



United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation Fiscal Year 2019 Research Grant Program Request for Proposals

Timing

The current grant cycle will open (portal available) on January 21, 2019 at 09:00 EST and close (submission deadline) on March 15, 2019 at 17:00 EST. Awards will be announced in June 2019 with funding to begin in September 2019 pending execution of a grant award agreement.

Mission Priority

The UMDF Trustees have identified **training and supporting the mitochondrial disease research community** as a priority for the current grant funding cycle. As such, awards will be made across a wide spectrum of career stages- from Postdoctoral Fellows to Young Investigators to Experienced Investigators. The Foundation's goal is to both aid in the development of the next generation of scientists dedicated to mitochondrial disease research as well as stimulating new directions for more senior researchers.

Scope of Projects

UMDF has established the following research categories and priorities:

1. Basic Science

- Projects which contribute to the basic understanding of mitochondrial science and mechanisms of pathogenesis

2. Translational Research

- Projects which contribute new tools for advancing basic research from the benchtop to the clinic, especially novel cellular and animal models or their application to deepen insights, biomarkers, diagnostics, or therapeutics for mitochondrial disease

3. Clinical Research

- Patient-centered projects which explore means of achieving improved diagnoses, the understanding of the natural history of specific mitochondrial diseases or the development of therapeutic approaches for treating mitochondrial disease



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Funding Mechanisms

The UMDF is currently soliciting proposals for the following awards:

- Accelerator Prize (Postdoctoral Fellowship Prize) - \$50,000 total (over 2 years)
 - Eligible investigators must be within 3 years of receiving MD, PhD or equivalent degree
 - Award only covers salary and benefits of Postdoctoral Fellow

- Young Investigator Prize- \$100,000 total (over a maximum of 2 years)
 - Eligibility for this award will follow the NIH guidelines for [New or Early Stage Investigators](#). A letter of institutional assurance will be required for those applicants transitioning from mentored career development to an independent research supervisory appointment. Contact grants@umdf.org for questions related to eligibility.
 - Salaries, benefits, and supplies allowable as expenses

- Principle Investigator Prize - \$200,000 total (over a maximum of 3 years)
 - Independent Faculty Investigators **at any stage of career** are eligible (Postdoctoral Fellows are not considered Independent Investigators)
 - Salaries, benefits and supplies allowable as expenses.

Applicants may be based anywhere in the world. The Foundation anticipates making one award in each category for a total of \$350,000 during this grant cycle.

Note: The Foundation does not pay indirect (facilities & administration) costs

Application Process

The application process will proceed as follows:

- All applications will be processed on the [UMDF Online Grant Portal](#) utilizing a standard application form.
- Proposals may be started on January 21, 2019 and submissions must be processed by March 15, 2019. Applicants are reminded to leave sufficient time for any necessary institutional approvals so as to meet the above timeline. LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



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Review Process

The UMDF has always considered rigorous peer review as the foundation of good scientific investment. Applicants may be assured that all submitted information is handled as confidential with any potential reviewer conflicts of interest taken very seriously.

- All submitted proposals must include a 250 word (maximum) scientific abstract that provides sufficient detail to allow for further review consideration by the foundation
- Submissions will be reviewed by UMDF staff, UMDF Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB) members, and select external experts
- Scoring/Review criteria include (but are not limited to): Responsiveness to this RFP, relevance to UMDF mission and goals, scientific novelty, scientific premise and rigor, and potential to impact mitochondrial disease
- All applicants will receive notification if submission will be scored and a summary of the result

New! The Accelerator Program

In an effort to further align Foundation donor dollars and research programming, a new process for selecting Postdoctoral Fellowship awards will be utilized. All Postdoctoral Fellow submissions will be subject to the same peer review process described above, with the Grant Review Committee selecting the top 3-5 proposals ("The Finalists"). The Finalists will be invited to present a 5 minute pitch at the June 2019 UMDF Mitochondrial Medicine Symposium (either in-person or via web stream) to a group of UMDF donors known as "The Accelerators" based on their level of philanthropic giving to the Foundation. The Accelerators will then vote for their favorite proposal. The proposal receiving the most votes will receive the Accelerator Prize. Further details on the Accelerator Program will be released in early 2019.

Questions? Please email grants@umdf.org