



Pioneer SCA/SCA3 Translational Research Award

Sponsored by the National Ataxia Foundation

Introduction

The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) was organized in 1957 in the state of Minnesota as a voluntary non-profit health organization. In its continuing efforts to find the cause, treatments, and cure for the ataxias, the National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) provides limited, short-term financial support of ataxia research.

The National Ataxia Foundation uses **proposalCENTRAL** to facilitate the grant application and review process. This document includes NAF policies and guidelines relevant to its research program, however the instructions to submit a letter of intent and the full application is on the **proposalCENTRAL** website.

Description

The National Ataxia Foundation invites proposals, under a competitive Request for Applications (RFA) process, to award two grants focusing on research investigations that will facilitate the development of treatments for the Spinocerebellar Ataxias.

Funding will be for one year from March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021. The total grant per award is \$100,000. Two applications will be awarded funding: one grant for Spinocerebellar ataxia type 3/Machado Joseph Disease and one grant for any other type of Spinocerebellar ataxia. Indirect costs are not allowed to be paid from this grant award.

Applications will be accepted from for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations, public or private institutions, and institutions both inside and outside the United States. This award is meant for established ataxia researchers. Applications will be accepted from researchers who are United States citizens and non-U.S. citizens.

Each grant application must include a lay summary that will be used to show donors how their contributions to research has enhanced our understanding of ataxia. Lay summaries will be published in NAF communication channels and should not contain confidential information. The other parts of the grant application are considered confidential and will only be released to members of NAF's Medical Research Advisory Board members, the review committee, NAF staff and NAF Board of Directors.

If you have questions about the grant requirements, you may email Kelsey Trace at kelsey@ataxia.org.

proposalCENTRAL

To utilize the proposalCENTRAL online portal to submit letters of intent and applications, a user account needs to be created. Use this weblink <https://proposalcentral.com> to create an account. Creating an account can be done any time prior to submitting a Letter of Intent to apply.

Letter of Intent

Using the proposalCENTRAL online portal, please submit a full title and a one-page scientific abstract of your research proposal, on or before October 15, 2019. You will receive an email when your Letter of Intent is approved, then you will be able to access the proposalCENTRAL portal to submit your application.

Submission of Application

Using the proposalCENTRAL online portal, please submit the full application on or before November 15, 2019. Dates of the proposed project should be March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

Review Dates

Review by Medical Research Advisory Board takes place late December through early January.

Written notification of awards will be sent in late February 2020. Please do not call NAF about the status of your grant.

Review Process

All applications are reviewed and evaluated by a review committee, selected by NAF's Research Director. Members of NAF's Medical and Research Advisory Board participate in the review. The review committee will score and prioritize all grants received by the deadline and make funding recommendations. The Board of Directors will consider the recommendations and make the final approval and funding determinations.

Funding of awards will be based on the priority score assigned to each application based on scientific merit, the relevance to SCA3 or other SCAs and the translational aspect of the research project. Two Pioneer grants will be awarded funding.

Disbursement of Funds

Awards are for one year only. Checks or electronic transfers will be issued in February and sent directly to the institution of the funded researcher named in the application. Electronic payment is preferred.

Non-funded applicants will also be notified in February.

Publications

When a paper or poster is published or presented before a scientific organization by an awardee, based on the work supported by an NAF grant, an electronic copy of the paper or a description of the presentation should be sent to the National Ataxia Foundation. All papers, posters and press releases shall carry a credit line to the National Ataxia Foundation. In addition, a copy of any press release regarding the study funded by NAF should also be e-mailed to NAF at kelsey@ataxia.org.

Reports

A final scientific report and lay summary is to be submitted to the National Ataxia Foundation within four (4) months of completion of the research project. The scientific report is reviewed by NAF's Medical Research Advisory Board but is not made public.

Because the National Ataxia Foundation takes seriously its responsibility to report to its members on the use of their research contributions, the layperson final summary will be published in the organization's newsletter and posted on NAF's website. The summary must be written in such a manner as to be understood by the average layperson and should not contain privileged or unpublished information.