2016 PRECLINICAL DRUG DISCOVERY RFP

The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) seeks to fill the critical translational funding gap between basic research and later stage drug development by funding promising preclinical drug discovery and biomarker development programs relevant to Alzheimer's disease, other dementias and cognitive aging.

FUNDING MECHANISMS

➢ *Academic Program* seeks to create and support innovative translational programs in academic medical centers and universities.

➢ *Biotechnology Development Program* supports qualified scientific projects in existing, private, early-stage biotechnology companies. The ADDF will provide support for qualified projects in more advanced companies if a clear need for non-profit funding to support the project can be demonstrated and justified. Funding is typically made as a program-related investment.

➢ *Biotechnology Founders Technology Transfer Program* supports academic programs that are eligible for technology transfer and the start-up of new biotechnology companies. Up to 35% of funds from these awards may be employed for expenses related to company formation, such as administrative, legal, patent and third-party vendor costs.

2016 PRECLINICAL RESEARCH FUNDING PRIORITIES

• **Drug Discovery** - Target validation, high throughput screening, medicinal chemistry - including hit to lead development and lead optimization-, *in vitro* and *in vivo* efficacy studies, ADME, toxicology, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, and *in vivo* proof-of-concept with lead compounds and biologics

• **Biomarker Development** - Development of blood, CSF, and imaging biomarkers to accelerate clinical trials, allow for accurate and early diagnosis, and to track disease progression.

With regards to potential drug targets:

➢ The ADDF is **interested** in novel targets and therapeutic approaches for Alzheimer's disease, related dementias and cognitive aging. These areas include, but are not limited to: Energy utilization/mitochondria function, insulin sensitivity, protein degradation/autophagy, ApoE function and cholesterol metabolism, vesicular trafficking, inflammatory pathways, synaptic function/morphology, calcium regulation, myelin changes, ischemia and oxidative stress, vascular injury, the blood-brain barrier interface, and translatable biomarkers.

➢ The ADDF has **limited interest** in funding anti-amyloid approaches, including anti-amyloid aggregation programs, Abeta vaccine development and beta or gamma-secretase inhibition programs. The ADDF also has limited interest in funding cholinesterase inhibitor programs.

Programs areas of particular interest include:

➢ *Repurposing* – Testing drugs approved for other indications in Alzheimer's disease preclinical models. Proposals should be hypothesis driven and drugs chosen for testing should target a mechanism of action(s) common to both diseases.

➢ *New chemical compounds for Alzheimer's disease* – Requires BOTH a medicinal chemist and a biologist as co-PIs/collaborators. The program should focus on new scaffolds, generation of tool compounds, improving CNS-focused chemical libraries, and optimizing novel lead compounds.

> - **_Preclinical proof-of-concept_** – Testing of novel lead compounds in animal models. Study design should be clearly outlined along the lines of an *exploratory* or *therapeutic* animal study as described in the ADDF's recent publication, *[Accelerating Drug Discovery for Alzheimer's Disease: Best Practices for Preclinical Animal Studies.](#)* Whenever possible, studies should include pharmacokinetics (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD) testing, an *a priori* hypothesis and primary and secondary outcomes measures, and a statistical design plan including power analysis.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The ADDF provides typically supports one year of research at a time, with potential for future follow-on funding. Funding averages $150,000 per year and must be justified based on the scientific work plan. In some cases, multi-year proposals can be considered. Inquiries with the ADDF staff are encouraged to determine the Foundation's interest prior to application. All applicants are required to complete an electronic "Letter of Intent" (LOI) available through our website. LOIs are due at least 2 weeks before the application deadline. After review of the LOI, ADDF may invite a full application via email with a link to the electronic application form. The ADDF will attempt to make a determination of interest within 90 days of receipt of the application. Full application guidelines and further information can be found on our website (http://www.alzdiscovery.org).

ADDF ACCESS

Applicants are encouraged to sign up for the [ADDF ACCESS](#) portal to gain access to an online marketplace of contract research organizations (CROs) and a virtual network of experts and educational resources. For guidance on selecting and managing CROs, please see [ADDF's recent publication](#).

<div align="center">

2016 QUARTERLY DEADLINES*
March 18
June 3
September 2
December 10

*Letter of Intent is due two weeks prior to deadline

</div>

<div align="center">

For program related inquiries:	**For application submission inquiries:**
Lauren Friedman, PhD	**Hanna Bridges-Curry**
Assistant Director, Scientific Affairs	*Grants Associate*
Phone: 212-901-8017	Phone: 212-901-8019
lfriedman@alzdiscovery.org	hbridgescurry@alzdiscovery.org

</div>