



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### 2019 AFTD Pilot Grant for Basic Science Research

**Deadline for Applications: September 13, 2019**

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.

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 FTD, sporadic or familial
- 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

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 should be submitted to the Susan Marcus Translational Research Pilot Grant. This Pilot Grant adheres to the same timeline and application procedures as the Basic Science Pilot Grant. Please see the AFTD website for the RFP and additional details.

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, which is awarded in the spring of every calendar year.

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**

AFTD welcomes applications for the 2019 Basic Science Pilot Grant from

- New or early-stage investigators 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](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/new_investigators/index.htm) ).
- Investigators at not-for-profit academic institutions or medical centers as well as for-profit biotechnology startups
- US and international researchers

Principal investigators cannot be postdoctoral fellows unless confirmation of a faculty appointment or employment at a comparable level in the for-profit sector that will start no later than March 1, 2020 is provided.

## **Grant Specifics**

- One Basic Science Pilot Grant will be awarded in 2019
- \$60,000 (US dollars), direct costs only
- 1-year duration, funding period January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
- 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, September 13, 2019, 6:00 pm EDT (US)**
- Notice of award will be made in December 2019

## **Application Procedure**

- **AFTD is transitioning to an online submission portal, which will be available and accepting submissions by mid-August. All Pilot Grant applications made in response to this RFP must utilize the portal.**
- **You will be able to access the portal on the AFTD website (<https://www.theaftd.org/for-researchers/funding-opportunities>) . If you are using the portal for the first time, follow the instructions to register and create an account.**
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel that 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**

*Specific questions about the scientific or financial aspects of proposals:*

Nadine Tatton, PhD, Scientific Director  
Phone: 267-758-8644  
Email: [ntatton@theaftd.org](mailto:ntatton@theaftd.org)

*General questions about the Pilot Grant program or the application process:*

Debra Niehoff, PhD, Research Manager  
Phone: 267-758-8654  
Email: [dniehoff@theaftd.org](mailto:dniehoff@theaftd.org)