

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation

Request for Application

Grant Name: Microbial Pathogenesis in Alzheimer's Disease Grant

Application Deadline: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 11:59 PM EDT

Grant Funds Available: 1.7 million dollars in grant funding will be available through the 2021 grant period. Individual grants will range between \$30,000 - \$250,000. Grant amount varies dependent on the merits of the project.

Distribution of grants is as follows (but not limited to):

- Up to four \$250,000 awards to established investigators (Assistant Professor to Professor) who have already launched/developed initial research. Past awardees are eligible to apply.
- Up to four \$100,000 awards to senior/mid-career investigators (Assistant Professor to Professor) to obtain preliminary data to facilitate development of a research proposal for submission to the NIH and/or other institutions to continue their research. These grant awards are not meant to duplicate current work.
- Up to three \$50,000 awards to current investigators (past awardees) who have demonstrated significant progress in initial research findings and are looking to further their research. The awardees are expected to submit a research update instead of a regular application.
- Up to five \$30,000 awards to fellows/early-career investigators (includes Instructors, Assistant Professors, Senior trainees/Fellows) to obtain preliminary data to facilitate development of a research proposal to submit at the \$100,000 level. These grants will ensure that creative ideas emerge from the science. These grant awards are not meant to duplicate current work.

Grant Period: Twelve months

Application Documents Online at idsafoundation.org/alz-research-grant

All grants will be checked for compliance and then reviewed by a convened expert Review Panel and an Advisory Board. Final approval of grant awardees will be made by the IDSA Foundation Board of Directors.

Note: The grant is offered to both Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) members and non-IDSA members. These one-time grants are slated to *Identify a potential microbial link to Alzheimer's disease.*

Purpose

Provide funding to *identify a potential microbial link to Alzheimer's disease*. All awards must be narrowly focused on elucidating the possible roles of infectious agents in the causation of Alzheimer's disease. The grant awards will support innovative research including basic, clinical, and/or non-traditional approaches. This includes proposals that span the breadth of the microbial world including bacteria, fungi, parasites, viruses, and microbial synergy among other possibilities.

Program Objectives

This funding is designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- To obtain evidence that an infectious agent or microbial community is correlated to Alzheimer's disease.
- To promote novel research in the field of microbial triggers for Alzheimer's disease.

Eligibility

- Both members and non-members of IDSA are encouraged to apply. This includes established investigators, academic and health professionals in all disciplines and health-related professions.
- PhD and MDs are welcome to apply.
- Interdisciplinary research is encouraged, including collaborations between experts in Alzheimer's research and infectious diseases.
- Clinical and basic scientists are encouraged to apply.
- International applications are welcome.

Project topics

- Research must concentrate on identifying the role of an infectious agent(s) in Alzheimer's disease. Proposals can span the breadth of the microbial world including bacteria, fungi, parasites, viruses, and microbial synergy among other possibilities.

Budget

- The budget must reflect the grant amount being requested. (Ex. If applicant requests 100K, budget must reflect a 100K budget outline)
 - The Review Committee and AD Advisory Panel reserve the right to adjust the total budget based on the review and grant priority for funding.
- A detailed and justified budget proportionate to the scope of the project must be included with the application.
- Budget should be limited to 2 pages. (does not count towards 4 page proposal limit)
- To gauge if the proposed budget corresponds to the project proposal and the costs are reasonable, specific line items are to be listed on the budget. Allowable categories for expenditures include personnel (salary and fringe benefits), supplies, services (e.g., data analysis, genomic/microbiome sequencing costs, statistical support among others), animal care.
- Equipment and travel costs are not allowed for grants requests under the \$250,000 level.
 - \$250,000 Requests: Modest travel costs are allowed; Equipment requests will infrequently be considered and will require sound justification.
- No indirect costs are provided to the Institution to which grants are awarded.
- Total salary support for PI should not exceed the following (this includes fringe costs):
 - \$250,000 level: PI salary support should not exceed 10% of grant funding.
 - \$100,000 level: PI salary should not exceed \$15,000.
 - \$50,000 level: PI salary should not exceed \$7,500.
 - \$30,000 level: No salary costs are covered at \$30,000.

Restrictions

- Projects that concentrate on indirect nonspecific phenomena such as inflammation or protein plaques and tangles will not be considered.

- This is a one-time grant award to obtain preliminary data to facilitate development of a research proposal for submission to the NIH or other foundations or institutions for further funding.
- Grant awards should not duplicate currently funded work.

Application

Multiple investigators working on the project at the time of application is allowed but there may only be one PI. Submission of a research proposal is required. The narrative of the grant should be a maximum of four pages and the proposal should include the following:

- Abstract (250 words maximum)
- Introduction and Background
- Specific Objectives
- Procedures and Methods
- Benefits or Significance of the Research
- All illustrations, tables, and figures

In addition, the application should include:

- A list of citations (no more than 25) that support the research proposal must be included with the proposal (not included in page limit).
- Letter of support from the institution leadership verifying institutional support and resources for proposed research (one-page maximum).
- Letter from Institution verifying faculty appointment, and eligibility of PI to apply for external funding.
 - The letter of support and verification of faculty appointment can be provided as one letter
- PI's biosketch (using new NIH biosketch format <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure(s) – COI disclosure(s) should be a written statement mentioning any COI's (if any)
 - If no Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure(s), applicant may use the following statement:
First name Last name has no conflict of interests to disclose.
- Budget and justification not to exceed two pages. (does not count towards proposal page count)

Software

- Application should be submitted as an Adobe PDF document along with a budget page including a budget breakdown in tabular format. Budget and justification should not exceed two pages.

Language

- All applications must be submitted in standard American English.
- All terms must be spelled out the first time the term is used and note the appropriate abbreviation in parentheses. The abbreviation may be used thereafter.
- Avoid jargon.

Paper Size, Page Layout and Font

- Paper size, page layout, and font size refer to the format of the NIH Grant (<https://tinyurl.com/y9k64fwl>)
 - **Paper size:**
 - Use standard letter paper (8½ X 11”)
 - **Page layout:**
 - Minimum margins are one-half inch on top, bottom, left, and right for all pages.
 - Use a single column format like this document.
 - **Fonts:**
 - The following fonts are recommended at a size of 11 points or larger: Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Palatino Linotype.

Figures, Tables, Figure Legends, Footnotes/Endnotes, Photographs and Images

- A smaller type is acceptable, but must be in black ink, readily legible.
- Footnotes or endnotes are to be numbered consecutively.
- All illustrations, tables, and images (maximum of six) must be imbedded directly within the application.

Filenames

- Save all document attachments with descriptive filenames of 50 characters or less (including spaces).
- Use one space (not two or more) between words or characters and do not begin the filename with a space or include a space immediately before the .pdf extension.
- Avoid the use of ampersand (&) since it requires special formatting (i.e., &).

Review Process

- Only complete applications received by the deadline will be reviewed.
- The IDSA Foundation strongly encourages applications by women, people of color, under-represented populations and those who have experienced varied and non-traditional career trajectories.
- The review process is as follows:
 - Staff will review the application for completeness and compliance with grant proposal guidelines detailed above.
 - Application materials will be distributed to the Research Review panel for preliminary scoring.
 - The Research Review panel will meet to discuss applications and make recommendations to the grants Advisory Board.
 - Advisory Board will designate and make selection of level of funding for each grant awardee. Advisory Board will consider, but is not required to designate funding at the level of funding designated by awardee.
 - Final approval for funding will be made by the IDSA Foundation Board of Directors.
 - Applicants will be notified in writing of acceptance or rejection of the grant proposal.
 - The PI will sign a written agreement outlining the terms of the award. The start and end date of the twelve-month period will be included in the written agreement.

Reporting to the IDSA Foundation

The recipient's institution is responsible for the use of funds to support the project described in the grant application, and for maintaining records and supporting documentation consistent with accounting practices. If requested by the IDSA Foundation, these records must be made available for review by IDSA Foundation staff or representatives.

Reports of expenditures must include details proportionate to the scope of the project; specific line items should be listed on the reports. Allowable categories for expenditures include personnel (salary and fringe benefits), supplies, services (e.g., data analysis, genomic/microbiome sequencing costs, statistical support among others), animal care. Equipment and travel costs are not allowed for grants requests under the \$250,000 level.

- \$250,000 Requests: Modest travel costs are allowed; Equipment requests will infrequently be considered and will require sound justification.

No other indirect costs are provided to the Institution to which grants are awarded. Total salary support for PI should not exceed the following (this includes fringe costs):

- \$250,000 level: PI salary support should not exceed 10% of grant funding.
- \$100,000 level: PI salary should not exceed \$15,000.
- \$50,000 level: PI salary should not exceed \$7,500.
- \$30,000 level: No salary costs are covered at \$30,000.

Two reports of expenditures are required for each grant (see figure 1 above). The first reporting on the first 6 months of the grant period is due at the end of the 6th month. The second report is due no later than 60 days following the end of the grant period. Expenditure reporting requirements and deadlines for extended grants will be delineated in extension approval documents.

The IDSA Foundation is not responsible for the following:

- Expenditures which exceed the total amount of the grant
- Expenditures made before the starting date of the grant period
- Expenditures/obligations incurred after the grant period
- Equipment and travel costs for grants under the \$250,000 level
 - Modest travel costs are allowed; Equipment requests will infrequently be considered and will require sound justification.

Progress & Final Reports

All grant awardees must submit a 6-month and final progress report as well as provide and complete an annual post-award form for 3 years following initial funding. Reports must conform to the format outlined below.

The 6-month progress report submitted on the IDSA Foundation provided form is due on the last day of the 6th month. The 6-month progress report should highlight significant findings in the first half of the grant period as well as discuss any substantive obstacles encountered and/or changes to the original research proposal and specific aims.

Grant awardees are encouraged to provide the IDSA Foundation with informal updates of significant development as they occur.

All grant awardees must submit a final report (2-3 pages) on research and must complete an annual post-award information form for 3 years following initial funding. Final reports are due within 60 days after the last day of the 12-month of the grant cycle. Final reports should be in narrative form and should sufficiently and comprehensively describe the work completed during the grant period; the report should also indicate the significance of the research findings. Final report requirements and deadlines for extended grants will be delineated in extension approval documents. Within 90 days of the final report submission (with date notification), all grant awardees will present final report findings in presentation form to the IDSA Foundation Board and grant funders.

Additionally, grant awardees are required to submit a poster/abstract presentation at **IDWeek** following the 1-year grant period.

Grant awardees must complete the post-awardee form provided by the IDSA Foundation for the following 3 years. Forms will be due the last day of the 12th month of each year following the end of the initial grant cycle. The goal of this reporting is to enhance the ability of the Foundation to assess award impact over time on research development and expansion.

Final reports should include:

1. At the top of the page or as a separate cover page
 - a. Title of project
 - b. Institution name
 - c. Name, degree, title/role of PI
 - d. Grant period
2. Narrative Section (2-3 pages)
 - a. Summarize specific aims
 - b. Outline the approach used to approach project aims
 - c. Major findings during the grant period
 - d. Explain any changes from the original proposal
 - e. Provide direction for future related or continuation of research as well as planned funding sources

6-month and final progress reports will be reviewed by the Microbial Pathogenesis in Alzheimer's Disease Grant's Advisory Board.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT REQUIRED PROGRESS REPORTS AND FINAL REPORT

If reports are not submitted by the set deadline(s), the grant will be rescinded, and all payments previously made on the grant or fellowship must be returned to the IDSA Foundation. Failure to return payments will result in legal action to enforce the provision.

Please note once a grant has been rescinded, the submission of reports will not reinstate the grant and/or final payment.

Publications

- Grantee is required to submit a poster/presentation at **IDWeek**
- Publication of research is strongly encouraged. All publications resulting from research using the IDSA Foundation resources are required to cite the IDSA Foundation as a contributing source of

support. When publishing articles related to this research, the following language should be used in its entirety:

This publication was made possible by support from the IDSA Foundation. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official view of the IDSA Foundation.

Contact Information

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