United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation
Fiscal Year 2022 Research Grant Program
Request for Proposals

Timing

The current grant cycle opens (program available) on January 24, 2022 at 09:00 EST and closes (submission deadline) on March 7, 2022 at 17:00 EST. Awards will be announced in June 2022 at the UMDF Mitochondrial Medicine Symposium held in Phoenix, Arizona. Funding can begin as early as September 2022 pending execution of a grant award agreement with respective institution.

Mission Priority

The UMDF Trustees have identified **training junior members of the mitochondrial disease research community** as a priority for the current grant funding cycle. **As such, any awards made in this grant funding cycle will be limited to postdoctoral fellows.** The Foundation's primary goal is to aid in the development of the next generation of scientists dedicated to mitochondrial disease research.

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

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- Projects that utilize existing outcome measures to assess disease progression
- Projects that focus on Clinical Trial Readiness, as well as development of new clinically relevant outcome measures and novel biomarkers, 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

Applicants may be based anywhere in the world. The Foundation anticipates making one award for a total of $50,000 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 24, 2022 and submissions must be processed by March 7, 2022. 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 the UMDF Science and Alliance Department, UMDF Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB) members, and selected 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 programing. 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 symposium. Our annual Mitochondrial Medicine Symposium brings together the top mitochondrial medicine researchers and the patients we serve. This year's symposium will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, June 8-11, 2022. We encourage post-doc researchers to join us in person to present their work but will accommodate 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