

## **Research Funding by the National Fragile X Foundation**

### **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Basic Science of Fragile X Syndrome**

**Deadline: January 31, 2005**

With the specific goal of improving the lives of individuals with fragile X syndrome, in 2005 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 awards of up to \$50,000 and may apply for a second year of funding. Junior investigators may receive up to \$35,000 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.)

The Foundation alternates, on a six-month cycle, between funding basic science research and clinical research. Overall, the Foundation supports a broad range of research endeavors that will lead to better recognition, treatment and an eventual cure of children and adults with fragile X syndrome.

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.

Application Requirements: A hardcopy letter must be sent to the National Fragile X Foundation offices. This letter should clearly state the applicants name, title, institution, complete contact information and title of proposed research project. The complete application should be submitted as an email attachment only.

Deadline and Submission: Letters and applications must be received by email no later than January 31, 2005.

Submit letter to: National Fragile X Foundation / Research Applications  
1615 Bonanza Street / Suite 320 / Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Submit email to: NATLFX@FragileX.org  
Subject Line: Research Application - [Your last name]

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

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.

Level and Duration of Funding: Funding is for a one-year period. Senior established investigators will be eligible for awards of up to \$50,000 and may apply for a second year of funding. Junior investigators may receive up to \$35,000 for one-year. Indirect costs may be requested with a cap of 5% of the total award. The availability of additional funding will also depend on the future resources and programmatic goals of the National Fragile X Foundation.

Reporting Requirements: Awardees will be required to provide written evidence of productivity toward the goals of the project through semi-annual progress reports as well as presentation of their final results in the Foundation Quarterly journal. As all grantees will be required to present their results at the National Fragile X Foundation's international conference, (July 19-23, 2006 in Atlanta, Georgia) 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 National Fragile X Foundation encourages innovative research. Applications for research using new and innovative strategies and techniques will receive priority. New knowledge: The National Fragile X Foundation is committed to developing new knowledge that will lead to effective treatment, prevention and 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 National Fragile X Foundation's Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee and designated advisors, will review and score the applications using the US National Institute of Health scoring system. Should proposals be deemed to be more clinical than basic-science in nature, applicants will be notified and encouraged to submit for the next round of funding in six months.

Notification: All attempts will be made to notify awardees by March 15, 2005 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.

### **Submission Guidelines**

There is no application form. Applicants who wish to respond to the National Fragile X Foundation's RFA should submit a proposal no more than 10 pages in length, excluding references, budget and other supporting documents. This proposal needs to include specific aims, background, previous studies, research plans and references. Proposals should be, at a minimum, in an 11 pt. Arial or 12 pt. Times New Roman typeface with 1/2 inch margins. 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.

Questions: For questions concerning applications, contact Robert Miller, Executive Director of the National Fragile X Foundation at: 925-938-9300, or at [NATLFX@FragileX.org](mailto:NATLFX@FragileX.org). A copy of this RFA, along with additional information regarding previously funded research applications, can be found on the NFXF's website, under the "Research" menu at [www.FragileX.org](http://www.FragileX.org).