A logo for a support group

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August 1, 2025

# Call for Research Proposals

The mission of the MSUD Family Support Group (MSUD-FSG) is 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 to advance the science of MSUD by funding research with the potential to lead to the discovery of new therapeutics 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. We recognize that a variety of treatment solutions need to exist for MSUD patients as this 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 individuals with MSUD 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.

# 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. 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-$40,000. Initial grants are awarded for one year with the potential of renewal based on progress made during the first year. In addition, the family support group 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 are accepted on an ongoing basis. Award notices will be provided after completion of its review with funding to begin upon execution of a grant agreement. Proposals will be funded by MSUD FSG for one year. A written progress report will be required at the midway point of the project. 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, RD @ research@MSUD-support.org

Research Lead, Maple Syrup Urine Disease Family Support Group