



Instructions for Young Investigator Award Application

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 Young Investigator Award was created to encourage young clinical and scientific investigators to pursue a career in the field of ataxia research. It is our hope that ataxia research will be invigorated by the work of young, talented individuals supported by this award.

Candidates must have attained an MD or PhD degree, and have an appointment as a junior faculty member. Individuals at the Associate Professor level are not eligible. Clinicians must have finished their residency no more than five (5) years prior to applying.

Non-U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for a Young Investigator award. Young Investigator grant applications are accepted from U.S. and international institutions.

It is anticipated that the average funds granted will be up to \$35,000. This award will be made to the sponsoring institution and can be used as salary support or for direct research expenses. Awards are for direct costs only and cannot be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead.

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, name of principal investigator and name of associated institution will be published in NAF communication channels. 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.

Due to the larger availability of funding for Ataxia-Telangiectasia (A-T), those research proposals will receive a lower priority. However, a higher ranking will be given to those Ataxia-Telangiectasia research studies which lend themselves to an overall better understanding of the ataxia process.

Guidelines

- Indirect costs are prohibited from being applied to NAF grant awards.
- The National Ataxia Foundation will retain the right to unilaterally cancel any awards for non-compliance or non-performance.
- Awards are not transferable.
- No-cost extensions (NCE) will be considered for extenuating circumstances and require approval from NAF's research director. Please submit requests for an NCE to 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.

Letter of Intent

Using the proposalCENTRAL online portal, please submit a full title and a one-page abstract of your research proposal, on or before October 1, 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 Young Investigator grant application on or before November 1, 2019. Dates of the proposed project should be March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021.

A letter from the mentor should outline a program of studies for the applicant and delineate the candidate's future plans. This letter of support should include details regarding resources available to the candidate and indicate the mentor's involvement and commitment to the applicant's research.

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

All applications are reviewed and evaluated by a review committee, appointed 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 is based on availability of funds, the priority score assigned to each application, and the relevance to the ataxias.

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.

Change in Status of Awarded

Awards are to remain solely with the designated awardee and may not be transferred to any other personnel. If a recipient decides not to continue work in ataxia research, the award will be terminated. In the event that NAF terminated an award, the award amount will be pro-rated for the number of months it was in effect, and the pro-rated unused funds shall be returned to NAF. If an investigator changes institutions, the award may be transferred, contingent upon the successor institution's commitment to support the research for the full remaining term of the award.

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.