Massachusetts General Hospital
Corporate & Foundation Relations
Office of Development

PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES: AUG 19, 2016

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.

1. Calder Research Scholar Award in Vitiligo/Pigment Cell Disorders, American Skin Association (ASA)

ASA offers this award to support new discoveries in the basic or translational medical sciences that impact the understanding or treatment of Vitiligo/Pigment Cell Disorders by gifted investigators in the early phases of their careers. The individual must have a strong career goal within the field of dermatology and be dedicated to the furtherance of knowledge concerning vitiligo/pigment cell disorders. The research must be focused on new discoveries in the basic or translational medical sciences that impact the understanding or treatment of vitiligo/pigment cell disorders

Award Amount: $60,000 for 1 year
Application Deadline: Oct 1, 2016
Website: http://www.americanskin.org/research/seekers.php

2. Milstein Research Scholar Awards for Melanoma/Non-Melanoma Skin Cancer, American Skin Association (ASA)

This award supports basic science and clinical research for melanoma/non-melanoma skin cancer by gifted investigators in the early phases of their careers. This program offers funds to foster the career development of a young investigator working in the field of dermatology or cutaneous biology. The aim of the program is to provide bridge support for young investigators. The individual must have a strong career goal within the field of dermatology and be dedicated to the furtherance of knowledge concerning melanoma/non-melanoma skin cancer. The research must be focused on new discoveries in the basic or translational medical sciences that impact the understanding or treatment of melanoma/non-melanoma skin cancer.

Award Amount: $60,000
Application Deadline: Oct 1, 2016
Website: http://www.americanskin.org/research/seekers.php

3. Joseph E. Wagstaff Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant, Angelman Syndrome Foundation, Inc. (ASF)

The ASF strives to improve the lives of those with Angelman syndrome and their families by supporting research on the clinical and basic science aspects of the Angelman syndrome. ASF seeks applications for postdoctoral fellowships in the preclinical, translational and clinical research areas that investigate all aspects of Angelman syndrome. The purpose of this award is to:

- Promote Angelman syndrome-related research in a young investigator
- Support novel or innovative research initiatives
- Further support and encourage existing Angelman-related research projects

Award Amount: $110,00 paid over 2 years
Application Deadline: Oct 14, 2016
Website: http://www.angelman.org/research/joseph-e-wagstaff-postdoctoral-fellowship/

4. Career Development Awards, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc. (CCFA)

Awards are offered to encourage the development of individuals with research potential to help them prepare for an career of independent basic and/or clinical investigation in the area of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The proposal must be relevant to inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis).

Award Amount: Up to $270,000 paid over 3 years
LOI Deadline: Nov 1, 2016
Website: http://www.ccfa.org/science-and-professionals/research/grants-fellowships/career-development-awards.html

5. SUDEP Institute Challenge: Developing Predictive Biomarkers of Epilepsy Seizures, Epilepsy Foundation New

In order to accelerate the identification of effective treatments for SUDEP, the Epilepsy Foundation SUDEP Institute is sponsoring a Reduction-to-Practice Challenge to develop a predictive biomarker or panel of biomarkers to identify people at risk for SUDEP or seizures that compromise cardiac or respiratory function. The biomarker(s) must serve as an endpoint or surrogate endpoint that will drive human SUDEP interventions. For example, the biomarker(s) may identify a high risk patient group that could be used to test existing candidate interventions such as seizure detection devices.

Milestone 1 requires a detailed Project Plan of the proposed solution. Milestone 2 involves the production of proof-of-concept data. Milestone 3 requires results that demonstrate the predictive efficacy of the biomarker(s).

Solvers are encouraged to enter this Challenge even if they were not involved in The SUDEP Institute Challenge: Predictive Biomarkers of Epilepsy - Challenge 9933719. Participants from the previous Challenge may elect to expound upon their (winning) solution or pursue another idea. Solvers should note that the Center for SUDEP Research (CSR) is an NIH-funded research collaborative studying animal models of SUDEP and epilepsy patients who may be at high risk for SUDEP. Solvers may contact the CSR to request data and/or biospecimens to be used in the execution of a Solution. Other resources that Solvers may access are through the North American SUDEP Registry and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Sudden Death in the Young Registry.

This is a Reduction-to-Practice Challenge that requires written documentation, experimental proof-of-concept data, and biomarker validation data.

Award Amount: From $25,000 to $800,000
Proposal Deadline: Oct 10, 2016
Website: http://www.epilepsy.com/get-help/sudep-institute/sudep-challenge-initiative

6. Young Investigator Awards, Melanoma Research Alliance (MRA)
This program aims to attract early career scientists with novel ideas into melanoma research, thereby recruiting and supporting the next generation of melanoma researchers.

MRA welcomes proposals in the following areas:

- Prevention: Elucidation of environmental, epidemiological, and biological factors in melanoma carcinogenesis.
- Detection, Diagnosis, and Staging: Development of targeted screening methods and identification and validation of diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers.
- Treatment: Projects emphasizing the translation of scientific findings to new treatments for patients with melanoma. Examples include but are not limited to studies of melanoma immunotherapy, therapeutic applications based on molecular mechanisms involved in melanoma formation and/or progression, combination therapies, and development of novel biomarkers of response to therapy.

Special Emphasis Areas: For the 2015-16 cycle, MRA seeks proposals in the following areas, which are focused on current unmet clinical needs in melanoma. These areas are of particular interest and will receive special consideration. These can include pre-clinical, clinical, and/or correlative scientific studies:

1) Undertaking studies that define logical and optimal combination therapies, therapeutic sequences, or treatment regimens to improve outcomes and curtail resistance to current and emerging therapies.
2) Identifying biomarkers of risk of recurrence or death in early stage disease for improved clinical management and to speed the development of adjuvant therapies as well as

markers of response/resistance to approved and investigational therapies which may include tumor, microenvironment, immunological, imaging or circulating biomarkers.

3) Research leading to improvements in difficult-to-treat disease or treatment failures, including melanoma subtypes (e.g., acral and uveal melanomas) and metastatic brain disease, by identifying new targets and/or treatment approaches for recalcitrant molecular targets.
4) Improving the understanding of the biological basis for melanoma formation, such as risk factors and the interaction of risk and the environment, in order to develop better prevention and early detection strategies.

Please note: Multiple applications will be accepted from a single institution, provided that each application has a different PI and represents a distinct hypothesis.

Award Amount: $225,000 paid over 3 years
Application Deadline: Oct 21, 2016
Website: http://www.curemelanoma.org/research/request-for-proposals/

7. Edmond J. Safra Core Program for PD Research - Target Advancement Program - Target Optimization Awards, Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF)
The Target Advancement Program, part of MJFF's annual Edmond J. Safra Core Programs for PD Research, seeks to build conclusive evidence to rationalize biological pathways and targets for Parkinson's disease (PD) therapeutic development. Funding supports projects focused on validating targets that may lead to novel treatments for PD disease modification, treatment of motor or non-motor symptoms or strategies to alleviate drug-induced complications such as levodopa-induced dyskinesia.

Research into PD is providing unprecedented information on biological mechanisms underlying the disease and its treatment. However, a major challenge exists in translating basic research rapidly to promote novel therapeutic development by pharmaceutical and biotech companies. To this end, MJFF believes that promoting critical target validation studies within academic and industry laboratories can help de-risk investments in therapeutic development and ultimately accelerate creation of innovative therapies for PD patients.

Several lines of evidence can help build greater confidence in a target and its potential for therapeutic development:

- Genetic link of the target to PD or evidence of the target's differential expression or activity in PD patients.
- Ability to modulate the target specifically and safely in vivo leading to outcomes indicative of clinical efficacy in patients.
- Independent replication and cross validation of results, including use of multiple whole mammalian PD models.

Proposed research for the Target Advancement Program should focus on filling key translational gaps specific to a particular target. Preference will be given to proposals utilizing experimental systems with high construct and predictive validity to human PD such as patient-derived material and/or animal models utilizing clinically translatable endpoints. For the purposes of this program, `target' may be defined as a specific biological target (gene, protein or other molecular target) as well as neural circuitry based targets.

Types of studies that can be proposed include:

- Demonstration of PD therapeutic relevance of the target by determining the consequences of manipulating its activity/expression in relevant animal models
- Human post-mortem tissue expression studies to determine target distribution patterns and/or target activity in normal and pathological states
- Elucidation of target biology in relevant in vitro, cellular and in vivo models to understand physiological and pathological roles of the target as well as the potential for safety liability (Projects that utilize human-derived tissues where appropriate are encouraged)
- Development of a tool that will support further validation of a target

The Target Advancement Program promotes work through two funding opportunities: Target Validation Awards and Target Optimization Awards.

Target Optimization Awards are intended to validate targets within MJFF-defined topic areas. Selection of the topics change each funding cycle based on MJFF assessment of the field and discussion with its advisors.

Fall 2016 Focus: PD-associated dystonia MJFF is committed to significantly improving treatment of symptoms above and beyond current standards of care. Dystonia involves abnormal, involuntary muscle contractions and can be painful and troublesome for patients. Some experts estimate that forty percent of people living with Parkinson's disease experience dystonia as an early symptom or as a complication of treatment. Dystonia and Parkinson's share common forms of treatment but they are limited in their efficacy. Levodopa may improve both conditions, though dystonia, like other Parkinson's symptoms, can return or worsen as levodopa wears off and loses efficacy with long-term use. Deep brain stimulation is a surgical treatment for both, although the stimulation target in the brain may be different for dystonia and PD. To address this need for better symptomatic treatments, MJFF is seeking proposals to validate promising targets that may lead to improved treatment of PD-associated dystonia.

Award Amount: $400,000 paid over 2 years
Preliminary Proposal Deadline: Oct 19, 2016
Website: https://www.michaeljfox.org/research/grant-detail.php?id=27

8. Young Investigator-Led Collaborative Projects (YICPs), Target ALS Foundation Inc. New

Target ALS Foundation is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation working to accelerate ALS drug development and break down barriers to ALS research. Another major focus has been to identify and support the next generation of ALS research leaders, in part through the ALS Springboard Fellowship program for newly independent investigators. The Foundation now wishes to provide further leadership opportunities to this group - in both academic and pharma/biotech settings - by funding a new series of grants called Young Investigator-Led Collaborative Projects (YICPs), led by them and involving scientists from across the field. Target ALS is particularly interested in receiving projects that focus on identification, validation and development of new targets for ALS therapeutics, or for novel biomarkers and other tools to facilitate human proof-of-biology studies. High-risk proposals are encouraged, meaning that lack of guaranteed success will not be a negative providing that the approach is seen to be exciting. However, projects that do not appear feasible on the basis of the information provided will not be highly ranked.

Eligibility: Only collaborative projects will be funded. Collaborative projects for this call comprise groups of 2-4 laboratories working around a common research theme or target. Each project must have a project leader (or a co-project leader) who has less than three years' experience running an independent laboratory in an academic or pharma/biotech setting. We recognize that the definition of independence may vary with the context and so will need to be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, no applications from young investigators working closely with the lab in which they did their thesis or postdoc will be considered for this call.

A given laboratory can be a member of more than one YICP, provided that a distinct identified member of the group will be devoting >75% of their time to each project and will participate in all related project meetings. A lab participating in more than one YICP or a lab that is currently receiving Target ALS funding as part of an ongoing project, or as a result of no-cost extension, has to make clear how the proposed project is distinct.

Award Amount: $400,000 for 1 year
LOI Deadline: Aug 31, 2016
Website: http://www.targetals.org/news-updates.html

9. Collaborative Industry-Led Consortia (ILCs), Target ALS Foundation Inc. New
Target ALS Foundation is an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation working to accelerate ALS drug development and break down barriers to ALS research. Target ALS announces a new call that aims to encourage ALS research ideation and active involvement from the pharma/biotech industry. The chosen mechanism is to fund "Industry-Led Consortia (ILCs)" that bring together investigators from pharma/biotech and academia to work on a collaborative project, including direct funding for the industry partner.

Target ALS is particularly interested in receiving projects that focus on identification, validation and development of new targets for ALS therapeutics, or for novel biomarkers and other tools to facilitate human proof-of-biology studies.

High-risk proposals are encouraged, meaning that lack of guaranteed success will not be a negative providing that the approach is seen to be exciting. However, projects that do not appear feasible on the basis of the information provided will not be highly ranked.

Eligibility: As with all Target ALS Foundation calls, only collaborative projects will be funded. Collaborative projects for this call comprise groups of 2-4 laboratories working around a common research theme or target. Each project must have a project leader (or a coproject leader) based in a pharma/biotech company. Involvement of companies or investigators with relevant expertise but no prior involvement in ALS research is encouraged.

A given laboratory can be a member of more than one ILC, provided that a distinct identified member of the group will be devoting >75% of their time to each project and will participate in all related project meetings. A lab participating in more than one ILC or a lab that is currently receiving Target ALS funding as part of an ongoing project, or as a result of no-cost extension, has to make clear how the proposed project is distinct.

Award Amount: $450,000 paid over 2 years
LOI Deadline: Aug 31, 2016
Website: http://www.targetals.org/news-updates.html