



Sjögren's Foundation Grant Policy: Pilot & High Impact

Purpose: The Foundation's standard grant mechanism that prioritizes funding for both clinical and basic scientific research into the cause, prevention, detection, treatment, and cure for Sjögren's. One grant per category is awarded each year; however, if multiple proposals show great promise (as determined by the Research Review Committee), additional grants per category may be awarded, if that year's budget and funds allow.

- The Pilot Grant is a \$50,000 grant and is intended to start a new research idea and/or gather data to inform seeking larger (NIH) funding.
- The High Impact Grant is a \$100,000 grant to support larger research concepts or continued larger-scale research after initial proof-of-concept research has been obtained.

Eligibility

- Grants are open to U.S.-based investigators.
- Applicants must hold an advanced degree (e.g., MD, PhD, DDS, OD, etc), or be working toward an advanced degree and be supervised by an experienced investigator.
- Foundation Board members are eligible to apply, but must have other investigators on the proposal and participating in the research.
 - If included, the Board member will not be a part of any of the review or decision making aspects of awarding that year's grants.
- Applicants who have previously been awarded a grant from the Foundation are eligible.
 - To encourage innovation and support of a broad range of researchers, applicants cannot be funded for more than two consecutive grant cycles in a given period.
- Application will require that the principal investigator estimate their paid/unpaid time on the research project.
- Institutions are not limited in the number of investigators who apply and are not limited to consecutive awards.
- Companies or for-profit research institutions are ineligible to apply for a Foundation research grant.

Duration & Payment Structure

- Foundation grants are awarded for variable durations, as noted below:
 - Pilot grants are awarded for 1-2 year terms.
 - High Impact grants are awarded for 1-3 year terms.
- As a precursor to the project beginning and for the grantee to receive funds, a contract must be executed and will include the detailed elements listed in this Policy.
- Payments will be provided by the Foundation in four (4) equal amounts throughout the grant cycle.



- Payments will be remitted when the investigator provides predetermined deliverables (see *Reporting Requirements*).
- No-cost extensions (NCE) will be considered and are allowable if deemed necessary and appropriate.
 - Investigator is required to submit justification in writing for why an NCE is being requested. The request should include the new target date / timeframe for the work to be completed and the purpose and tentative outcomes of the remaining work.
 - Foundation staff and the Chair of the Research Committee will review each request and provide a written response that indicates: approval, denial, or that more information is needed to make a decision.
- Applicants should include a letter from their department chair or dean that confirms any cost-sharing outlined in the application will be covered.
- Foundation grants may not be used to pay indirect costs or institutional management fees.

Reporting Requirements & Publications:

- Grantees will be required to submit periodic and final progress and financial reports. Submission of these reports is a precursor to funds being released.
 - Three (3) periodic and one (1) final report will be required.
- Templates and due dates will be provided to grantees.
- Any work published based in part or in whole on the funding received by the Foundation will require:
 - Acknowledgement of Sjögren's Foundation funding.
 - A copy of the publication provided to the Foundation.
- Grantees are required to submit lay and scientific summaries of their work for Foundation use in magazines, websites, and research materials. Provided information should include:
 - The purpose of the project.
 - What was learned through the project.
 - What the outcomes mean for Sjögren's and for patients.

Review Process

- All submissions will undergo a thorough and rigorous independent review by a minimum of four (4) expert reviewers.
- All grants are reviewed with five (5) key questions in mind:
 - Will the outcomes of this work have a significant impact on Sjögren's patients?
 - Is the quality of the science high?
 - Is the project highly innovative?
 - Is the investigator qualified to carry out the project?
 - Is the project feasible within the timeframe, budget and capacity of the investigator and institution?



- Any participant in the research grant review process is required to declare any conflicts of interest with the applicant or the applicant's institution and will be recused from reviewing that application.

Timeline

- Applications will be sent to research@sjogrens.org and accepted November 1 through Feb 1 of the following year at 11:59 EST.
- Applications will be reviewed between mid-February and the end of April in a given year.
- Final decisions will be made at the Sjögren's Foundation's Spring Board Meeting, which takes place in mid-May of each year.
- Contract and administrative items will be settled between June and August.
- Work begins Sept. 1 and is funded through the following Aug. 30.