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2011 Research Grant Guidelines

Organizational Summary

The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation (SPF) was created in 2002 as a voluntary, non-profit, health organization. Our goals are:

- to fund research into the causes, therapies and cures for hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) and primary lateral sclerosis (PLS),
- to provide educational materials, conferences and gatherings for people affected by these disorders, and
- to foster support among the patients and families affected by these disorders.

The ultimate goal of SPF is to see the day when all those with HSP and PLS are diagnosed, treated, and cured. With our research grant program we strive to help make that day a reality.

2011 Research Awards

Grants up to \$60,000 per year will be awarded for one and two year proposals. Proposals on any aspect of hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) or primary lateral sclerosis (PLS) will be considered.

Research grants may provide “seed monies” to assist investigators with new ideas, early or pilot phases of studies, or as supplemental support in ongoing investigations. We anticipate that early studies funded by the SPF will develop into projects that can successfully attract future funding from other sources.

Separate PLS and HSP Grants

The SPF intends to invest approximately the same amount of money funding PLS proposals as we will on HSP proposals. Proposals dealing with PLS will therefore not compete with proposals for HSP. As a result, a PLS proposal ranked (by our SAB) lower than an HSP proposal that did not receive funding may nonetheless be funded (and visa versa).

Publicity and Confidentiality

The title of each study funded by the SPF, the name of the principal investigator, as well as his or her institution, city and state will be published on our web page, newsletter, annual

report and wherever else the SPF feels is appropriate. Accordingly, each grant application must include a title understandable to the lay public.

All other parts of the grant application are considered confidential and will be released only to members of the SPF Scientific Advisory Board, the Research Grant Committee, and the Board of Directors.

Grant recipients are encouraged to provide information and patient samples collaboratively to other researchers in the field.

2011 Application Procedure

Proposal Contents:

1. The formal title of the proposal, and a second, modified title that is understandable to the lay public and will be used by the SPF for public relations and publicity purposes.
2. Research target (HSP, PLS or both). Note that a proposal concerning the genetic aspects of PLS will be considered a PLS proposal, not a complicated HSP proposal.
3. Specific goals. Briefly indicate what specific aim(s) the research proposed in the application intends to accomplish.
4. Background and significance.
5. Research design and methods. Describe techniques and scientific approach.
6. Facilities available and budget. Do not include indirect costs and PI salary. All amounts must be in US dollars.
7. Criticality of SPF funding for your proposed project.
8. SPF grant recipients are encouraged to collaborate and share data and/or patient samples with other SPF grant recipients. Your proposal should state if, when and how the knowledge gained in the performance of research under the proposed grant will be shared.
9. Curriculum vitae/biographical sketch and bibliography.

Proposal Page Limit

Proposals shall be no more than 8 pages long (excluding CV/ bio sketch and bibliography).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: June 17, 2011

Proposal Delivery

June 17, 2011 is the deadline for emailing your complete application (as a PDF file) to the SPF. Please email it to markw732@yahoo.com .

In addition, please mail a paper copy of your complete application to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Research Grant Program, 4 Sherwood Hill Road, Sherman, CT 06784-2001. Please send it via first class mail. Please do not overnight or express mail it. The mailed hard copy application should arrive no later than July 30, 2010.

All applications will be reviewed by the SPF's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), which will evaluate and rank all proposals. The Board of Directors will be guided by the recommendations of its SAB in making its final funding decisions.

Funding decisions will be based on the ranking assigned to each proposal, and the amount of available funds. HSP and PLS proposals will not compete against each other.

Funding decisions will be announced to applicants by approximately September 30, 2011. Researchers awarded a grant will sign a contract with the SPF, and will be asked to provide a short progress report every six months.

Publications

When a paper or exhibit by an SPF Research Grant recipient, based on work supported by an SPF grant, is published or presented before a scientific organization, a copy of the paper or exhibit must be emailed to the SPF as either a PDF or MS Word file.

All papers, posters and exhibits by an SPF Research Grant recipient, based on work supported by an SPF grant, must carry a credit line to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation.

A short, final report must be submitted to the SPF within four months of end of the grant period. This report must be written so that the average lay person can understand it. It must not contain any confidential information. The SPF takes seriously its responsibility to its contributors to report to them on the use of their donations.

Accordingly, the SPF will publish each final report on its web site, in its annual report, and wherever else it deems appropriate.

Further Information

Funding can be used to cover expenses such as technical assistance, supplies, and small equipment.

Funding cannot be used to cover overhead and indirect costs.

The SPF Scientific Advisory Board will review all applications for scientific merit.

Clinical drug trials must meet the requirements established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

If a study involves humans, copies of the Informed Consent and the Institutional Review Board (Ethics Committee) approvals are required from each site involved in the study, before payment.

If a study involves human gene therapy, please submit a copy of the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) review or waiver of review.

Questions or inquiries may be directed to markw732@yahoo.com .