



Call for Research Proposals

The MSUD Family Support Group (MSUD-FSG) works to improve the lives of individuals with Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) and pursue a cure. The MSUD Research Fund is a campaign of the (MSUD-FSG) which aims to advance the science of MSUD by funding the most promising research that will lead to new therapy discoveries and a cure. The goals of the Fund are to:

- Have at least one new treatment therapy in the development pipeline in the next five years.
- Make at least two substantial grants to projects each year that focus on new drug development, new treatments and/or a cure. A variety of treatment solutions need to exist for MSUD patients because it is not a one-size-fits-all disease.
- Fund fellow placements in labs where additional support will speed up the drug development process.
- Fund the most critical projects that have the potential to raise the quality of life of a MSUD patient on a day-to-day basis so they can live the best life possible.

The MSUD-FSG is seeking proposals that will help us meet the above strategic goals as well as to close existing gaps in the knowledge and science of MSUD, and to further support existing MSUD-related projects.

Eligibility of Applicants

Eligible applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degrees and currently hold a full-time position at any level (post-doctoral, research scientist, assistant/associate/full professor, etc.) at an established academic/research institution or private industry. Applicants will be considered from both the United States and internationally. Investigators from centers with a history of research in metabolic diseases are strongly encouraged to apply. The average grant amount is approximately \$25,000. Initial grants are awarded for one year with potential of renewal based on progress made during the first year. In addition, the Alliance supports some strategic projects on an on-going basis.

Applicants are encouraged to use the funding to support innovative seed or pilot projects to produce preliminary data that would facilitate more substantial funding from federal agencies, foundations, or corporations.

Application Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit a **full proposal** (single-spaced with 1.0" margins using no less than 11 point Arial fonts). Full proposals should include **the following in order** and be submitted in one electronic document in the order listed below and be no more than 15 pages in total:

- Project Title
- PI Name
- Abstract/Summary of Project – no more than 350 words
- Introduction
- Hypothesis to be tested
- Significance of proposed research
- Specific aims
- Methods and Procedures
 - Cells, animals, or patients selection/handling
 - Research methods/tools
 - Materials used
 - Data collection methods and analyses
- Proposed results & potential pitfalls with some solutions
- Project timeline
- Project Budget to include an institutional fiscal officer's signature and itemized justification (no more than one page)
- Project Personnel (no more than 3-page NIH type short bio-sketch).

Applicants without a faculty appointment (e.g., post-doctoral level) must also submit a letter of support from their project mentor.

The award requires that funds not be used for the support of institutional indirect or overhead costs.

Timeline:

Full proposals should be received no later than October 1, 2021. Award notices will be given by November 15, 2021 with funding to begin on January 2, 2022 upon execution of a grant agreement.

Proposals will be funded by MSUD-FSG for one year and the submission of a progress report will be required by June 30, 2022 along with goals for renewal funding consideration. A final report will be due 90 days after the end of the funding period.

Please submit proposals and all materials in the order listed and in one document electronically to:

Karen Dolins, Ed.D

Research Lead

Maple Syrup Urine Disease Family Support Group karen.dolins@gmail.com

