August 10, 2026

Call for Research Proposals

The **MSUD Family Support Group (MSUD-FSG)** is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) through support, research, and advocacy.

Through the **MSUD Research Fund**, we invest in innovative research that addresses critical gaps in the science and understanding of MSUD, improves diagnosis and clinical outcomes, enhances management, and accelerates the development of new treatments and, ultimately, a cure. The Fund's goals are to:

- Fund projects with the greatest potential to improve the daily quality of life for individuals with MSUD and help them live their best lives.
- Award one to two substantial grants each year for projects focused on new drug development, treatments, technologies, and/or cures.
- Advance at least one new treatment or therapy into the development pipeline within the next five years.

The MSUD-FSG seeks proposals that support these strategic goals and help close existing gaps in MSUD knowledge and science. Because MSUD is not a one-size-fits-all disease, a range of treatment solutions is needed.

Eligibility of Applicants

Eligible applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree and have a full-time position at an established academic or research institution, at any level, including postdoctoral fellow, research scientist, assistant professor, associate professor, or full professor. Applicants from the United States and abroad will be considered. Investigators at centers with a strong history of metabolic disease research are especially encouraged to apply. Grants of up to $50,000 may be awarded for an initial one-year period, with the possibility of renewal based on progress during the first year. In addition, the Family Support Group provides ongoing support for selected strategic projects.

Applicants are encouraged to use the funding to support projects at any stage of research, including innovative seed or pilot projects that could be used 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:

Please submit proposals electronically to Karen Dolins, Ed.D., RD, at research@MSUD-support.org.
Research Lead, Maple Syrup Urine Disease Family Support Group