



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2018 AFTD Susan Marcus Memorial Fund Pilot Grant for Clinical Research

Deadline for Applications: September 7, 2018

AFTD Pilot Grants provide seed funding for innovative research projects in the preliminary stages of development with the potential to increase our understanding 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.

Clinical Research Pilot Grants support projects utilizing human subjects or datasets derived from human subjects and seeking to answer questions relevant to FTD clinical practice, evaluate novel clinical trial designs, or develop innovative diagnostic and prognostic measures (e.g., rating scales). **Approaches that employ novel technologies, such as remote monitoring or wearable devices, are especially encouraged.**

Examples of research topics suitable for Clinical Research Pilot Grants include, *but are not limited to*:

- Early-stage drug discovery for disease-modifying or symptomatic treatment of FTD
- Genetics, genomics, or epigenetics of FTD
- Algorithms and machine learning approaches to brain image analysis
- Neural network approaches to understanding the neural basis of FTD symptoms
- Application of existing or novel data mining tools to query clinical, genetic, or imaging datasets
- Development and validation of FTD-specific outcome measures
- Simulation studies of innovative clinical trial designs

Projects that involve the use of animal models, tissue samples, fluid biospecimens, or cultured cells (including iPSC-derived neurons) to answer questions about the biology or pathophysiology of FTD are typically better suited to AFTD Basic Science Pilot Grants, and those that involve non-invasive therapies, caregiver interventions, or assistive technologies are typically better suited to AFTD Nonpharmacological Therapies for FTD Pilot Grants. If you are unsure which Pilot Grant category is best suited to your project, please contact the AFTD Scientific Director or Research Manager to discuss.

Eligibility

- New or early-stage investigators in the process of establishing an independent research program are invited to apply. (For NIH definitions of new and early-stage investigators, see: https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm). Senior established investigators are welcome to apply to AFTD's other research grant programs: <http://www.theaftd.org/research/funding-opportunities> .

- Applications are welcomed from individuals with a faculty appointment or serving a medical residency at not-for-profit academic institutions or medical centers as well as investigators employed by biotechnology startup organizations.
- Applications from medical residents affiliated with clinical sites participating in the Advancing Research and Treatment for Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (ARTFL) and Longitudinal Evaluation of Familial Frontotemporal Dementia Subjects (LEFFTDS) networks are encouraged to apply.
- Principal investigators cannot be postdoctoral fellows unless confirmation is provided of a faculty appointment that will start no later than 3 months into the grant term (i.e., March 1, 2019).
- Applications are welcomed from both US and international researchers.

Grant Specifics

- One Clinical Research Pilot Grant will be awarded in 2018
- \$60,000 (US dollars), direct costs only
- 1-year duration, funding period January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
- PI salary may represent no more than 10% of the total budget
- The deadline for applications is **Friday, September 7, 2018, 6:00 pm EDT (US)**
- Notice of award will be made in December 2018

Application Procedure

- Contact Debra Niehoff, AFTD Research Manager, at dniehoff@theaftd.org to request a 2018 Clinical Research Pilot Grant application packet.
- Completed applications should be submitted electronically by the deadline noted above to grants+pilot@theaftd.org
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel which includes members of the AFTD Medical Advisory Council. The AFTD Board, upon recommendation from the Review Panel, reserves the right to make final award determinations.

Contact Information

For more information contact:

Specific questions about the scientific or financial aspects of proposals:

Nadine Tatton, PhD, Scientific Director
Phone: 267-758-8644
Email: ntatton@theaftd.org

General questions about the Pilot Grant program or the application and review process:

Debra Niehoff, PhD, Research Manager
Phone: 267-758-8654
Email: dniehoff@theaftd.org