflicts of interests with other organizations or companies should be identified in the application.

Research that develops proprietary knowledge or tools will generally not be favorably considered, given the FGI's mission of enhancing profession-wide knowledge and practice and promoting consensus-based guidelines advised by research.

Organizations or individuals that submit more than one proposal are eligible to have only one proposal funded per organization/individual.

BUDGET SECTION (SECTION V)

Application section V. *Budget* should be completed using the budget worksheet provided in the application. Favorable consideration may be given to proposals that demonstrate a committed financial match to help maximize financial support for the selected research project.

Funds will be disbursed incrementally, with 50% of the awarded funds issued upon contract for the research, an additional 25% following the mid-point review, and the final 25% upon completion to be released upon receipt of requisite deliverables.

Allowable Expenses

Expenses directly related to the funded research are allowed. These direct expenses include faculty/researcher time, research assistant time, research equipment/technology, project-related travel expenses (e.g., travel to project site, field work) and travel to present research findings at a national conference, which is required. Other expenses will be considered given appropriate rationale.

Disallowed Expenses

Due to the relatively small size of these donor-supported grants, it is Sprague Foundation policy not to pay indirect expenses such as program administration and overhead. Indirect expenses include but are not limited to office supplies, general telephone service, postage, travel to visit research consultants, and administrative/clerical support staff not directly engaged in the funded research.

TIMELINE (SECTION VI)

Projects should usually be completed within **24 months** from the signing of the funding contract unless a specific condition exists that would warrant an exception. Such conditions include but are not limited to academic calendar conflicts and delays in Institutional Review Board approval. If an extension is required, the individual grantee must file for an extension and receive approval from the FHER Grants Committee in conjuncture with the Sprague Foundation. The grantee must submit a request for extension and receive approval from the Research Committee to extend the grant period beyond 24 months. FHER and the Sprague Foundation reserve the right to approve or deny any requested exceptions at its discretion.

Research Mid-Report

A progress report needs to be submitted by the grantee to the FHER Grants Committee **six months** from the official start date. The intent of this mid-report is to update the Board and the Sprague Foundation on progress to date. This mid-report needs to be submitted to the Co-Chair of the Research Grants Committee responsible for the Burgun Research Fund.

Research Final Report

The practitioner-friendly short research summary plus a brief summary of research details may serve as the final report. Final reports must be completed and submitted to the FHER Board of Trustees for review and approval with the Sprague Foundation no later than **24 months** from the project start unless a specific condition exists warrants an exception.

ETHICS (SECTION VIII)

Research studies that involve human subjects must satisfy the following requirements prior to commencing research (though not necessarily prior to application):

1. Human Subjects Training (such as Collaborative Institutional Training (CITI) or National Institutes of Health (NIH) Human Subjects Training) must be completed for all actively involved investigators.
2. Applicants must have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval on file and available if requested.

OTHER DETAILS

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

FHER and the Sprague Foundation are each independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations. FHER and the Sprague Foundation do not discriminate based on race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

FHER trustees and the Sprague Foundation evaluate proposals that address the Sprague Foundation mission. The Sprague Foundation seeks proposals that are well-conceived and demonstrate sound research methodology. Specifically, the Sprague Foundation seeks proposals that:

1. Are relevant and useful to the practice of healthcare architecture, the creation of healthcare environments, with attention to supporting FGI guidelines development.
2. Present a research design and methodology that answer to the proposed research question/s.
3. Demonstrate that the research team is knowledgeable on the research topic and qualified to execute the appropriate methods and techniques.

FHER and the Sprague Foundation reserve the right to reject any/all proposals. Examples of past grant recipients can be found on the FEHR website:

<https://foundationhealthenvironmentsresearch.org/research/research-summaries-3/>.

APPLICATION AND SCHEDULE

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m., Central Time, February 23, 2026. Applications should be submitted by email as PDF files to **Herminia Machry / hsmachry@ku.edu**.

A review panel convened by the Board of Trustees will review applications. The panel will recommend selected projects for approval to the Board and the Sprague Foundation. The Board of Trustees will announce the successful applicant(s) on or before **March 30, 2026**.

CONTACT

Questions regarding the submission can be sent to:

Dr. Herminia Machry

hsmachry@ku.edu

Co-Chair of the Research Grants Committee, responsible for the Burgun Research Fund

FUNDING SOURCE

Funding to support this research is provided by the Sprague Foundation.