

**3-Year (2010-13)
Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative
Clinical Studies Grant
Guidelines and General Instructions for Application**

KEY DATES:

Application Release Date: Sept 16, 2009
Application Receipt Date: Jan 12, 2010
Peer Review Process: Jan 13 – March 10, 2010
Applicant Notification Date: April 30, 2010
Earliest Project Start Date: July 1, 2010

SUMMARY:

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) Follicular Lymphoma Consortium seeks proposals for clinical studies in follicular lymphoma (FL). **Applications to this initiative must involve either clinical trials, correlative research associated with a clinical trial, or be based on the study of primary FL patient samples.** Applications may be for a time frame of up to 3 years duration for a budget of up to \$150,000 total costs per year.

In our efforts to improve our grant process, the Lymphoma Research Foundation will be using an electronic grants submission process. **All interested grant applicants must submit their applications online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>).**

To avoid being rushed at deadline time, applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional profile at proposalCENTRAL now. Applicants should make sure their grants and contracts office has registered their institution and signing officials with proposalCENTRAL.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The proposed study should :

Investigate the pathogenesis, diagnosis, or treatment of follicular lymphoma.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Molecular and/or genetic profiling of patient-derived samples
- Identification of biomarkers
- Immunological/immunotherapy studies
- Experimental therapeutics
- Correlative studies for clinical trials

ELIGIBILITY:

All principal investigators holding an academic faculty appointment, at non-profit organizations, or public or private institutions such as universities, colleges, hospitals, and laboratories, may apply for funding through the **LRF Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative Clinical Studies Grant**. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply

115 Broadway, New York, NY 10006, Tel: 212-349-2910, Fax: 212-349-2886, E-mail: researchgrants@lymphoma.org for LRF funds, however, these types of institutions may contact LRF management to discuss possible public-private partnerships if they have a relevant therapeutic or research project.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT:

Applicants may request a project period of up to three years as deemed necessary by the requesting Principal Investigator. Applications under this RFA may not exceed \$150,000 total costs per year. The LRF will fund up to 2 applications for this special research initiative.

CONTENT AND PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Proposals should include a 7-10 page narrative that consists of:

1. Scientific abstract
2. Lay abstract
3. Short background section
4. Research plan
5. Specific aims to be accomplished within duration of requested award
6. Quantitative milestones for both the middle and end of the project period

In addition to this narrative, you should attach additional appendices including a list of references cited in the narrative and a 2-page NIH-format biographical sketch of the project principal investigator (PI). The appendices should include a listing of all other research funding received by the PI, highlighting funding for lymphoma .

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of experts in lymphoma research from the LRF Scientific Advisory Board who will make recommendations on applications to the LRF Board of Directors. The LRF Board of Directors will make final funding decisions based on available funds and program priorities. Applicants will be notified by March 1, 2009 of funding decisions. The goals of LRF-supported research are to advance the understanding of the biological systems underlying FL and improve treatment of the disease. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the application in order to judge the likelihood that the proposed research will have a substantial impact on the pursuit of these goals. The Scientific Advisory Board will then consider each of these criteria in assigning the application's final ranking:

1. Applicant qualifications and research experience
2. Innovation of proposed research strategy and objectives
3. Quality and impact of previous work in Follicular Lymphoma and lymphoma in general
4. Clinical application to advancing treatment of FL patients

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5. Reviewers estimation of likely success and impact of the project
6. Resources, such as facilities and patient study group, available to support the project

The application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged as likely to have major scientific impact and thus be worthy of a high ranking. Ranking will be assigned based on the overall merit of the proposal.

Additional Review Considerations:

1. Feasibility of research protocol, applicable patient accrual, and other methodological considerations
2. Budget: the reasonableness of the proposed budget and the requested period of support in relation to the proposed research
3. Adequacy of proposed statistical analysis
4. If the study is related to a larger project, discuss the degree to which it will contribute to the outcome of this larger project

AGENCY CONTACTS:

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