

## 3-Year (2012-15) Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative “FL Pathways 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 14, 2012

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.

#### SUMMARY:

The Lymphoma Research Foundation (LRF) Follicular Lymphoma Consortium seeks proposals for high quality research studies in follicular lymphoma (FL). **Applications to this initiative must include the study of primary FL patient samples to assure relevance to the human disease. In addition, applicants are required to explicitly delineate how the proposed research will incorporate collaborative interactions between/among investigators in different disciplines (e.g. pathology & medical oncology, basic science research & clinical investigators) and/or different institutions.**

#### AMOUNT OF GRANT:

Applications may be for a time frame of up to 3 years duration for a budget of no more than \$250,000 *per year* (\$750K total over the 3 years). LRF allows 25 percent overhead, smaller overhead amounts are preferred.

#### RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

##### The proposed study should:

Investigate the pathogenesis, diagnosis or treatment of follicular lymphoma.

Priority areas identified for funding include:

- **Genomic/genetic analysis of FL.** What are the critical pathways involved in lymphomagenesis and what are the molecular predictors of tumor behavior?
- What **biologic features of FL** and which biomarkers are predictive of outcome of FL?
- **Host-Tumor Interactions in FL.** How does the immune system modulate FL? Does the tumor microenvironment influence resistance of FL to therapies?

- **Transformation of FL.** What are the molecular events involved in transformation and what signaling pathways are impacted? How can transformation be delayed or prevented?
- **Heterogeneity of FL Behavior.** What are the molecular, biologic, immunologic and microenvironmental factors determining the variability in clinical behavior of FL?
- **Drug Resistance.** What are the molecular, biologic, immunologic and microenvironmental factors determining resistance to rituximab and other key anti-lymphoma agents?
- **Development of Cell Lines and Animal Models of untransformed FL.** There are currently no good cell lines or mouse models of untransformed FL to facilitate research progress in this field.
- **Enhancement of Accrual of FL patients to clinical trials.** Despite a plethora of attractive agents for clinical trials, progress is slow due to the low accrual rate of patients to clinical trials in the USA. Convincing strategies with measurable endpoints documenting improvement in FL trial accrual will be considered for funding.

### **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 Follicular Lymphoma Research Initiative “FL Pathways 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 5pm Eastern Time, February 13, 2012.

### **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 \$250,000 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*, applicants 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 May 15, 2012 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. 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 Follicular Lymphoma and lymphoma in general
6. Clinical application to advancing treatment of FL 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.