

St. Baldrick's Foundation – Osteosarcoma Collaborative

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Research for Pediatric Osteosarcoma

Purpose: This Request For Applications (RFA) seeks to support high-impact osteosarcoma research with a focus on moving quickly toward improvements in outcomes for patients. Projects can be investigator-initiated, intervention-oriented studies or translational research to create new therapeutic options or to develop foundational research that facilitates new therapeutic options. The funder will be updated through quarterly phone calls, site visits every six months, and an annual written report of outcomes. Applications may be from individuals or teams, with a preference for team science.

This RFA is to be administered by the St. Baldrick's Foundation, through the generosity and fundraising of the newly created Osteosarcoma Collaborative (now in the process of being recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public charity).

Requirements and Considerations:

- The focus of applications may be on: (i) creating new therapeutic options for patients in the next 1 to 3 years, or (ii) high-risk, high-potential translational research with an emphasis on novel approaches which combine different fields synergistically.
- Essentially all therapeutic modalities are accepted, including, but not limited to, small molecules, peptides, therapeutic proteins, vaccines, and adoptive cell therapies.
- Methods that identify bio-markers to use to drive treatment will be well received.
- Methods that allow dynamic monitoring of disease burden and/or therapeutic efficacy will also be considered.
- Both hypothesis-driven and hypothesis-neutral (e.g., drug screening and genome-wide molecular characterization) approaches will be considered, as long as the outcome of the project leads to actionable therapeutic intervention within the suggested time frame.
- Proposals without clear path to the therapeutic interventions will receive a low priority.
- Cross discipline collaboration is encouraged, with each investigator's role and responsibility clearly outlined in the proposal.
- Proposals must include proposed timeline with anticipated milestones for each quarter.
- Grant subject to quarterly reporting to grant scientific review team, SBF and OSC.

Award Amounts: The award amount will total \$450,000/year, distributed quarterly, pro rata, over a three-year period. Funding starting from the 2nd installment will be evaluated based on research progress.

Key Dates:

Letter of Intent (LOI), application and required documents must be submitted by the Principal Investigator, in English, online through ProposalCENTRAL (proposalcentral.altum.com) before 5 p.m. EASTERN TIME on the deadline.

- Letter of intent due: 07/02/2018 before 5pm EASTERN TIME
- Letter of intent approval: 07/9/2018
- Full proposal due: 08/17/2018 before 5pm EASTERN TIME
- Notification of finalists: 09/17/2018
- In-person interview of finalists: week of 10/1
- Notification of award: 10/8/2018
- Project start date: 11/01/2018

Reporting:

- Researchers funded will have a scheduled **phone meeting update** with the funding agency **every 3 months**.
- The funding agency's representatives will conduct a **site visit** with recipients **every 6 months** to monitor progress and address issues. A 45-min technical presentation followed by Q&A will be expected during the site visit.
- A 5-page **written report** must be submitted online via ProposalCENTRAL **every 12 months**.
- Annual report of expenditures must be submitted online via ProposalCENTRAL **within 60 days** of the end of each grant year.

Format of the proposal:

Letter of Intent (LOI), application and required documents must be submitted by the Principal Investigator, in English, online through ProposalCENTRAL (proposalcentral.altum.com) before 5 p.m. EASTERN TIME on the deadline. Please review this helpful document for instructions on creating an LOI/Application using proposalCENTRAL:

<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/docs/CreateApp.pdf>

- Executive summary: 1 page including one graphical abstract
- Rationale: 0.5 to 1 page
- Existing data: 1 to 2 pages (Existing data may include both investigators' own data and others' relevant data)
- Research plan: 1 to 2 pages (There is no lower or upper limit of specific aims.)
- Budget and timeline (Gantt chart): 0.5 to 1 page

Note 1: Reference is not counted into page limit and can be included in the appendix

Note 2: When a grant is approved for funding, the transfer of funds is contingent upon all legal documents being signed and approved by the St. Baldrick's Foundation

Reviewing process and criteria:

- Proposals will be reviewed by a minimum of 3 reviewers based on expertise and scored based on:
 - Potential therapeutic effect (curing being the highest; no therapeutic benefit being the lowest)
 - Scientific rationale
 - Probability of success (based on previous data, expertise of the investigator, and the environment).
 - Note: ‘Novelty’ is not an explicit reviewing criterion.
- The funding agency will hold (and cover the costs of) an in-person review session for finalists, adjust the scores as described above, and select the final funding recipient(s).

Eligibility:

- Applications will be accepted from both individual researchers/labs and from consortia, with team science preferred.
- Applications will be accepted from any country.
- An institution may submit more than one application for this RFA.
- A researcher can only apply once as the lead Principal Investigator.
- Consortia are considered as separate entities and more than one LOI/application may be submitted by an institution acting as lead.

Applicants should hold at least a M.D., D.O., Ph.D., or international equivalent degree by the date the award becomes effective

Other terms:

- St. Baldrick’s funds may not be used for human embryonic stem cell research.
- The Institution, to the full extent legally permissible, shall hold harmless, defend, and indemnify SBF and its officers, directors, employees, scientific advisors, independent contractors, and agents against any and all liabilities, claims, and demands that relate to the research project and activities carried out in connection with this grant, including, but not limited to those for personal injury, property damage, or malpractice.
- The Institution shall be required to maintain adequate liability insurance comparable to coverage held by institutions of similar size and nature, covering the PI, employees, officers, and agents of the Institution for the duration of the Research Project.
- All awards will be payable to the research institution (or to its foundation or funding arm) to administer for the purposes of this grant only. (Consortium grant funding will be made payable to the lead institution to administer on behalf of the consortium.)

Budget Guidance:

- All budgets must be justified, meet the test of reasonableness, and be consistent with institutional policy.
- No institutional overhead or indirect funding is provided under the terms of the grant.
- Fringe is allowed for up to 30% of the salary requested on all grants.
- Fringe benefits are generally defined as medical and dental insurance, life insurance and retirement benefits and are payable only for eligible participation in such programs.
- Overlap in funding is not permitted. St. Baldrick's policy on overlap applies to Scientific, Budget, and Commitment Overlap as defined by the NIH.
 - Scientific Overlap: Scientific overlap occurs when substantially the same research is proposed in more than one application; or is submitted to two or more different funding sources for review and funding consideration; or a specific research objective and the experimental design for accomplishing that objective are the same or closely related in two or more pending applications or awards, regardless of funding source.
 - Budget Overlap: Budgetary overlap occurs when duplicate or equivalent budgetary items (e.g., equipment, salary) are requested in an application but are already funded by another source.
 - Commitment Overlap: Commitment overlap occurs when any project-supported personnel have time commitments (i.e., percent effort) exceeding 100 percent, regardless of how the effort/salary is being supported or funded.
- Situations may occur when a PI has similar proposals pending with different agencies that, if all funded, will present overlap issues. If an overlap occurs before award is accepted, it must be addressed with the St. Baldrick's Foundation before the new award can be accepted, and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- If overlap occurs during an award, all recipients must be forthright regarding their support and notify the foundation by emailing Grants@StBaldricks.org. Adjustments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Reasonable travel costs are allowable.
- Publication and meeting-related poster printing costs are allowable.
- All equipment purchases must be included in the original budget, rebudgets for additional equipment will not be considered.
- Unused and remaining amounts \$100 and over must be returned to the Foundation at the end of each grant year, unless an approved carry forward or No Cost Extension is on file.
- All budgets and expenditure reports must be submitted in USD.
- Expenditure reports are expected to follow approved budgets. Any budget line item that changes more than 10% from approved budget to expenditure report (without an approved CF on file) will result in follow up from the foundation for explanation. Explanations will be reviewed for approval.
- This grant does not provide funds for items such as:
 - Secretarial/administrative salaries.
 - Student tuition
 - Office and laboratory furniture.

- Office equipment and supplies.
- Recruiting and relocation expenses.
- Non-medical services to patients (travel to a clinical site or patient incentives are allowable expenses).
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories.
- Professional association membership dues
- Scientific publication subscriptions

CONTACTS

For grant inquiries:

St. Baldrick's Foundation

Department of Grants Administration

Grants@StBaldricks.org

(626) 792-8247, extension 212

For help using the online application system:

ProposalCENTRAL Customer Support

pcsupport@altum.com

(800) 875-2562