



INNOVATIVE RESEARCH GRANT IN MACULAR DEGENERATION RESEARCH

A PROGRAM OF BRIGHTFOCUS FOUNDATION

Scope

The goal of the BrightFocus Foundation research grants program is to advance innovative research promoting advances in the etiology, prevention, and treatments of Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Our vision is to help people live free from diseases of mind and sight. The Foundation is interested in supporting high risk studies that illuminate areas for which there currently is little understanding, helping to bring to light crucial knowledge about these three devastating diseases.

The BrightFocus funding mechanisms are designed to provide initial funding for highly innovative experimental ideas, including interdisciplinary investigations that may apply to two or three of the above-mentioned diseases. Most of the awardees use the BrightFocus donor award money to demonstrate key findings that lead to later interest and additional funding from industrial or governmental funding agencies. BrightFocus prefers not to fund projects for which substantial resources already exist, or that may already be competitive for governmental or industrial support.

Overview

This program is intended to provide support for high-risk/high-gain age-related macular degeneration research. We hope to attract established investigators to apply for this support, but the aims of the application must contain outside-the-box ideas that are novel in the field. BrightFocus will not consider applications that are only a derivative of the research already ongoing in the laboratory of the applicant, if they are currently in the macular degeneration field. Applicants who are experts in another field are encouraged to apply their talents to proposing innovative research in the macular degeneration field. Hopefully multiple awards in this category can be made each year, but BrightFocus will decline to make an award in this category in years when the scientific review panel decides that sufficiently novel research applications have not been proposed. Successful applicants will receive \$600,000, payable across three years, pending a successful mid-point review showing substantial progress on the specific aims of the proposal.

Award Amount: \$200,000 per year (total value \$600,000)

Duration: up to 3 years

BrightFocus Macular Degeneration Research
Innovative Research Grant Program in Macular Degeneration Research

Eligibility

Specific eligibility criteria include:

- Candidates must hold an MD, PhD, DVM, DO, OD or equivalent degree
- Applicant must serve as the Principal Investigator on the project and have independent laboratory space
- While some of the grant can be used to support salary for the PI, the percent requested should be limited to the lesser of 35% of the total grant request, or 35% of the individual's salary. Co-PI salaries are capped at the lesser of 25% of the total grant request, or 25% of the individual's salary. Note: Postdoctoral fellows should not be named as Co-PI on Innovative Research awards but should instead apply for the MDR Postdoctoral fellowship.
- Applicants may currently be working in a non-profit, governmental, academic research institution, or at a for-profit including start-up and biotech institution
- Previous recipients of this award are not eligible

General Guidelines

- Submit your Letter of Intent using the template provided in the application portal
- Use Times New Roman font at a size no less than 11 points
- Use margins no less than 3/4" on all sides
- The color of the narrative text should be black
- Applications must be legible and written in English
- Do not use jargons or unusual abbreviations
- Maximum character and/or page counts for individual sections will be enforced.
- File size cannot exceed greater than 10 MB of information