



## THE MARILYN HILTON AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN MS RESEARCH

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **General Questions**

- *May an institution that already has a grant with the Foundation apply for funding?*  
Yes. The Foundation will accept pre-proposals from institutions that may currently have a grant. However, principal investigators who have current research funding from the Foundation may not themselves submit proposals.
- *Will this grant be considered a grant or a gift?*  
The Foundation considers this a grant as we will require reporting and other requirements not consistent with gift terms.
- *Will the Foundation specify terms of use for grant funds?*  
The Foundation will notify investigators of terms of use for grant funds upon invitation to submit a full application.
- *What are acceptable indirect costs?*  
Indirect costs may be no more than 10 percent of the total grant budget.
- *I feel the page limit is not enough to sufficiently explain my work. Can I submit an appendix with additional information?*  
Appendixes will not be included in information sent to reviewers.
- *Have the expert reviewers signed confidentiality agreements?*  
Yes, the expert reviewers have signed confidentiality agreements.

#### **Bridging Awards**

- *I am currently a fellow at an institution based outside of the United States. May I apply?*  
This award is open only to institutions with a U.S. non-profit tax status. For this award, the Foundation will not make equivalency determinations.
- *If I am over 11 years past my most recent earned clinical doctorate, may I still apply?*  
The Foundation wishes to help advance the careers of young scientists. However, the Foundation understands that there may be extenuating life or career circumstances that may mean an otherwise qualified candidate falls outside this time range. In this instance, the candidate should submit a letter explaining these circumstances with his or her pre-proposal package. Exceptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- *Must an applicant be a citizen or have permanent residency status to apply for the Bridging Award?*  
Candidates must be able to work in the United States under a valid work visa. The Foundation expects any faculty position the candidate accepts includes a pathway to permanent residency.



- *If I am a fellow ready to transition to a faculty position, does the Foundation guarantee me three years of faculty support?*  
When a fellow with the Marilyn Hilton Bridging Award submits a request to the Foundation to transition to faculty status, the Foundation will evaluate both the fellow's progress and the offered institutional commitment to the fellow. It is expected that the Bridging Award will help the transitioning fellow negotiate significant institutional support. Each case will be considered individually.
- *What does academic health center or equivalent mean?*  
Academic health centers are not-for-profit degree granting institutions. Equivalent refers to not-for-profit research institutions, which while not a degree granting institution, support research. Examples include the Scripps Research Institute or the National Institutes of Health.
- *Once a faculty position is obtained, can grant funds be used for salary?*  
Grant funds may be used, in part, for salary support. However, the Foundation expects the hiring institution to provide a majority percentage of salary support. Foundation funds can be used to supplement institutional start-up funds by purchase of necessary lab supplies or equipment or for funding fellows, technician, and/or grad students.
- *My primary area of focus has been outside of MS. Will my application be given the same weight as other proposals?*  
Yes, the Foundation believes that innovations and breakthroughs can happen at the intersection of disciplines. However, the Foundation strongly encourages the application to list the availability of a MS clinician as an advisor or consultant to the project.
- *Is there flexibility in either extending the post-doctoral period beyond two years or starting the faculty position before the third year of the five-year grant period?*  
There is flexibility concerning how the grant dollars are allocated between postdoctoral and faculty periods, however, the total award cannot exceed \$620,000 over five years. Transitions between postdoctoral level and faculty level must be approved by the Foundation.

#### **Pilot Innovator Grants**

- *Can a pre-proposal be submitted by more than one investigator working together?*  
Yes, the Foundation encourages teams (either pairs or triads of investigators) to apply if there is a compelling and clearly explained scientific rationale for involvement of each investigator. The Foundation realizes that innovation often occurs at the intersections of disciplines.
- *Can two institutions (or more) submit a joint pre-proposal?*  
Yes, the Foundation encourages collaboration between institutions and departments. However, one institution and one investigator must take the lead, and the pre-proposal will count as the institution's single submission. This institution will hold responsibility for the grant – signature of grant contract, reporting requirements, etc.



- *Will the Foundation consider proposals from investigators working outside the area of MS?*  
Yes, the Foundation recognizes that breakthroughs often occur at the intersection of disciplines and when investigators from outside a field apply their insights and unique expertise to a new area.
- *Will the Foundation only fund investigators who are United States citizens?*  
The Foundation funds the institutions for whom the investigators work. As long as the applications are submitted by United States non-profit entities, the investigators need not be United States citizens.
- *May an investigator submit a pre-proposal if the project already has funding?*  
The intent of these grants is to give investigators time to explore new ideas and concepts. As such, the Foundation will not consider pre-proposals that already have funding.
- *Should a detailed budget and timeline for the work be included in the pre-proposal?*  
No, but sufficient information needs to be included in the two-page research description for the Advisory Committee to decide if it is feasible to complete the proposed work in the proposed time period.
- *Is the Foundation willing to consider both basic research proposals as well as translation/clinical research proposals?*  
Yes, as long as the proposal has a clear relevance to achieving the goal of this program, which is **“to stimulate innovation and advance knowledge that will aid in developing treatments and cures for progressive forms of MS.”**