PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: JAN 25, 2017

Please contact Corporate & Foundation Relations in the Office of Development at devcfr@mgh.harvard.edu if you wish to submit a proposal in response to any of these opportunities. Note that proposals are still routed through the standard InfoEd/Research Management process.

Please note that any grant that brings in less than 15% in indirect costs (IDC) will need to be supplemented up to the 15% equivalent by existing investigator or departmental sundry funds. Resolution of this issue must occur prior to submission of the award. Training fellowships from foundations, public charity, and non-profit organizations are excluded from this minimum IDC requirement.


Clinical trials for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias have been hindered, in part, by the limited number of biomarkers available to (1) accurately diagnose these diseases to enrich and stratify patient cohorts, (2) demonstrate target engagement for novel therapeutics, and (3) reliably monitor disease progression and response to treatment. While currently available biomarkers have helped to accelerate clinical trials, most are either expensive, invasive, or both, and provide information on a small number of disease targets. Thus, additional biomarkers are needed to provide a complete picture of the disease.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks to support the development and validation of novel and existing biomarkers that will enhance the design and performance of clinical trials for Alzheimer’s disease, related dementias, and cognitive aging. More accurate and comprehensive biomarkers will improve patient selection and pharmacodynamic measurements, and provide additional tools for early detection and accurate diagnosis.

Priority Biomarker Areas

- Neuroimaging
  Positron emission tomography (PET) ligands for target engagement and pharmacodynamic measurements of novel and repurposed therapeutics, and novel magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) methods to measure structural, blood flow, and white matter changes in the brain.

- CSF and blood-based biomarkers
  Multiplex ELISA and mass spectrometry of particular target(s) or transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics, and lipidomics signatures.

- Functional activity measures

Do you want to learn more about identifying external funding opportunities? See ECOR’s website for information on the funding opps database, COS Pivot or contact Amy Robb <arobb@mgh.harvard.edu> to schedule an individual consultation or group training session.
Electroencephalogram (EEG), magnetoencephalography (MEG), transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

- Other novel approaches that are supported by compelling evidence

With regards to potential drug targets, the ADDF is particularly interested in developing and validating biomarkers for, but not limited to, neuroinflammation, synaptic function/morphology, energy utilization/mitochondrial function, protein degradation/autophagy, blood-brain barrier integrity/vascular injury, calcium regulation, vesicular trafficking, oxidative stress, insulin sensitivity, and myelin changes.

Award Amount: $150,000 -- $300,000 annually for 1-2 years
Indirect Costs: None
LOI Deadline: Feb 17, 2017
Website: https://www.alzdiscovery.org/research-and-grants/funding-opportunities/biomarkers

2. AALAS Grants for Laboratory Animal Science (GLAS) Program, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)

The mission of the AALAS GLAS Program is to enhance scientific knowledge in laboratory animal health and welfare through research, and to further promote collaborative efforts by the AALAS membership within the broader scientific community. The Scientific Advisory Committee oversees this program.

The GLAS Program provides competitive short-term research grants in the laboratory animal science field. Examples of research interest are as follows: environmental conditions; housing and enrichment; pain and distress; health and welfare; euthanasia; and, advancements in animal care and use.

The GLAS program provides two types of competitive one year research grants in laboratory animal science:

1. Standard Grants are awarded for research proposals based on solid preliminary data.
2. Small Grants are awarded for research proposals that: 1) answer a compelling scientific question but require only a small scale study; 2) provide pilot data for future funding proposals; 3) are proof-of-principle studies; or, 4) generate data that will likely guide management or technical practices within the animal facility. Highly innovative proposals are encouraged.

Individuals who are new to research or are first-time grant applicants are encouraged to seek a mentor to guide them in preparing the application and conducting the study, if a grant is awarded. Individuals who are new to exploring issues of laboratory animal welfare are encouraged to involve an animal resource professional in development of the proposal.
3. **ATA Research Grants, American Thyroid Association (ATA)**

The American Thyroid Association (ATA) is pleased to announce the availability of funds to support new investigator initiated research projects in the area of thyroid function and disease. Topics may include, but are not limited to, Clinical Disorders of Thyroid Function, Iodine Uptake and Metabolism, Pediatric Thyroidology, Thyroid Autoimmunity, Thyroid Cancer, Thyroid Hormone Effect and Metabolism, Thyroid Hormone in Development and the Brain, Thyroid Imaging, Thyroid Nodules and Goiter, Thyroid and Pregnancy.

Research awards are intended to assist new investigators, US or international, in obtaining preliminary data for submission of a more substantial application (e.g. to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)).

**Award Amount:** Up to $57,500 paid over 2 years  
**Indirect Costs:** 15%  
**Proposal Deadline:** Jan 31, 2017  
**Website:** [http://www.thyroid.org/professionals/research-grants/](http://www.thyroid.org/professionals/research-grants/)

4. **Research Grant Program, Aplastic Anemia & MDS International Foundation, Inc. (AA&MDSIF)**

AAMDSIF has funded researchers for over 24 years in bone marrow failure research grants. Our work has contributed to a greater understanding of bone marrow failure disease. This has led to the development of new treatments, as the search for the cures for aplastic anemia, MDS and PNH continues.

For more than twenty years, the Aplastic Anemia and MDS International Foundation (AAMDISF) has provided investigators with financial support for research that leads to new insights into the causes of bone marrow failure and the development of new therapeutic approaches.

Research may be carried out in the United States or abroad but not at a for-profit laboratory in the private sector. The project must represent independent research conducted by the applicant.

Applications are reviewed by members of the Medical Advisory Board. Awards are based on the scientific quality of the research plan, the relevance of the proposed research to the AA&MDSIF's goals, the applicant's qualifications, and the quality of the research institution and
facility where the research will be conducted. In the case of New Investigators, the quality and support of the research mentor also will be considered.

Topic areas considered for funding include
- promoting understanding of the etiology and pathogenesis of aplastic anemia, MDS, or PNH;
- improving symptom management and the quality of life for aplastic anemia, MDS, or PNH patients;
- discovering new treatments for aplastic anemia, MDS, or PNH; and
- understanding and preventing complications of bone marrow failure conditions (e.g., blood clotting/thrombosis in PNH, iron overload in MDS, etc).

In addition, the following criteria will be considered by reviewers:
- the likelihood that the goals of the proposal are attainable with the funding from AA&MDSIF;
- the project is independent research and not part of a large, multi-funded study;
- the translational nature of the research and whether the findings can be rapidly applied to benefit; and
- for New Investigators, the likelihood that the project will contribute toward the professional development of the researcher.

Applications that do not fall within the selection criteria, or that address a disease outside of our scope (e.g., acute leukemia), will be disqualified.

Award Amount: $60,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: 10%
Application Deadline: Feb 28, 2017
Website: [http://www.aamds.org/professionals/fund-your-research](http://www.aamds.org/professionals/fund-your-research)

5. **Young Investigator Grants, Breast Cancer Alliance (BCA)**

The mission of the Breast Cancer Alliance (BCA) is to improve survival rates and quality of life for those impacted by breast cancer through better prevention, early detection, treatment and cure. To promote these goals, the BCA invests in innovative research, breast surgery fellowships, regional education, dignified support and screening for the uninsured and underserved.

The BCA offers the Young Investigator Grant to encourage a commitment to breast cancer research. This grant is intended to help advance the careers of young researchers who do not yet have their own major grant support.
Award Amount:  $125,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs:  8%
Application Deadline:  Jul 22, 2017
Website:  http://breastcanceralliance.org/grants/

6. Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowships, Cancer Research Institute (CRI)
The program supports qualified individuals who wish to receive training in cancer immunology.

The Institute seeks hypothesis driven, mechanistic studies in both immunology and tumor immunology. The applicant and sponsor must clearly state the potential of the proposed studies to directly impact our understanding of the immune system’s role in cancer risk, tumor initiation, progression, metastasis, host response to tumors and/or the treatment of cancer.

Fellows work and continue their training under the guidance of a world-leading immunologist, who mentors the fellow and prepares him or her for a productive and successful career in cancer immunology.

An eligible project must fall into the broad field of immunology and must show relevance to solving the cancer problem. Proposals that do not encompass both these areas will not be considered.

Award Amount:  Up to $171,000 for up to 3 years
Indirect Costs:  None
Application Deadline:  Apr 1, 2017
Website:  http://www.cancerresearch.org/postdoc/apply

7. Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award, Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation
The Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation has joined together with the Sohn Conference Foundation, dedicated to curing pediatric cancers, to establish the Damon Runyon-Sohn Pediatric Cancer Fellowship Award. This award provides funding to basic scientists and clinicians who conduct research with the potential to significantly impact the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of one or more pediatric cancers.

Candidates must apply for the fellowship under the guidance of a Sponsor. In addition to aiding in the planning, execution and supervision of the proposed research, the Sponsor’s role is to foster the development of the Fellow’s overall knowledge, technical and analytical skills, and capacity for scientific inquiry. The Sponsor is also expected to assist the Fellow in attaining his/her career goals.
The proposed research and training environment should represent a new opportunity for the candidate to expand her/his scientific skill set. Direct extensions of the candidate’s graduate work (in approach, technique or exact area of study) will not be funded.

Postdoctoral training in the same institution in which the applicant received his/her degree is discouraged, particularly if it is in the same department.

Award Amount:  Up to $180,000 paid over 3 years  
Indirect Costs:  None  
Application Deadline:  Mar 15, 2017  
Website:  https://www.damonrunyon.org/for-scientists/application-guidelines/sohn

8. Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund, Health Resources in Action (HRiA)/The Medical Foundation

Bank of America, N.A., Trustee is pleased to open the current funding cycle for the Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Research Fund. The Noonan Research Fund, established in 1947 by Frank M. Noonan in memory of his mother, continues its proud tradition of supporting non-profit organizations and academic institutions that serve children with physical or developmental disabilities within their geographic area of interest of Greater Boston.

The Noonan Research Fund supports innovative clinical and service system research and demonstration projects designed to improve the quality of life for children with disabilities relevant to the Noonan focus.

The Sara Elizabeth O’Brien Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee, will support up to one additional research project submitted to the Noonan Research program focusing on medical research related to blindness (not other visual impairments, e.g., strabismus) in children and adolescents. The O’Brien Trust submissions are not restricted to the Noonan geographical area of interest.

Project must address the target population age range of birth through 23 years old.

The majority of research subjects must be within the Fund’s geographic area of interest.

Award Amount:  $80,000 for 1 year  
Indirect Costs:  20%  
Application Deadline:  Mar 16, 2017  
Website:  https://hria.org/tmf/noonan/
9. Research Grant Award Program, International OCD Foundation (IOCDF)
The IOCDF awards grants to investigators whose research focuses on the nature, causes, and treatment of OCD and related disorders.

Award Amount: Up to $50,000
Indirect Costs: None
Proposal Deadline: Feb 27, 2017
Website: http://ocdresearchgrants.org/

10. McKnight Memory and Cognitive Disorders Awards, McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience
These awards support innovative efforts to solve the problems of neurological and psychiatric diseases, especially those related to memory and cognition. They encourage research aimed at translating laboratory discoveries about the brain and nervous system into diagnoses and therapies to improve human health. Collaborative projects between basic and clinical neuroscientists are welcomed, as are proposals that help link basic with clinical neuroscience.

Projects restricted to the creation of conventional mouse knockouts in candidate disease genes identified by association studies, or to broadly overexpress those genes, are discouraged. In addition, projects to perform genetic interaction screens on disease genes in model organisms (yeast, worm, fly, fish) will not be considered, unless the project includes substantive specific aims that investigate the disease relevance of any new genes so discovered in human or mammalian model systems.

Award Amount: $300,000 paid over 3 years
Indirect Costs: Unpublished
Submission Deadline: Mar 27, 2017
Website: https://www.neuroscience.mcknight.org/newsroom/upcoming-deadlines/2018-memory-cognitive-disorders-award

11. Research Fellow Award Program, Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF)
The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) seeks proposals for the MMRF 2015 Research Fellow Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers at the post doctorate/medical fellow or junior faculty levels working under the supervision or guidance of a research mentor in the multiple myeloma field. The goal of this initiative is to help support young investigators to begin their studies in the field of multiple myeloma while advancing the understanding of myeloma disease biology, treatment and drug resistance.

Award Amount: $75,000 for 1 year
Indirect Costs: 10%
Application Deadline: Apr 25, 2017
12. Research-Specific Grants: OREF/Musculoskeletal Tumor Society Clinical Research Grant in Orthopaedic Oncology (MSTS Clinical Research Grant), Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF)  
OREF and the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society (MSTS) invite clinical researchers to apply for a Grant in the area of clinical orthopaedic oncology as part of a grant sharing program. The objective of the grant is to encourage new investigators by providing seed and start-up funding for promising research projects that improve clinical outcomes for patients.

Clinical projects are eligible, with clinical relevance explicitly and clearly described. Basic science proposals will not be considered.

Criteria:
1. Prospective clinical study involving multi-center collaboration.
2. Established infrastructure in place.
3. MSTS clinical research priorities focus on randomized trials.

Award Amount: Up to $100,250 for 1-2 years
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: Feb 20, 2017
Website: http://www.oref.org/OncologyGrant

13. Early Detection Targeted Grant, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN)
This Request for Applications is to support ancillary research studies that identify promising blood biomarkers or imaging approaches that will eventually facilitate the use of specimens and/or participants in a cohort of new-onset diabetics and validate components of a protocol for the early detection of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. Applicants may propose up to four Units, (or projects) with a specific goal and clearly defined, quantifiable outcome measures.

Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is the deadliest of the major cancer types, with a five-year survival rate in the single digits. Surgical resection offers the only hope of prolonged survival, but fewer than 20 percent of patients are eligible for resection as the disease is frequently diagnosed at an advanced stage. Dramatic improvements in the five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer will require advances in early detection to improve resectability rates and the development of chemotherapeutic agents to prolong survival following resection. The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has announced Precision Promise to accelerate the development of targeted chemotherapeutic agents for advanced PDAC. In parallel, we are partnering with the National Institutes of Health to support ancillary research to develop a validated screening protocol for the early detection of PDAC in a cohort of adults with new-onset diabetes (NoD). One in 125 individuals with sudden, adult onset diabetes are diabetic as a
consequence of undiagnosed pancreatic cancer, making this the only feasible screenable population of individuals with sporadic PDAC. The ultimate goal of the Early Detection Initiative is a viable screening protocol that is sufficiently sensitive, specific and cost-effective in identifying PDAC at a stage that enables surgical intervention to improve outcomes.

This RFA focuses on identifying blood-based biomarkers to enrich the population from 0.85 percent to around 15 percent pancreatic cancer incidence, or imaging approaches that could further enrich to around 35 percent. Depending on the performance and cost of the combination of the biomarker and imaging strategies, the biomarker performance minimum would be considered 85 percent specificity at 95 percent sensitivity, or 90 percent specificity at 60 percent sensitivity. If successfully validated in a timely manner, opportunities for prospective validation within the NoD cohort will be explored with additional funding from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Award Amount: $1 million paid over 4 years
Indirect Costs: 20%
Application Deadline: Feb 22, 2017
Website: [https://www.pancan.org/research/grants-program/apply-for-a-pancreatic-cancer-research-grant/](https://www.pancan.org/research/grants-program/apply-for-a-pancreatic-cancer-research-grant/)

14. Pancreatic Cancer Action Network Precision Medicine Targeted Grant, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN)
This Request for Applications is to solicit Precision Medicine Targeted Grant applications to provide funding for projects that can be incorporated directly into the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network’s Precision Promise initiative at the end of the funding period.

The Precision Promise Master Protocol will provide screening for patients enrolling in Precision Promise using a broad cancer panel for gene alterations, whole genome sequencing, RNA sequencing, immunohistochemistry and/or proteomic analysis.

The goal is to have a high priority clinical trial for every pancreatic cancer patient enrolled in Precision Promise, implemented through sub-studies associated with the Master Protocol. The initial sub-studies will focus on patients with metastatic disease and will be signal-seeking to inform subsequent registration trials. Three Working Groups designed the three initial sub-studies focusing on:

- Targeting DNA damage repair defects and determining the molecular markers that predict responsiveness to platinum-containing regimens and PARP inhibition,
- Disrupting the stroma and determining the persistence of hyaluronic acid disruption following treatment with hyaluronidase and
- Engaging the immune system through combination therapies that target myeloid and T-cells and disrupt immune checkpoints. In addition, the Supportive Care Working Group is exploring mechanisms to determine optimum supportive care and disseminate best
practices throughout the Clinical Trial Consortium. The initial effort focuses on literature review and the development of guidelines, with subsequent efforts to include the incorporation of supportive care clinical trials.

Award Amount: $1 million paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: 20%
Application Deadline: Feb 15, 2017
Website: https://www.pancan.org/research/grants-program/apply-for-a-pancreatic-cancer-research-grant/

15. ASPIRE Oncology/Hematology Research Awards Program, Pfizer, Inc./Advancing Science through Pfizer - Investigator Research Exchange (ASPIRE Research Awards)
The mission of the ASPIRE Awards program is to support clinical research involving select Pfizer compounds in the fields of Oncology and Hematology through a competitive grants program.

Pfizer invites investigators to apply for the 2017 ASPIRE Oncology & Hematology Research Awards through submission of innovative clinical research proposals designed to accomplish the mission of advancing knowledge of select Pfizer compounds in the treatment and disease management of breast cancer or acute leukemia.

Pfizer is interested in supporting 3-5 clinical studies of palbociclib in advanced breast cancer, focusing in the following areas:

- In hormone receptor positive (HR+) advanced breast cancer, optimal clinical management and/or nursing management that addresses or improves patient compliance and convenience and/or patient reported outcomes, such as management of non-hematological side effects, bone only disease, and other supportive measures, during palbociclib treatment. Proposals may be a clinical trial, a nursing focused study, or a non-interventional retrospective study under this category
- In HR+ advanced breast cancer, safety and efficacy profile of palbociclib in combination with hormone therapy, chemotherapy, or other modality in particular patient populations, such as patients with substantial tumor burden, with disease in liver, or with co-morbidities. Safety monitoring should be a significant part of the proposal
- In HR+ advanced breast cancer, clinical exploration of the role of palbociclib based combination in post palbociclib/hormone therapy in appropriate MBC patients
- In HER2+ advanced breast cancer patients, safety and efficacy profile of palbociclib in combination with T-DM1 in patients who previously received trastuzumab and a taxane

In addition, the following would be of interest: incorporation of a correlative/biomarker component into the proposed clinical study using paired biopsy samples (e.g. pre- and post-treatment), liquid biopsy, or PK/PD biomarkers to explore potential mechanism of action, as well as sensitivity and resistance mechanisms.
Track 2: Acute Leukemia
Pfizer is interested in supporting 1-2 studies of each of the following compounds in acute leukemia, focusing in the following areas:

Inotuzumab Ozogamicin:
- Defining the optimal sequencing and dosing of inotuzumab with other treatment options
- Evaluating the impact of inotuzumab on immune cell functions and identifying immune-related biomarkers
- Clarifying the role of MRD in the treatment relapsed and refractory Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
- Identifying the early onset biomarkers for liver toxicities and VOD/SOS in inotuzumab-treated patients and exploring preventive, monitoring, and therapeutic measures
- Exploring the impact of cytogenetic abnormalities or other genomic factors to inotuzumab clinical outcome

Gemtuzumab Ozogamicin:
- Evaluating gemtuzumab fractionated dosing regimen in combination or in sequence with novel agents (eg, targeted agents or immunotherapies) and/or HSCT in previously untreated patients with AML and identification of biomarkers guiding the choice of combination therapies and treatment settings
- Evaluating gemtuzumab fractionated dosing regimen in combination with low intensity regimens (eg. decitabine, 5-azacitadine) in previously untreated patients with AML
- Evaluating and optimizing gemtuzumab fractionated dosing regimen as monotherapy or in combination with other agents in patients with relapse AML
- Evaluating gemtuzumab fractionated dosing regimen in combination with conventional or novel agents in patients with APL
- Scientific studies involving gemtuzumab focused on the following topics: impact of genetic polymorphism in CD33 on behavior and clinical outcomes; modulation of CD33 by therapy and impact on dosing schedule; biomarkers predicting response/non-response; understanding mechanism of resistance; contemporary approaches to MRD monitoring and correlation with response/duration of remission

Palbociclib:
- Evaluating safety and efficacy profile of palbociclib containing regimen in acute leukemia adult patients or pediatric patients (who are able to swallow pill)

Award Amount: 6-8 awards totally $5.5 million will be awarded
Indirect Costs: 28%
Application Deadline: Mar 31, 2017
Website: http://www.aspireresearch.org/onc/index.html
16. Faculty Research Award for Early Career Faculty Investigators, Shock Society
The purpose of this award is to support the career development of new investigators in the areas of trauma, shock and sepsis. Candidates must have the potential to develop into outstanding independent investigators. The proposed research must focus on developing new knowledge related to the biology of trauma, shock and/or sepsis. Research may vary from basic cellular responses to clinical outcomes, and the society encourages proposals that might include translational research and clinical application. Proposed research must have intrinsic importance, but may also contain a component for permitting the applicant to learn the methodology, theory, and conceptualizations necessary for developing into an outstanding independent researcher.

The candidate must be willing to spend a minimum of 50 percent full-time professional effort conducting research and research career development.

The awardee is required to present at the Shock Society meeting for the three years subsequent to receiving the award.

In the third year subsequent to receiving the award, the awardee will have a minimum one year tenure on the Shock Society Awards and Honors Committee.

Award Amount: $83,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs: None
Application Deadline: Apr 1, 2017
Website: http://shocksociety.org/Home/Awards/Research-Fellowship.aspx

17. Research Grants, Sjogren’s Syndrome Foundation, Inc.
The Foundation strives to foster research that will have the greatest potential impact on Sjögren’s patients, ensuring new therapeutics are developed and a cure found. The SSF Research Grants Program places a high priority on both clinical and basic scientific research into the cause, prevention, detection, treatment, and cure of Sjögren’s.

SSF Research Funding Priorities
Innovation is key for all SSF research funding. SSF must inspire new ideas and the gathering of data necessary to determine if those ideas are viable so that investigators can take a risk to pursue a concept that could prove to be a major breakthrough in Sjögren’s.

Novel Diagnostics is a key area of focus that the SSF Research Review Committee is continuing to target for 2016 research grant applications. While all areas of research will be considered for grant funding, SSF reviewers recognize that there cannot be major progress until research finds a more definitive and easier way to diagnose Sjögren’s. Better diagnostics is an important part of the Foundation’s 5-Year Breakthrough Goal: “To shorten the time to diagnose Sjögren’s by
50% in 5 years!” Better diagnostics also will help encourage clinical trials in Sjögren's and help raise professional and public awareness of Sjögren's.

Funding decisions for SSF grants will be based on the following priorities:

- Innovative and creative concepts
- Novel diagnostics and relevance to the SSF Five-Year Breakthrough Goal
- Direct relevance to Sjögren’s
- High quality science
- Preliminary data; probability of SSF seed money leading to an NIH grant
- Potential practical importance through the use of human tissues or blood samples
- Outcome could define new therapeutic target in SS
- Collaborative aspects of project
- Focused and achievable in the time lines
- Financial support important for the salary support and execution of the research
- Excellent lab environment and mentorship available if young investigator

Award Amount:  Up to $100,000 paid over 2 years
Indirect Costs:  Unpublished
Application Deadline:  Feb 1, 2017
Website:  http://www.sjogrens.org/home/research-programs/research-grants