

Research Funding by the National Fragile X Foundation – Conquer Fragile X

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Basic Science of Fragile X Syndrome

Deadline: July 13, 2009

This competition is made possible through the support of Conquer Fragile X, which merged with the National Fragile X Foundation in 2007.

With the specific goal of improving the lives of individuals with fragile X syndrome, in 2009 the National Fragile X Foundation will fund at least one basic science grant plus one or more additional grants based on the availability of funds. Senior established investigators will be eligible for a one-year award of up to \$60,000. Junior investigators may receive up to \$30,000 for one-year. Indirect costs may be requested with a cap of 5% of the total award. (If applicant's junior or senior status is unclear, final determination will be made by the relevant co-chair of the National Fragile X Foundation's Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee.)

Due to the historic focus that the Conquer Fragile X Foundation had on fragile X syndrome prior to its merger with the National Fragile X Foundation, all applications should address how the research will specifically address the core understanding of fragile X syndrome as a means of leading to an ultimate cure.

The following forms of investigation are potentially appropriate for the current round of funding: genetics, molecular and cellular physiology, molecular pharmacology and pharmacogenetics, developmental and structural biology, and animal models. Applications will be judged based on innovation, likelihood of contributing critical new knowledge, and scientific merit.

Eligibility: This program is open to all investigators with demonstrated ability to carry out research on Fragile X.

Human Subjects Protocol: Research protocols involving the use of animal or human subjects must undergo standard institutional review, and receive appropriate institutional approval prior to funding. Although applications may be submitted while review is pending, verification of institutional approval is required prior to funding.

Duration of Funding: Funding is for a one-year period. Applicants may reapply for a second year of funding at the time of the next competitive process. The availability of additional funding will also depend on the future resources and programmatic goals of the NFXF.

Reporting Requirements: Awardees will be required to provide written evidence of productivity toward the goals of the project through a progress report at the half-way point. They will also be required to present their final results in the Foundation Quarterly journal. In addition, all grantees will be required to present their results at the NFXF's international conference (July 21-25, 2010 in Detroit, Michigan). Therefore, funding for travel, not to exceed \$1000, should be allocated in the budget request.

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Innovation: The NFXF encourages innovative research. Applications for research using new and innovative strategies and techniques will receive priority. **New knowledge:** The NFXF is committed to developing new knowledge that will lead to effective treatment, prevention and a cure of fragile X syndrome. Proposals will be evaluated relative to their likelihood for contributing critical new knowledge. **Scientific merit:** The review panel will also evaluate applications on the basis of scientific merit.

Review Process: Review groups, selected from the NFXF's Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee or other designated advisors who have been approved by the committee chair, will review and score the applications.

Notification: All attempts will be made to notify awardees by August 31, 2009 with funding to follow shortly thereafter, provided award acceptance, award administration and applicable human or animal subjects documentation is submitted in a timely manner. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive reviewers' comments, when provided.

Application Requirements: There is no application form. Applicants who wish to respond to the NFXF's announcement should submit a proposal no more than 10 pages in length, *excluding* references, budget and other supporting documents. The proposal needs to include specific aims, background, previous studies, research plans and references. Proposals should be 12 pt. Arial or Times New Roman typeface with 1/2 inch margins, single-spaced. In addition, the CV of all key personnel should be attached. In the case of funding requests for support of post-doctoral fellows, both the CV of the fellow and of the mentor must be attached.

- ◆ A one-page hardcopy letter must be sent to the NFXF offices. This letter should clearly state: applicant's name, title, institution, complete contact information, title of proposed research project, amount requested and requested duration.
- ◆ The complete application should be submitted as an email attachment only.
- ◆ PDF documents are preferred but Word docs will be accepted.

Deadlines:

- ◆ Letters must be postmarked no later than 7/13/09.
- ◆ Emailed applications must be received no later 7/13/09.

Submit letter to: National Fragile X Foundation / Research Applications
1615 Bonanza Street / Suite 202 / Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Submit email to: NATLFX@FragileX.org

Subject Line: "Research Application CFX – *Your* last name"

Body of email should include: applicant's name, title, institution, complete contact information, title of proposed research project, amount requested and requested duration.

Questions: For questions concerning applications, contact Robert Miller, Executive Director of the NFXF at: 925-938-9300, or at RobMiller@FragileX.org.