

2019 VF Research Program Funding Announcement

The Vasculitis Foundation, a leading international supporter of research on vasculitis, is pleased to announce requests for grant applications for our 2019 research funding cycle. **The deadline for this year's grant applications is Friday, August 3, 2018.**

The VF Research Program provides one- or two-year seed grants to support pilot studies in researching:

- Etiology/Pathogenesis (could include a broad range of studies of immunity, inflammation, or vascular biology. Relevance to human vasculitis will be taken into account by the reviewers.)
- Epidemiology, including genetics
- Diagnosis, including identification of disease subtypes
- Treatment/Management, including therapeutics to treat vasculitis or prevent complications, bio markers, and psychosocial outcomes

Funding: Maximum awards will be for \$50,000 for 12 months. Some awards will be available for two years at a maximum of \$50,000 per year.

International Funding Available: The VF Research Program funds research worldwide.

Goals: To improve the quality of life for patients with vasculitis, and ultimately find the cause/s and cure for vasculitis.

NEW PROCEDURE: Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission

For our 2019 research funding cycle, we are requiring applicants submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) outlining their proposed research project prior to submitting a grant application. The LOI should include a brief description of the project, relevance to vasculitis disease, and the applicant's qualifications. The LOI should be maximum one-page in length, with minimum 1/2" margins.

Members of the VF Research Committee will review each LOI for scientific merit, viability, and relation to the mission of the Vasculitis Foundation. All applicants will be notified whether they are invited to submit a grant application for review or not.

The deadline for Letters of Interest submission is Friday, June 15, 2018.

Grant applications will be reviewed on the following:

1. **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem related to vasculitis disease? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?

2. **Preliminary Evidence:** Provide an account of the principal investigator's preliminary studies or other investigator's studies pertinent to the application information. Preliminary data can often aid reviewers in assessing the likelihood of the success of the proposed project.
3. **Experimental design, methods and analysis:** Are the conceptual framework design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the investigator acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
4. **Investigator(s):** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Is there evidence the applicant is committed to pursuing research related to vasculitis?
5. **Institutional Support:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
6. **Are human subjects involved?** LOIs and grant applications may be submitted without IRB approval; if the application is selected for funding, the applicant must provide copies of approval by an institutional review board (IRB) or ethics board (EB), before funding will be released.
7. **Animal Welfare.** Will vertebrate animals be used in the proposed research? If yes, LOIs and grant applications may be submitted for review without approval, but if accepted for funding, statements of compliance must be obtained from the American Veterinary Medicine Association and IACUC local guidelines, or equivalent documentation for non-USA countries.
8. **Budget:** Maximum awards will be for \$50,000 for 12 months. Some awards will be available for two years at a maximum of \$50,000 per year. Among grant applications with similar scores, preference will be given to applications with total budgets of \$50,000 or less, to ensure that the Vasculitis Foundation can support as many investigators and as many approaches to research as possible.

Funding will be available in early 2019.

Restrictions

1. Applicants may submit only one grant application per grant review.
2. No more than one (1) grant in any given year will be awarded to any institution or major branches of institution.
3. Applicants may hold only one grant at any given time from the Vasculitis Foundation. Investigators who are currently receiving funding (as an investigator or member of a team or from a fellowship) from the Vasculitis Foundation are not eligible to receive additional funding. The current study or fellowship must be closed and final narrative

and financial reports submitted and approved by the VF Research Team before the investigator is eligible to submit a new grant application.

4. Before research can begin, grant agreements must be signed and all approvals such as IRB must be obtained.

Review Criteria: The applications will be reviewed for responsiveness to the research objectives of the Vasculitis Foundation.

In the written review, comments on the following aspects of the grant application will be made in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals. Each of these criteria will be addressed and considered in the assignment of the overall score.

The personnel category will be reviewed for appropriate staffing based on the requested percent effort. The direct costs budget request will be reviewed for consistency with the proposed methods and specific aims. Budgetary adjustments may be made by the review panel or the Vasculitis Foundation. The duration of support will be reviewed to determine if it is appropriate to ensure successful completion of the requested scope of the project.

Award Criteria: The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

1. Scientific merit of the proposed project as determined by peer review.
2. Importance of the area to vasculitis research.
3. Availability of funds.

For more information on the LOI or application or to submit your formal LOI, please email:

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