



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2019 AFTD Susan Marcus Translational Research Pilot Grant

Deadline for Applications: September 13, 2019

AFTD Pilot Grants provide seed funding for original 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 *Translational Research Pilot Grant* funds research projects that seek to utilize recent advances in FTD basic research to facilitate the development of novel therapies and diagnostics or advance medical practice. Approaches that employ innovative technologies or approaches to data analysis are especially encouraged.

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

- Target-driven identification of potentially disease-modifying or symptomatic compounds and validation in animal or iPSC-derived models that recapitulate FTD pathology and/or clinical features
- Development/proof of concept of novel diagnostic and prognostic measures
- Innovative technology solutions to support teleneurology, clinical trial outcome measures
- Application of existing or novel data mining tools (e.g., machine learning) to the analysis of clinical, genetic, or imaging datasets

Projects addressing questions about the basic biology or pathophysiology of FTD, including those that utilize human tissue samples/fluid biospecimens or iPSC-derived neurons and glia, should be submitted to the AFTD Basic Science Pilot Grant. This Pilot Grant adheres to the same timeline and application procedures as the Translational Research 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 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 Translational Research 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).
- Investigators with a faculty appointment or serving a medical residency at not-for-profit academic institutions, teaching hospitals, or medical research centers as well as investigators employed by for-profit biotechnology startup organizations
- US and international researchers
- Medical residents or early-career faculty affiliated with clinical sites participating in the ARTFL LEFFTDS Longitudinal Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (ALLFTD) network are especially encouraged to apply.

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 begin no later than March 1, 2020 is provided.

Grant Specifics

- One Translational Research 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 submissions 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

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

Debra Niehoff, PhD, Research Manager
Phone: 267-8654
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