



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2020 AFTD Pilot Grant for Basic Science Research

Deadline for Applications: October 9, 2020

AFTD Pilot Grants provide seed funding for innovative research with the potential to improve the understanding and treatment of frontotemporal degeneration (FTD) across the full spectrum of FTD disorders: behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal syndrome, and FTD-ALS. Pilot Grant-funded projects are intended to generate data that will support follow-on funding applications to the National Institutes of Health or other public or private agencies.

The *Basic Science Pilot Grant* supports projects that seek to answer questions about the biology or pathophysiology of FTD. Approaches that employ novel experimental methodologies or approaches to data analysis are especially encouraged. Examples of research topics suitable for Basic Science Pilot Grants include, *but are not limited to:*

- Cellular and molecular biological pathologies associated with sporadic or familial FTD
- Pathological changes in proteostasis (e.g., protein aggregation/disaggregation, folding, or degradation)
- Stress granules, RNA binding proteins, and other disease-relevant aspects of RNA metabolism in FTD
- Epigenetic modifications
- Synaptic dysfunction in FTD
- Neuroinflammatory pathways
- The role of glia in FTD disorders
- “-omics” approaches to understanding disease mechanisms
- Development and characterization of novel animal (vertebrate or invertebrate) or cellular models that recapitulate FTD pathology or clinical features
- Neuropathological and neuroinflammatory sequelae of COVID-19 infection in animal models of FTD

Projects focused on the development and evaluation of interventions to improve the quality of life for persons with FTD or their families and caregivers, including innovative digital and assistive technologies, should be submitted to the AFTD Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant, using the AFTD online submission portal.

Projects that involve human research subjects and focus on unmet needs in FTD medical practice or translational research to support the development of novel therapeutics fall within the scope of the Translational Research Pilot Grant. Due to the economic impact of COVID-19, the Translational Research Pilot Grant will not be awarded in 2020. AFTD anticipates the resumption of awards in this Pilot Grant category in 2021.

Grant Specifics

- One Basic Science Pilot Grant will be awarded in 2020
- \$60,000 (US dollars), direct costs only
- 1-year duration, funding period January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021
- The combined allocation for PI salary and benefits should not exceed 10% of the total budget (\$6,000 maximum)
- The deadline for applications is **Friday, October 9, 2020, 5:00 pm ET**

Eligibility

- The Principal Investigator submitting the proposal must have a faculty appointment or medical residency at a not-for-profit institution or be employed in an equivalent position in a for-profit organization.
- The PI should be a new or early-stage researcher in the process of establishing an independent research program (For NIH definitions of new and early-stage investigators, see: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm). Senior researchers may also be eligible if they are collaborating with one or more new/early-stage investigators; please contact AFTD to discuss.
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply unless they can provide a letter of employment verifying they will begin a faculty position at, or equivalent to, the assistant professor level or a comparable position in a for-profit organization by the beginning of the funding period (January 1, 2021).
- US and international researchers are eligible to apply.

Application Procedure

- Detailed instructions for completing the Pilot Grant application can be found on the [AFTD website](#). These instructions include AFTD's policy on resource sharing and the publication of funded research.
- AFTD has transitioned to an online submission portal, also accessed on the AFTD website. If you are using the portal for the first time, begin the application process by following the instructions on the portal homepage to create an account. **All Pilot Grant applications made in response to this RFP must utilize the portal and be submitted by the indicated deadline to be considered for funding.**
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel which includes members of the AFTD Medical Advisory Council. The Research Committee of the AFTD Board of Directors, upon recommendation from the Review Panel, reserves the right to make final award determinations.

For more information contact:

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