

3-Year (2011-14) Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative Clinical Studies Grant *Guidelines and General Instructions for Application*

KEY DATES:

Application Release Date: November 15, 2010
Application Deadline: March 17, 2011
Peer Review Process: March-May 2011
Earliest Applicant
Notification Date: July 1 2011
Earliest Project Start Date: November 1, 2011

The Lymphoma Research Foundation uses an electronic grants submission process. **All interested grant applicants must submit their applications online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>).**

Please find more information about this system on page 3 of this RFP.

SUMMARY:

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) Follicular Lymphoma Consortium seeks proposals for high quality research studies in follicular lymphoma (FL). **Applications to this initiative must include the study of primary FL patient samples to assure relevance to the human disease.**

AMOUNT OF GRANT:

Applications may be for a time frame of up to 3 years duration for a budget of up to \$150,000 total costs per year. LRF allows up to 25 percent overhead. Smaller overhead amounts are preferred.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The proposed study should:

Investigate the pathogenesis, diagnosis or treatment of follicular lymphoma. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Fundamental mechanisms of FL molecular pathogenesis
- Molecular and/or genetic profiling of patient-derived samples
- FL microenvironment studies
- FL systems biology approaches
- Identification of biomarkers
- Immunological/immunotherapy studies
- Experimental therapeutics
- Correlative studies for clinical trials

ELIGIBILITY:

All principal investigators holding an academic faculty appointment, at non-profit organizations, or public or private institutions such as universities, colleges, hospitals, and laboratories, may apply for funding through the ***LRF Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative Clinical Studies Grant***. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for LRF funds, however, these types of institutions may contact LRF management to discuss possible public-private partnerships if they have a relevant therapeutic or research project.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

All interested applicants must submit their applications online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>) by **March 17, 2011**.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT:

Applicants may request a project period of up to three years as deemed necessary by the requesting Principal Investigator. Applications under this RFA may not exceed \$150,000 total costs per year. The LRF will fund up to 3 applications for this special research initiative.

CONTENT AND PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Proposals should include a 7-10 page narrative that consists of:

1. Scientific abstract
2. Lay abstract
3. Short background section
4. Research plan
5. Specific aims to be accomplished within duration of requested award
6. Quantitative milestones for both the middle and end of the project period

In addition to this narrative, you should attach additional appendices including a list of references cited in the narrative and a 2-page NIH-format biographical sketch of the project principal investigator (PI). The appendices should include a listing of all other research funding received by the PI, highlighting funding for lymphoma.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts in lymphoma research from the LRF Scientific Advisory Board who will make recommendations on applications to the LRF Board of Directors. The LRF Board of Directors will make final funding decisions based on available funds and program priorities. Applicants will be notified by June 2011 of funding decisions. The goals of LRF-supported research are to advance the understanding of the biological systems underlying FL and improve treatment of the disease. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals. The Scientific Advisory Board will then consider each of these criteria in assigning the application's final ranking:

1. Applicant qualifications and research experience
2. Innovation of proposed research strategy and objectives

3. Quality and impact of previous work in Follicular Lymphoma and lymphoma in general
4. Clinical application to advancing treatment of FL patients
5. Reviewers estimation of likely success and impact of the project
6. Resources, such as facilities and patient study group, available to support the project

The application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged as likely to have major scientific impact and thus be worthy of a high ranking. Ranking will be assigned based on the overall merit of the proposal.

Additional review considerations:

1. Feasibility of research protocol, applicable patient accrual, and other methodological considerations
2. Budget: the reasonableness of the proposed budget and the requested period of support in relation to the proposed research
3. Adequacy of proposed statistical analysis
4. If the study is related to a larger project, discuss the degree to which it will contribute to the outcome of this larger project

AGENCY CONTACTS:

LRF Leadership:

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TO APPLY – THE PROCESS:

The Lymphoma Research Foundation will be using an electronic grants submission process. All interested grant applicants must submit their applications online through **proposalCENTRAL** (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>).

To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional profile at proposalCENTRAL now. Applicants should make sure their grants and contracts office has registered their institution and signing officials with proposalCENTRAL.

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.), Monday-Friday, EST.

Phone: 1-800-875-2562 (toll free)

E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

Grant applicants will find many benefits to this new e-grant application process, including:

- Easy-to-complete applications that can be developed, stored, revised, and submitted on-line;
- Paper copies of the application will no longer be required;

- Immediate confirmation of application submission throughout the process
- Toll-free (1-800-875-2562) and e-mail (pcsupport@altum.com) technical and customer support;
- On-line tutorials available for preparing your proposal online;

Important: Please Read!

Lymphoma Research Foundation will require that applicants submit portions of their proposal (e.g., research plan, biosketches) in portable document format (.pdf). Unlike MS Word or other word processors, the PDF format preserves the formatting of your document: what you see/submit is what reviewers see.

In order to save your documents as PDFs, you will need to use PDF generator software. There are a number of software products available for both PCs and Macs that will convert your documents to PDFs. There are also websites that will do the conversion for you.

Below is a sampling of some of the PDF generators on the market (list provided from the website of the National Endowment for Humanities <http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsgov/pdf.html>).

Please consult vendor websites for additional information. Lymphoma Research Foundation and proposalCENTRAL do not endorse any particular software.

The vendor websites are listed in alphabetical order:

Adobe: <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobatstd/main.html>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC or Mac.

BLC Technologies: <http://www.gohtm.com/>

Web-based converter. Can be used by PC or Mac. Vendor e-mails PDF back to you.

Blue Squirrel: <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/Click2PDF/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

Create Adobe PDF Online: <http://createpdf.adobe.com/>

Web-based converter. Can be used by PC or Mac. Vendor e-mails PDF back to you.

CutePDF: <http://www.cutepdf.com>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

Go2PDF: <http://www.go2pdf.com>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

PdfF995: <http://site4.pdf995.com/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

Win2PDF: <http://www.win2pdf.com/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

Zeon Corporation: <http://www.pdfwizard.com/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.