



Announces

The 2010

Request for Applications for Basic, Clinical, and Translational Lupus Nephritis Research

RFA 010-05 (LN)

Award Amount: \$50,000

Contact:

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Letter of Intent Deadline: May 17, 2010 at 5 p.m. EST

Application Deadline: June 18, 2010 at 5 p.m. EST

Award Date: September 6, 2010



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INTRODUCTION

This award is intended to provide funds to support basic, clinical, and translational studies whose outcomes will significantly increase current understanding of lupus nephritis, including the study of biomarkers, disease mechanisms, therapeutic interventions, and treatment outcomes.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This RFA seeks applications whose research outcomes will significantly enhance current understanding of lupus nephritis. This award is intended to provide funds to support studies whose outcomes will yield new and meaningful insights about issues including, but not limited to:

- The identification and characterization of novel and/or existing biomarkers, from either blood serum or urine, that indicate the existence, disease activity, or specific pathologies of lupus nephritis in adult or pediatric populations, especially those that may indicate onset or severity of lupus nephritis before standard measurements (e.g., proteinuria, complement) could do so in order to facilitate earlier diagnosis and treatment of lupus nephritis.
- Post-hoc analysis of completed or nearly completed clinical study datasets that will indicate disease status or pathogenesis of lupus nephritis, especially as related to treatment outcomes, either in adult or pediatric populations. Of particular interest are retrospective studies that propose to elucidate the pharmacogenetics/pharmacogenomics of responses to lupus nephritis therapies in humans in order to facilitate understanding of the role of genetics in responses to therapy and treatment outcomes, or to examine the relationship between kidney pathologies and treatment regimens or outcomes.
- Hypothesis-driven research on therapeutic interventions and/or disease mechanisms of lupus nephritis utilizing biological materials extracted from animals or humans, or *in vivo* animal studies.
- Development and/or implementation of specialized treatment guidelines, innovative health care delivery models, and/or quality of life measures for lupus nephritis patients, either in adult or pediatric populations.



ELIGIBILITY

Applications will be accepted from tenure-track Principal Investigators possessing the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or above who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution. Applicants whose home institutions are in Canada or Mexico may apply if collaborating (e.g. co-PI) with a tenure-track Principal Investigators possessing the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or above who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

RFA 010-05 (LN) will provide 1 one-year grant award in the amount of \$50,000. A second year of support may provide an additional \$50,000 or more, depending on availability of funds and research progress.



LETTER OF INTENT & ONLINE SUBMISSION

Letters of intent (LOIs) must be submitted online via Altum's proposalCENTRAL by 5 p.m. EST on May 17, 2010. This submission represents a binding letter of intent. The title, abstract, aims, methods, or other aspects of the proposed research cannot be altered during submission of the full application. Responses to LOI submissions will be sent via proposalCENTRAL within two weeks of LOI submission.

Letters of intent must contain the following information:

- Full contact information (name, highest degree, title, full mailing address, phone number, fax number, and email address) for the applicant and co-PI(s), and the name(s) of institution(s) where the research will be conducted.
- Project title and dates of proposed project.
- Scientific abstract (3000 characters or less) containing the following components: nature of the proposed study, and brief commentary outlining the background and significance of the proposal to lupus research.
- Submit the letter of intent via your proposalCENTRAL account at <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>.



APPLICATION MATERIALS & ONLINE SUBMISSION

Click here to visit the LFA National Research Program homepage:

<http://www.lupus.org/research>.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. (LFA) utilizes an electronic grant submission process. All interested grant applicants must submit their full application packages through proposalCENTRAL: <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>.

Applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional proposalCENTRAL profile as soon as possible. Applicants should ensure that their grants and contracts office has registered their institutional, financial, and signing officials with proposalCENTRAL.

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available to answer questions from applicants, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST. Customer support is available via phone at 1-800-875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.



REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF GRANT APPLICATION

- Complete online application packages (with all required attachments and supportive documentation) must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. EST on June 18, 2010 via Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system. Hard copies will not be accepted under any circumstances. However, in order for a submitted application to be considered complete, each applicant must mail a CD containing electronic copies of all required application documentation to the Research Program Manager by 5:00 P.M. EST on June 18, 2010.
- The online application must include the following components:
 - a) Cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead), including:
 - Name, date, address, and original signature of the applicant
 - Project title and dates of proposed project
 - Status of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (if applicable)
 - Statement that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
 - b) Grant Application cover page, including:
 - Project title
 - The following must be provided for the applicant, as well as the institutional official and signing official: name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address
 - Dated original signatures from the applicant and institutional signing official
 - Dates of proposed project
 - IRB and/or IACUC approval date (if applicable), as well as Human Subjects Assurance Number and/or Animal Welfare Assurance Number (if applicable); if these are not available at the time of application submission, they will be required upon acceptance of the award and prior to disbursement of any funds to the sponsoring institution
 - Institutional grant administrator's (if different from the institutional official and signing official) name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address

- c) Research proposal abstract and lay summary:
- Scientific abstract (3000 characters or less)
 - Lay summary of proposal for LFA's use in press releases (3000 characters or less)
- d) NIH-formatted Biosketches from the applicant, co-PI(s), and any other research personnel that will have a major role in the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, or writing related to the proposed studies (these should include Positions and Honors, Peer-Reviewed Publications, as well as Current and Pending Research Support)
- e) A statement from the co-PI(s) indicating the nature, workings, and extent of collaborative interactions and research efforts to be implemented to accomplish the proposed research
- f) A single-spaced proposal narrative (with one-inch margins, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font) of no more than eight pages (excluding the abstract and literature cited pages), including each of the following sections:
- Specific aims
 - Background
 - Significance to lupus research or treatment
 - Methods and experimental design
 - Preliminary results, if any
 - Literature cited (not included in 8-page limit)



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- Online application packages must be submitted in their entirety via proposalCENTRAL and must be accompanied by all required documentation, including a signed and dated cover letter from the applicant (printed on institutional letterhead; see cover letter requirements on p. 8), grant application cover page with dated original signatures from the applicant and institutional signing official, no later than 5:00 P.M. EST on June 18, 2010. No application materials will be accepted after this deadline. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted.
- Notification of grant awards will be made in writing by September 6, 2010.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be reviewed by experts in the field according to the new 9-point NIH review system.

Each proposal will receive an overall impact score (1-9) based on the current NIH grant review criteria, as determined by the reviewers' assessments of the following aspects of the proposal:

1. Significance
2. Investigators
3. Innovation
4. Approach
5. Environment

See this web page for more detailed information regarding the above categories:
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm.



USE OF FUNDS & CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. Funds from this award must be utilized to support research-related activities of the awardee. Funds from this award cannot be used for any other reason, including indirect costs. Any unused funds shall be returned to LFA.
2. Applications will be accepted from tenure-track Principal Investigators possessing the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or above who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution.
3. Each Principal Investigator must assure LFA of his/her home institution and intended work location. LFA must be advised at the time of application of all moves, contemplated or real. The institution at which the proposed project will be completed must be given at the time of application. Projects may be moved during a funding period only when LFA is given advanced notice of a possible move.
4. An interim and final progress report (originally signed and dated by the applicant, but not the co-PI(s)) documenting the nature and outcomes of the research conducted must be submitted electronically to Dario Dieguez, Jr., Ph.D., LFA Research Program Manager (dieguez@lupus.org) by the mid- and end-points of the grant award, respectively. A formatted progress report form will be provided to awardees simultaneously with award letters.
5. All publications (including peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, as well as national and/or local media coverage) resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by this grant award must acknowledge financial contributions from the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. In addition, copies of such publications must be provided to the LFA within 30 days of final production. Moreover, all publicity and information disseminated by the home institution of the awardee or co-PI(s) about such research must acknowledge financial contributions from the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

6. Each applicant must indicate on his/her cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by the applicant) that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Also, each applicant's institution must agree to hold the LFA harmless from any and all claims which may arise from research-related activities funded either wholly or partially by the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.
7. Applicants proposing to conduct research on animals must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IACUC documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the care and use of animals in research. Applicants proposing to conduct research involving human subjects must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IRB documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the use of human subjects in research. IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required upon the date of application submission, but are required upon LFA's offer of the award. No award funds will be disbursed until written IRB and/or IACUC approval have been received by LFA.
8. Each award is for one-time use only and cannot be postponed, extended, modified, renewed, or transferred to another individual or institution. In addition, no additional funds will be provided beyond the amount stipulated in the award letter. Moreover, eligible applicants desiring LFA funds beyond the dollar amount or period of time stipulated in the award letter are encouraged to submit a new application in response to an LFA National Research Program funding opportunity announcement.
9. Each award payment will be provided, in the form of a check, to a designated institutional grant official authorized to receive, deposit, and appropriately manage funds from such a check at the sponsoring institution. Under no circumstances will a check be made payable or available to an applicant, co-PI, or other individual associated with the proposed research.
10. Any patentable discoveries resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by LFA must be reported to the LFA Research Program Manager as soon as any relevant decisions to pursue a patent are made. A patent application resulting from any such research-related activities cannot be made without the prior written consent of the LFA.