



MULTIPLE MYELOMA
Research Foundation

Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation

2015 Research Fellow Award

Program Guidelines



MULTIPLE MYELOMA Research Foundation

MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2015 RESEARCH FELLOW AWARD

Program Description:

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) seeks proposals for the MMRF 2015 Research Fellow Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers at the post doctorate/medical fellow or junior faculty levels working under the supervision or guidance of a research mentor in the multiple myeloma field. Applications for the MMRF 2015 Research Fellow Award Program are due April 21, 2015. The goal of this initiative is to help support young investigators to begin their studies in the field of multiple myeloma while advancing the understanding of myeloma disease biology, treatment and drug resistance. Proposals may request up to \$75,000 for one (1) year.

Key Dates:

- January 5, 2015 – Request for Applications issued
- April 21, 2015 – Application due date
- September 2015– Applicant notification
- November 2015 – Anticipated funding start date based on contract negotiation

Background:

Multiple myeloma, a plasma cell malignancy, is currently an incurable but treatable disease. In the United States alone, approximately 20,000 new cases will be diagnosed this year and nearly 11,000 people will die from this disease.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) was established in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by twin sisters Karen Andrews and Kathy Giusti, soon after Kathy's diagnosis with multiple myeloma. The mission of the MMRF is to relentlessly pursue innovative means that

accelerate the development of next-generation multiple myeloma treatments to extend the lives of patients and lead to a cure. As the world's number one funder of myeloma research, the MMRF has raised more than **\$275 million to fund more than 350 research grants at more than 135 research institutions around the globe**. As part of its mission to accelerate a cure for multiple myeloma, the MMRF is committed to distributing awards throughout 2015 to support its research grant programs.

Significant advances in our understanding of the pathophysiology and molecular biology involved in multiple myeloma have identified numerous putative molecular targets for therapeutic intervention including, but not limited to, the proteasome, heat shock proteins, cyclin-dependent kinases, histone modifying enzymes (HDACs, HMTs), FGFR3, IGF1R, cMaf, XBP1, and the PI3K/Akt signaling axis. Therapeutics that interact with these molecular targets are under development. In addition biomarkers that predict response to some of these agents as well as biomarkers that determine prognostic value are also being identified and validated. The MMRF welcomes proposals on any and all multiple myeloma related topics to the MMRF 2015 Research Fellow Award.

Eligibility:

Applications for the MMRF 2015 Research Fellow Award Program are solicited from investigators at academic, not-for-profit, institutions in the United States and abroad. Researchers who hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree at the post-doctorate, clinical fellow, or junior faculty level are encouraged to apply. Post-doctorate and medical fellows applying for the award must work under the supervision of a research mentor in the multiple myeloma field. Investigators at the level of assistant professor who are beginning studies in the multiple myeloma field and are thereby applying for this award must have a research sponsor at their institution who is in the multiple myeloma field and can provide guidance to the applicant in the area of the project proposed.

Process:

All applications are due on **Tuesday, April 21st at 5:00 PM EST** and **must** be submitted via ProposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>). No paper applications will be accepted.

Research Fellow applications are reviewed by an external group of scientists who have the appropriate area of scientific expertise. Scientific ratings use the current NIH scoring system of 1-9 with 1 demonstrating the highest scientific merit and 9 being the lowest. Each proposal is evaluated by two independent outside reviewers and the scores are averaged together. The reviewers are instructed to weigh research that appears promising with previous accomplishments of the applicant, the probability of meaningful results from the proposed research and likely contributions of the research to the advancement of knowledge of myeloma biology, diagnosis, and treatment. In addition appropriate support from a research mentor or sponsor must be adequately demonstrated. Furthermore the goals and objectives of the proposal must be reasonable to be performed in the course of the one year grant period. All candidates will receive notification of the final outcome of their application by MMRF staff. **Written critiques of the application are not provided to the applicant.**

Funds Available:

Proposals may request up to \$75,000 total costs, including up to 10% indirect costs, for a one (1) year period.

Permissible direct costs include:

- Personnel expenses of the Principal Investigator and non-administrative staff including salary, wage, or stipend with fringe benefits.
- Supplies and materials as itemized in the budget
- Annual travel expenses of no more than \$1500 for 1 researcher for attendance to a nationally-recognized scientific/medical conference

Permissible indirect (also referred to as institutional) costs:

- May not exceed **10%** of direct costs.

Impermissible Costs:

- Membership dues, books, journals, and tuition

The funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes specified in the application submitted to the MMRF as executed by the Principal Investigator, collaborating staff and institution in compliance with the budget annexed to the application.

Application Information:

Applications should be submitted through the [proposalCENTRAL Application System](https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com) *available at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>*. The specific instructions for this application are provided below and will be available on this site.

For scientific and administrative inquiries contact:

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Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation 2015 Research Fellow Award Program Application Instructions

A. General Requirements

- a. **Relevance:** Proposed preclinical research in multiple myeloma, which is intended to develop innovative approaches to treatment and further the understanding of myeloma biology and the development of innovative therapies.
- b. **Required Format:** Applications must be in English using single-spaced text, half-inch margins, using either Arial or Times New Roman 11 or 12 pt font. Page limitations must be observed for each section as described below.
- c. **Good Standing:** Applications will only be accepted from research investigators who are currently in good standing with the MMRF. An applicant will automatically be considered to be in good standing unless he or she has failed to provide progress reports on prior MMRF-funded grants.

Note: Sections B – E should be completed in the template titled “Prerequisite Information” which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL(available at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>). Download the template; complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

B. Abstract

This Section should contain the following:

- 1) A General Audience abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using non-technical language (i.e. at a level so an eighth grader would understand)
- 2) A Technical abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using technical language.

C. Biographical Sketch

This Section should contain the biographical sketches of the Principal Investigator and all key personnel. This includes any personnel who are referenced in the budget. Do not exceed two pages per biographical sketch.

D. Budget

Please provide a detailed budget and budget justification fully outlining specific needs for professional and technical staff and itemized supplies by category. Please see the definition of permissible and impermissible charges in the above section on *Funds Available*.

All budget items should be explained under *Budget Justification*.

E. Other Research Support

Other support is defined as any specific funds or resources, whether governmental, non-governmental or institutional, available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application) in direct support of their research endeavors. This should include active support and pending support.

Information regarding active or pending sources of support available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application), whether related to this application or not, is an important part of the review and award process and must be included.

Note: Sections F - G should be completed in the template titled "Application Template" which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL. Download the template; complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

F. Project Description

Limited to **5 pages, excluding** supporting materials such as references, figures, and tables (*see Section G regarding submission of supporting materials*). The project description should be presented in the following sequence:

- a) Specific Aims (approximately 0.5 pages)
- b) Scientific Background and Clinical Significance of Proposed Studies (approximately 1.0 pages)
- c) Previous Work/Preliminary Data (approximately 1.5 pages)
- d) Methods, Model Systems and Assays Proposed (approximately 1.0 pages)
- e) Plans for Clinical Application of the Data, if applicable (approximately 0.5 pages)
- f) Resources and Environment including support from research mentor/sponsor (approximately 0.5 page)

Clinical research protocols, if part of the application, should be submitted as Appendix material. Include IRB/Ethical Committee approval/compliance number, or indicate pending and an anticipated approval date.

G. Supporting Materials (References, Figures and Tables)

Referenced publications in the Project Description, Figures, and Tables should be submitted but do not count against the five (5) page limit in Section F of the Project Description.

Note: There is no template provided for Sections H – K. These documents need to be uploaded as separate PDF files. Please see each section for any specific instructions or notes.

H. Letter of Support

As this award is for junior level investigators including post-doctorate/clinical fellows and junior faculty members beginning their career in myeloma research, each application must have a letter from a senior faculty member stating that they are willing and able to commit to mentor and/or sponsor the applicant on an as needed basis.

I. Laboratory Animals Statement

For projects which involve laboratory animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Approval Date and Animal Welfare Assurance number must be given. Non US applicants should submit approval documentation from the Animal Ethics Committee.

Note: If the applicant has documentation to submit (in addition to what is described above) then this documentation needs to upload as a PDF file.

J. Biohazards Statement

An institutional statement and assurances regarding potential biohazards and safeguards must be included. This may not be applicable to applicants from countries outside the US.

Note: The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (or equivalent office) at most institutes and universities can provide the applicant with a letter stating that the laboratory and/or the applicant is in compliance with applicable laws. This is the document that should be submitted.

K. Relevant Publications

A set of the applicant's publication reprints which are relevant to the proposed project can be included. Please be aware that any password protection feature **must** be removed. Many articles when downloaded from journal sites contain password protection to prevent modifications of the document. Please note if the password protection is not removed, reviewers will have difficulty in downloading your application. **Limit:** applicants will be limited to five (5) publication reprints. Applications with more than five (5) publications will not be accepted. Submitting numerous large files adds to the download time of your application and can add time delays to the submission site.

Note: Applicants can either include all publications in one document as a Publication Appendix or submit each publication as a separate Appendix. Include in the name of the document(s) or Appendix(s) the following: 1) Applicant's last name and 2) description of the document or appendix. For example: Smith Publication Appendix. PDF (one document with all publications) or Smith Paper on Mouse Model X. PDF and Smith Paper on Myeloma Drug Y. PDF, etc.

L. Signatures: The signature page is provided as a printable document and is the last step before submitting the application. Applicants should print the signature page, sign (applicant) then have appropriate institutional representatives sign the document such as the Institute Signing Official and Finance Officials. *Please check with your institute's Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure you are obtaining the appropriate signatures.* Once signed, the document needs to be scanned, converted to a PDF and uploaded with the grant application. *Note: This signature page needs to upload as a PDF file. See Section M: Complete and Submit the Application for instructions.*

M. Complete and Submit the Application:

Applicants and institutes' grants and contracts offices need to register with proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>). Applicants must submit a complete application using this portal. **Paper applications will not be accepted.**

Applications must be submitted via proposalCENTRAL by 5:00 PM EST on April 21, 2015.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.