

Free Family AMD Research Award - Targeted Call for New Proposals

Executive Summary:

The Free Family Foundation, in collaboration with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, has committed funding over the next five years to advance potential treatments for dry age-related macular degeneration. The Foundation Fighting Blindness will make an award for a meritorious research proposal that proposes to **understand pathophysiologic mechanisms** that cause the transition from aging to **early, dry AMD**. If successful, the research will **inform the design of targeted treatment** for the greatest number of people afflicted with early AMD and prevent blindness from late AMD. Proposals must:

- Focus on **early, dry AMD**
- Determine the most relevant pathophysiologic pathways and their interactions with other pathways that cause **early** AMD lesions
- **Include two PIs with distinct areas of scientific expertise** who will **implement a multidisciplinary project** with a team science approach **on a topic that is not optimally served by a single laboratory**.
- Use animal or cellular models that *best* address AMD pathobiology
- Demonstrate that the outcome will have direct impact on AMD

The Foundation Fighting Blindness expects to fund a limited number of Free Family AMD Research Awards to be awarded Spring 2024.

If you are interested in being considered for an award, submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and short, no longer than five pages, Curriculum Vitae (NIH Biosketch is acceptable) to the Foundation by 10/5/2023 via the Foundation's application portal.

Applying:

The following sections must be entered into the designated application portal fields:

1. **Title of Project**
2. **Why this research is important to and will make a significant difference in achieving the Foundation's mission.**

3. **Overall research, goals and hypothesis to include the Specific Aims and rationale proposed for FFB Grant funding (it is recommended that the specific aims are listed, and rationale stated)**
4. **Stage of Development**
5. **Overall Description of Application or research proposal**
 - **No more than 3 figures/tables are permitted but not required. Figures/tables can be uploaded on the Figures Upload page. doc or pdf acceptable**
6. **Reference list**
7. **Curriculum Vitae for each Principal Investigator. 5-page NIH biosketch format is acceptable. Curriculum Vitae is not included in word limits.**

A budget is not required for the Letter of Intent.

Use the Print Application tab to preview your application in pdf format. Your signature will be added to the pdf when the Submit Application page is completed.

Email confirmation of submitted application will be sent immediately from blindness@onlineapplicationportal.com. Add this address to your safe sender list to avoid emails being sent to your SPAM folder

Eligibility:

Applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.M.D., D.V.M., D.O., or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or equivalent at a domestic or foreign: non-profit organization, or public or private institution, such as a university, college, medical school, hospital, research institute, or laboratory.

Individuals from underrepresented racial, ethnic and gender groups, as well as individuals with disabilities, are always encouraged to apply.

Award:

The award will be approximately \$200,000 per year up to three years. The award may be used to support the salaries of research trainees (graduate students, postdoctoral or clinical fellows), technical staff and research supplies. Partial support for the Principal Investigators' salary is permitted but is not to exceed **20% of the total annual award. The Foundation**

Fighting Blindness does not provide funds for equipment or indirect administrative costs. A budget is not required for the Letter of Intent.

Letter of Intent Submission:

Applicants must submit the completed LOI electronically by 10/5/2023 11:59PM EST via the FFB Application Portal. Access the Foundation's Application Portal through the Foundation Fighting Blindness website, <https://www.onlineapplicationportal.com/blindness>.

Automated acknowledgement of receipt of LOI will be sent upon submission.

The Letters of Intent will be reviewed for scientific quality and relevance to FFB's mission and current research priorities. Letters addressing the targeted area identified above and showing clear relevance to translational studies that can accelerate the path toward clinical trials will receive priority consideration. If your Letter of Intent is selected, the FFB will contact you to request a full application by November 10, 2023. Full applications will be due on January 5, 2024.

PLEASE USE YOUR OWN E-MAIL ADDRESS IF POSSIBLE WHEN SUBMITTING THE LETTER OF INTENT SO THAT WE CAN INFORM YOU IN A TIMELY FASHION IF YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR SUBMISSION OF A FULL PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION, PLEASE ADVISE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF CHANGES IN E-MAIL ADDRESSES.