



United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation Fiscal Year 2024 Research Grant Program Request for Proposals

Timing

The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF) is pleased to share with the global research community details regarding funding opportunities for the 2024 Research Grant Program. The current grant cycle opens (program available) on January 29, 2024 at 09:00 EST and closes (submission deadline) on February 26, 2024 at 17:00 EST. Awards will be announced in June 2024 at the UMDF Mitochondrial Medicine Conference held in Cleveland, Ohio. Funding can begin as early as September 2024 pending execution of a grant award agreement with the applicant's respective institution.

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, both Postdoctoral Fellows and Independent Investigators will be eligible for awards under this RFP. 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. A second identified priority is **Clinical Trial Readiness** to facilitate the development of treatments through improved design and execution of clinical studies.

Scope of Projects

Projects relating to any form of mitochondrial disease are welcomed in the following research categories:

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



- Projects that utilize existing outcome measures to assess disease progression

4. Clinical Trial Readiness

- Projects that focus on Clinical Trial Readiness, including epidemiological studies, development of educational materials for patients and/or clinicians, development of new clinically-relevant outcome measures that can serve as endpoints for future clinical trials are encouraged

Funding Mechanisms

The UMDF is currently soliciting proposals for the following awards:

- **accelerators 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
 - One award, fixed budget
- **Principal Investigator Prize** - \$100,000 total (over a maximum of 2 years)
 - **Independent Investigators at any stage of career** are eligible (Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Scientists are not considered Independent Investigators)
 - Salaries, benefits and supplies allowable as expenses
 - One award, fixed budget
- **Clinical Trial Readiness Grants** - \$50,000 total (over a maximum of 1 year)
 - **Investigators at any stage of career** are eligible
 - Salaries, benefits and supplies allowable as expenses.
 - One or more awards, budgets of any size are encouraged (not to exceed \$50,000)

Applicants may be based anywhere in the world. The Foundation anticipates making awards up to a total of \$200,000 during this grant cycle.

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

Contact grants@umdf.org for questions related to eligibility.

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 29, 2024 and applications must be submitted by February 26, 2024. 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.**



Review Process

The UMDF has always considered rigorous peer review as the foundation of our research mission. 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 the UMDF Science and Alliance Department, 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 was scored and a summary of the result

The *accelerators* Program

The *accelerators* program was launched in 2019 to better align Foundation donor dollars and research grant programming. All Postdoctoral Fellow submissions are subject to the same peer review process described above with the Grant Review Committee selecting the top 3-5 proposals (“The Finalists”). The Finalists are then invited to present a 5-minute pitch to a group of UMDF donors known as “*accelerators*” based on their level of philanthropic giving to the Foundation. The *accelerators* then vote for their favorite proposal. The proposal earning the most votes receives the *accelerators* Prize. The Finalists are also encouraged to present their proposal as a poster during the UMDF conference. Our annual Mitochondrial Medicine Conference brings together the top mitochondrial medicine researchers and the patients we serve. This year’s conference will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, June 26 – June 29, 2024. We encourage post-doc researchers to join us in person to present their work but will consider virtual presentations as well. This is a great opportunity for the Finalists to network with fellow researchers and for the *accelerators* to ask questions. Researchers can find further details on the UMDF website regarding [UMDF Research Grants](#) as well as the [accelerators program](#).

Questions? Ask! Please email grants@umdf.org