



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### 2021 AFTD Pathways for Hope Pilot Grants

#### For Basic and Translational Research Projects

**Deadline for Applications: October 29, 2021**

AFTD Pilot Grants provide seed funding for novel research in the initial phase of development across the full spectrum of FTD disorders (behavioral variant FTD, primary progressive aphasia, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal syndrome, and FTD-ALS) by early-stage researchers. Pilot Grants advance the careers of new investigators focused on FTD and generate data that will be the basis for follow-on funding applications to government funders or other public or private agencies.

Projects submitted to the 2021 Pathways for Hope Pilot Grant that employ novel technologies or address the needs of historically excluded communities and underserved populations are especially encouraged.

Suitable research topics may focus on sporadic or familial FTD. Examples include *but are not limited to*:

- Cellular and molecular mechanisms disrupted in FTD
- Development and characterization of novel animal (vertebrate or invertebrate) or cellular models that recapitulate FTD pathology or clinical features
- Network approaches to understanding neural circuits relevant to FTD-related deficits in social cognition, emotional regulation, language, or movement
- Cognitive or behavioral neuroscience of FTD symptoms
- Biomarker discovery or development
- Therapeutic target identification and validation
- Bioinformatics, machine learning, and other computational biology approaches applied to existing FTD clinical, genetic, or imaging datasets
- Tools and insights to improve FTD clinical research, such as diagnostic and prognostic measures, remote data collection tools, and research on strategies to maximize recruitment or retention in trials

Projects focused on 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 *Well-Being in FTD Pilot Grant*. If you are unsure which Pilot Grant category is best suited to your project, please contact the AFTD Scientific Director.

#### **Grant Specifics**

- The deadline for applications is **Friday, October 29, 2021, 5:00 pm ET**.
- Two 2021 Pathways for Hope Pilot Grants will be awarded, with notifications in February 2022 and award start dates in spring 2022.

- \$60,000 (US dollars), direct costs only.
- The combined allocation for PI salary and benefits should not exceed 10% of the total budget (\$6,000 maximum).
- 1-year grant duration.

### **Eligibility**

- The Principal Investigator (PI) submitting the proposal must have a faculty appointment or equivalent position at a research institution.
- The PI should be a new or early-stage researcher 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)). Senior researchers can serve as co-PIs on an application submitted in collaboration with a PI who is a new/early-stage investigator; please contact AFTD to discuss.
- Postdoctoral researchers are not eligible to apply unless they can provide a letter of employment verifying they will begin a faculty position at, or equivalent to, the assistant professor level by the beginning of the funding period in spring 2022.
- US and international researchers are eligible to apply.

### **Application Procedure**

- Detailed instructions for completing the Pilot Grant application can be found on the [AFTD website](#). These instructions include AFTD's policies on resource sharing, data sharing, and the publication of funded research.
- AFTD utilizes an online submission portal, also accessed on the AFTD website. If you are using the portal for the first time, follow the instructions on the portal homepage to create an account and begin the application process. **All Pilot Grant applications must be submitted through the portal by the indicated deadline to be considered for funding.**
- Applications will be reviewed confidentially by AFTD and an external Scientific Review Panel which includes members of the AFTD Medical Advisory Council and other experts across the breadth of eligible research fields. The Research Committee of the AFTD Board of Directors will make final award determinations upon recommendation from the Scientific Review Panel.

### **For questions on the application process and logistics, contact:**

*Samantha DeMarco*  
 Administrative Assistant, Research  
**Phone:** 484-584-0018, x 8910  
**Email:** [sdemarco@theaftd.org](mailto:sdemarco@theaftd.org)

### **For questions on scientific scope or the review process, contact:**

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