

# LYMPHOMA

RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

115 Broadway, NY, NY 10006; Tel: 212-349-2910; Fax: 212-349-2886; E-mail: researchgrants@lymphoma.org

## **3-Year (2009-12) Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative Grant Guidelines and General Instructions for Application**

### **KEY DATES:**

Application Release Date: June 1, 2008  
Letter-of-Intent Receipt Date: August 1, 2008  
Application Receipt Date: September 10, 2008  
Peer Review Dates: September 19 – Oct 17, 2008  
Applicant Notification Date: March 2009  
Earliest Project Start Date: July 1, 2009

### **SUMMARY:**

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) seeks innovative proposals for its ***LRF Follicular Lymphoma Initiative***. The goal of this LRF initiative is to develop novel therapeutic strategies for the treatment of follicular lymphoma (FL). To accomplish this, the LRF seeks proposals that advance the understanding of the human biology of follicular lymphoma or that verify molecular targets for follicular lymphoma therapeutics. The LRF also believes that coordination of efforts in the development of therapeutics is needed to accelerate the pace of research in follicular lymphoma.

### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

Proposals are welcome in all areas related to follicular lymphoma including etiology, prevention, pathogenesis, novel therapeutics, translational research including genomics, proteomics, or biomarkers, clinical trials and outcomes studies. However, the LRF is particularly interested in receiving proposals in the following areas in follicular lymphoma:

1. Advancing the understanding of the human biology of follicular lymphoma;
  - Understanding of how drug and antibody resistance develops in follicular lymphoma
  - Understanding why aggressive transformation occurs
  - Developing ways to prevent aggressive transformation

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

Our online applications for Lymphoma Research Foundation will be available for preparation and submission by June 2, 2008.

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.

2. Verifying molecular targets in pre-clinical models for follicular lymphoma therapeutics;
  - Develop assays to measure human FL tumors
  - Develop preclinical models that mimic human FL
  - Identify or validate molecular targets in human FL tumors or preclinical models
  - Targets to characterize in FL may include, but are not limited to, kinases and signal transduction pathways, novel cellular targets for development of monoclonal antibodies, developmental and differentiation pathways, protein degradation pathways and the proteasome, or transcriptional regulation

### **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 Initiative*. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for LRF funds, however, should one of these types of institutions have a relevant therapeutic or research project, they should contact LRF management to discuss possible public-private partnerships.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

LRF **requires** prospective applicants to submit a letter of intent (LOI) in order to be eligible to submit a full proposal. Proposals submitted without a LOI will not be reviewed. The LOI should include the following:

- Cover letter including name, address, and telephone number of the PI, other key personnel, and participating institutions;
- Abstract of proposed project, including descriptive title (please do not exceed 350 words);
- Applicant's biosketch.

LRF will perform a preliminary review of these materials to confirm eligibility and the appropriateness of the proposed research project.

All interested applicants must submit their LOIs online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>) by August 1, 2008.

The full LRF application will be available in early August only for those individuals who successfully submit a letter of intent by the deadline and are confirmed to be eligible.

### **MECHANISM OF SUPPORT:**

Applications may not exceed **\$250,000 per year total costs, including indirect costs**. Proposals may be for up to 3-years in duration. The LRF intends to **fund 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 also include a listing of all other funding the PI has and highlighting any funding in lymphoma and follicular 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;
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.

#### **AGENCY CONTACTS:**

##### LRF Leadership:

Kathy Brown

Director of Research

[kbrown@lymphoma.org](mailto:kbrown@lymphoma.org), Telephone: 212-349-2910

##### LRF Scientific Contact:

Kristofer Prepelica, PhD

Scientific Programs Manager

[krepelica@lymphoma.org](mailto:krepelica@lymphoma.org), Telephone: 212-349-2910

#### **TO APPLY – PROCESS AND DEADLINES:**

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**A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), Monday-Friday, EST.**

**Phone: 1-800-875-2562 (toll free) or 703-964-5840**

**E-mail: [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com)**

Grant applicants will find many benefits to this new e-grant application process, including:

- Easy-to-complete applications that can be developed, stored, revised, and submitted on-line;
- Paper copies of the application will no longer be required;
- Immediate confirmation of application submission and status updates throughout the process
- Toll-free (1-800-875-2562) and e-mail ([pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com)) technical and customer support;

- On-line tutorials available for preparing your proposal online;

**Important: Please Read!**

Lymphoma Research Foundation will require that applicants submit portions of their proposal (e.g., research plan, biosketches) in portable document format (.pdf). Unlike MS Word or other word processors, the PDF format preserves the formatting of your document: what you see/submit is what reviewers see.

In order to save your documents as PDFs, you will need to use PDF generator software. There are a number of software products available for both PCs and Macs that will convert your documents to PDFs. There are also websites that will do the conversion for you.

Below is a sampling of some of the PDF generators on the market (list provided from the website of the National Endowment for Humanities <http://www.neh.gov/grants/grantsgov/pdf.html>).

Please consult vendor websites for additional information. Lymphoma Research Foundation and proposalCENTRAL do not endorse any particular software.

The vendor websites are listed in alphabetical order:

**Adobe:** <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobatstd/main.html>  
Print driver that will work with any application. For PC or Mac.

**BLC Technologies:** <http://www.gohtm.com/>  
Web-based converter. Can be used by PC or Mac. Vendor e-mails PDF back to you.

**Blue Squirrel:** <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/products/Click2PDF/>  
Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

**Create Adobe PDF Online:** <http://createpdf.adobe.com/>  
Web-based converter. Can be used by PC or Mac. Vendor e-mails PDF back to you.

**CutePDF:** <http://www.cutepdf.com>  
Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

**Go2PDF:** <http://www.go2pdf.com>  
Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

**PdfF995:** <http://site4.pdf995.com/>  
Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

**Win2PDF:** <http://www.win2pdf.com/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.

**Zeon Corporation:** <http://www.pdfwizard.com/>

Print driver that will work with any application. For PC.