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The Cruel Mystery
LUPUS
FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

2027 Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant

Purpose: The Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant is intended to provide pilot funding for a new project or research idea focused on pediatric systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This grant provides support to investigators to initiate new research ideas and projects and is intended to complement rather than compete with traditional sources of funding.

Award amount: 1 award for up to $45,000.00 USD

Application deadline: February 1, 2027, 5 p.m. ET

Earliest award notification date: March 31, 2027

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Lupus Foundation of America's Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus through programs of research, education, support and advocacy. We are focused on achieving the following disease-specific outcomes:

a. Reduce time to diagnosis
b. Ensure people with lupus have an arsenal of safe and effective treatments
c. Expand direct services and increase access to treatment and care

About the Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant

The Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant was launched to support high caliber start-up projects that have the potential to significantly advance the field or impact the lives of children living with lupus and their families. This grant provides support to U.S. and/or Canadian investigators to initiate new research ideas and projects and is intended to complement rather than compete with traditional sources of funding. Our hope is that investigators who receive a Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant will have greater success in obtaining larger multi-year grants from traditional funders to conduct pediatric lupus research.

Objectives

The Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant is intended to provide pilot funding for a new project or research idea focused on pediatric systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE). This could include, but is not limited to:

- Pilot or feasibility studies
- Development of new research methodology
- Development of new research technology, tools, or devices
- Novel partnerships/collaborations

This Request for Applications is intended to support any of the four pillars of health research: biomedical, clinical research, health systems/services or social, cultural, environmental and population health so long as there is a clear tie to advancements in U.S. and/or Canadian lupus research. These awards are intended to provide the opportunity to a broad array of researchers to seek additional funding and to develop a program of research that will substantially impact the lives of children living with lupus and their families.

Eligibility

Applicants and co-applicants must:

- Hold an MD or PhD (or equivalent) from an accredited institution in the U.S. or Canada
- Be a citizen or legal resident of the U.S. or Canada at the time of application. Collaborators may be from other countries, however no funds from the Lupus Foundation of America may be transferred outside of the U.S. or Canada.
- Hold an academic appointment at an U.S. or Canadian university, teaching hospital, or similarly accredited institution (i.e., institution eligible for NIH funding or tri-council funding)
- Principal Investigators are permitted to submit up to a maximum of one application per competition

Funding Opportunity

Applications to the Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant will be adjudicated through a peer reviewed process. There are funds available to award one project for a term of one year at up to $45,000.00 USD each. Grants are nonrenewable and cannot be carried forward.

Online Submission

The Lupus Foundation of America uses an electronic grant submission process. All applicants must submit their full application packages through the ProposalCentral online grants management system. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applicants must first create a ProposalCentral account and complete the application at https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=56.

For more information, visit our Request for Applications page at http://www.lupus.org/rfa. Please contact Jaren Crump at crump@lupus.org if you have any questions.

Required Application Components

Complete application packages (with all required attachments and supportive documentation) must be submitted online by **5:00 p.m. EST on February 1, 2027.** We will not accept hard copies under any circumstances.

The application **must** include the following components:

1. Cover letter on institutional letterhead that includes:
   a. Applicant's name, date, address, and original signature.
   b. Project title and dates of proposed project.
   c. Status of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval.

2. Grant application cover page that includes:
   a. Project title and dates of proposed project.
   b. For the applicant, the institutional official, and the signing official: name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone number, and institutional street address.
   c. If different from the institutional official and the signing official, the institutional grant administrator's name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone number, and institutional street address.
   d. Dated original signatures from the applicant and the institutional signing official All dated signatures must be on the same grant application cover page.
   e. IRB and/or IACUC approval date, as well as the Human Subjects Assurance Number and/or Animal Welfare Assurance Number.
   f. If these are not available at the time of application, they will be required upon acceptance of the award and prior to disbursement of any funds to the sponsoring institution.

3. Research proposal abstract and layperson summary:
   a. Scientific abstract that is no longer than 2,000 characters
   b. Layperson's summary of the proposal for the Lupus Foundation of America's use in press releases, no longer than 2,000 characters

4. Biosketches or CV/resumes from the applicant and any other research personnel who will have a major role in the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, or writing related to the proposed studies. The CV should include positions and honors, peer-reviewed publications, as well as current and pending research support.

5. A proposal narrative of no more than six pages (single spaced with one-inch margins, in 12- point Times New Roman font, excluding the Literature cited pages), that includes the following sections:
   a. Background, review of literature, significance
   b. Research questions and specific objectives
   c. Research methods and approach
   d. Knowledge translation plan

e. Future plans for grant submissions: including a detailed timeline for the study and for intended grant applications
f. Relevance and potential impact of this work on children with lupus and their families
Appendices are limited to 10 additional pages and could include the following:
g. Reference list
h. Tables and figures
i. Data collection tools

6. All applications must include an institutional letter of support on official letterhead, signed by an authorized institutional official. The letter should confirm the institution's commitment to the applicant and project and describe the resources, facilities, and support that will be made available. This requirement aligns with Lupus Foundation of America's expectations to demonstrate feasibility and institutional backing.

7. A brief but specific budget and proposed breakdown of how the funds are to be used (keeping in mind the specifications and restrictions outlined below).

   For each category of expense please provide the dollar amount requested. Please provide a narrative budget justification for each category.

Category	Amount Requested (USD)	Justification
Compensation Related		
Travel		
Supplies and Equipment		
Research Dissemination		
Other		

Submission Deadline

Application packages must be submitted in their entirety via ProposalCentral by no later than **February 1, 2027, at 5 p.m. EST.** No application materials will be accepted after this deadline. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted. The earliest notification of grant awards will be made by **March 31, 2027**. Awardees will begin working on their projects no earlier than **May 1, 2027**.

Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed according to a modified version of the 9-point NIH review system (see this page: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm) by experts in lupus research. Each proposal will receive an overall impact score (1-9) as determined by the reviewers' assessments.

1. Significance
2. Innovation
3. Approach- including feasibility and timeline for future funding
4. Environment
5. Institution
6. Applicant/Co-Applicant
7. Relevance to lupus

The Lupus Foundation of America reserves the right to make final award decisions following the completion of the scoring process, based on research subject matter needs.

Use of Funds and Conditions of Award

1. Applications will be accepted from pediatric or adult rheumatology, nephrology, and dermatology investigators with academic appointments (e.g. Assistant, Associate or Full-Professor) at a U.S. or Canadian Institution. This investigator's NIH-formatted biosketch or Canadian equivalent must be added in ProposalCentral. (See #4 under Required Application Components.)

2. Funds from this award must be used to support only the proposed research activities of the awardee. Funds cannot be used for any other reason, including indirect costs. Any unused funds must be returned to the Lupus Foundation of America.

3. This award will fund one recipient for a maximum of one year. The funds may be spent on salary, fringe benefits, supplies/equipment, technical personnel, travel to a scientific meeting to deliver an abstract or presentation, and/or to submit a manuscript of the research to a journal.

4. Each applicant must inform the Lupus Foundation of America of their home institution and intended work location, as well as the institution at which the proposed project will be completed if different. Applicants must indicate on their application if they plan to change their institution or work location. Once granted, awardees are required to notify the LFA immediately if they decide to change institutions. Awards are not automatically transferrable and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

5. Awardees must electronically submit signed, dated progress and final reports documenting the nature and outcomes of the research conducted. Reports must be submitted to ProposalCentral

by the mid- and end-points of the grant award, respectively. The Foundation will provide the formatted reports to the awardees.

6. All publications resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by this grant award must acknowledge financial contributions from the Lupus Foundation of America's Michael Jon Barlin Pediatric Lupus Research Grant. This includes primary and review-type peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, commentaries, magazine articles, national and/or local media coverage, as well as any such coverage at the home institution or the institution of a collaborator on the project. In addition, copies of such publications must be provided to the Foundation within 30 days of final production. All publicity and information disseminated by the home institution of the awardee or sponsor/mentor about such research must acknowledge financial contributions from the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

7. Each applicant must indicate on his/her cover letter that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services relevant to the ethical conduct of research on humans and animals. Also, each applicant's institution must agree to hold the Foundation harmless from any and all claims that may arise from research-related activities funded either wholly or partially by the Lupus Foundation of America, Inc.

8. Applicants proposing to conduct research on animals must provide the Lupus Foundation of America with a letter from the sponsoring institution's IACUC documenting approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the care and use of animals in research. The letter must be on institutional letterhead, originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official. Applicants proposing to conduct research involving human subjects must provide the Foundation with a letter from the sponsoring institution's IRB documenting approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the use of human subjects in research. The letter must be on institutional letterhead, originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official.

9. IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required on the date of application, but they are required when the Foundation offers the award. No award funds will be disbursed until the Foundation receives written IRB and/or IACUC approval. All IACUC and IRB approval documents must contain the full name, title, address, phone number, and email for the IACUC or IRB chair in order for the Foundation to disburse funds.

10. Each award is for one-time use only and may only be postponed, extended, modified, or transferred to another individual or institution upon review by LFA, on a case-by-case basis. No additional funds will be provided beyond the amount stipulated in the award letter.

11. Each award payment will be made in the form of a check payable in U.S. dollars, or electronic transfer to a designated institutional grant official who is authorized to receive, deposit, and appropriately manage funds from such a payment at the sponsoring institution. Under no circumstances will a disbursement be made payable or available to an applicant, sponsor/mentor, or other individual associated with the proposed research.

12. Any patentable discoveries, abstracts, or publications resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by the Lupus Foundation of America must be reported to Jaren Crump at (crump@lupus.org) as soon as any relevant decisions to pursue a patent are made.