

## 2-Year (2012-14) DLBCL Research Initiative “DLBCL Explorations Grant”

### *Guidelines and General Instructions for Application*

#### **KEY DATES:**

Application Release Date:	December 12, 2011
Application Deadline:	February 13, 2012
Peer Review Process:	February – April, 2012
<i>Earliest</i> Applicant Notification Date:	May 15, 2012
<i>Earliest</i> Project Start Date:	July 15, 2012

#### **SUMMARY:**

The Lymphoma Research Foundation uses an electronic grants submission process. **All interested grant applicants must submit their applications online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>).**

Please find more information about this system on page 3 of this RFP.

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) DLBCL Consortium seeks proposals for high quality research studies in diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL).

- **Applications to this initiative are expected to include the study of primary DLBCL patient samples**
- **Proposals should include a clear indication of how the project is clinically relevant to the improvement of outcomes for patients with DLBCL. Applicants are encouraged to describe how they will leverage other resources (funding support, institutional resources, clinical trial samples, etc.) in carrying out the project.**
- **In addition, applicants should delineate how the proposed research project will involve collaborative interactions between/among investigators in different disciplines (e.g. pathology & hematology/oncology, basic science research & clinical investigators) and/or different institutions.**

#### **AMOUNT OF GRANT:**

Applications may be for a time frame of up to 2 years duration for a budget of no more than \$250,000 in *total* (\$125K per year). LRF allows 25 percent overhead, smaller overhead amounts are preferred.

#### **RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:**

##### **The proposed study should:**

Investigate the pathogenesis, diagnosis or treatment of DLBCL.

Priority areas identified for funding include:

- **Molecular analysis of DLBCL.** What are the critical pathways involved in lymphomagenesis? What are the molecular predictors of tumor behavior? How can they be leveraged to develop new therapeutic approaches? This includes areas such as genomics, epigenomics, proteomics, metabolomics.
- What **biologic features** and which biomarkers are predictive of outcome in DLBCL?
- **Host-Tumor Interactions in DLBCL.** How does the immune system modulate DLBCL? How does the tumor microenvironment influence resistance of DLBCL to therapies?
- **Transformed DLBCL.** What are the molecular events involved? How can transformed DLBCL be delayed, prevented or better treated?
- **Heterogeneity of DLBCL Behavior.** What are the molecular, biologic, immunologic and microenvironmental factors determining the variability in clinical behavior of DLBCL?
- **Drug Resistance.** What are the molecular, biologic, immunologic and microenvironmental factors determining resistance to key anti-lymphoma agents and how can they be overcome?
- **Survivorship.** How can we improve long-term outcomes of survivors from DLBCL, through better understanding and/or management of factors including biology, epidemiology, long-term toxicity of existing therapeutics, and secondary cancers?
- **Novel imaging strategies.** How can improved imaging approaches of DLBCL patients improve outcomes?

### **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 the ***LRF DLBCL Research Initiative “DLBCL Explorations Grant”***. Eligible investigators must have a title of assistant, associate, or full professor or its equivalent. More junior investigators should apply for other LRF awards (Career Development Awards or Fellowship Awards). For-profit entities are not eligible to apply 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.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS:**

All interested applicants must submit their applications online through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>) by **5 pm Eastern Time, February 13, 2012**.

### **MECHANISM OF SUPPORT:**

Applicants may request a project period of up to two years as deemed necessary by the requesting Principal Investigator. Applications under this RFA may not exceed \$250,000 in total. 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***, applicants 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. Additionally letters from individuals providing resources (collaboration, tissue, reagents, etc) may be included in the appendix.

### **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 May 15, 2012 of funding decisions. The goals of LRF-supported research are to advance the understanding of the biological systems underlying DLBCL 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. Responsiveness of application to the priority research areas listed above
4. Evidence of cross-discipline and/or cross-institutional collaboration
5. Quality and impact of previous work in DLBCL and lymphoma in general
6. Clinical application to advancing outcomes for DLBCL patients
7. Reviewers estimation of likely success and impact of the project
8. Resources, such as facilities and patient study group, available to support the project
9. Financial resources available from other sources and overlap with possible LRF funding.

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. However, applications that do not address one of the priority research areas or do not show strong evidence of collaboration will be disqualified.

### ***Additional review considerations:***

1. Feasibility of research studies, patient accrual (if applicable), and other methodological considerations
2. Budget: the reasonableness and justification 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:**

LRF Leadership:

Kathy Brown

Director of Research

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

### **TO APPLY – THE 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.

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.), Monday-Friday, EST.

Phone: 1-800-875-2562 (toll free)

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 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 the document: what applicants see/submit is what reviewers see.

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

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.