



Sjögren's Foundation Grant Policy: Dynamic

Purpose: Funding mechanism for time-sensitive and critical work that falls outside of the Foundation's normal grant cycle and funding opportunities (e.g., Pilot and High Impact Grants). Grant administration and deliverables are fully controlled and managed by the Foundation.

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.
- 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.

Application Process:

- To apply, investigators are asked to send a brief (2-4 page overview) of their proposal to research@sjogrens.org. This should include:
 - Project overview.
 - Explanation of the projected outcomes and their significance.
 - The scientific strengths of the project and how they are applicable to Sjogren's.
 - Any existing gaps in research that the project will address.
 - Justification for the time sensitivity of the project (i.e., why funding outside of the Foundation's normal grant cycle is being requested).
 - Clarification of requested funding amount (i.e., different than the Pilot and High Impact awards).
 - Brief background on the Principal Investigator, to include: Sjögren's research history and/or autoimmune disease research history; research environment; path to Sjögren's research; and copies or links to relevant publications the investigator has authored that are relevant to the work.
- Once received, Foundation staff and the Foundation's Research Committee will review the concept and:
 - Invite the investigator to submit a full application for review; or
 - Respond with questions and/or request a meeting to gain further insight into the concept; or



- Decline the application.
- If invited to apply, the investigator will need to supply a detailed timeline and budget for their work, in addition to completing the Foundation's application.
 - Application will require that the principal investigator estimate their paid/unpaid time on the research project.
- Applicants should include a letter from their department chair or dean that confirms any cost-sharing outlined in the application will be covered.
- Applications should demonstrate a clear path for success and high impact for patients.

Review & Decision

- Applications and decisions for Dynamic grant funding will be reviewed on an as needed and rolling basis.
- The Foundation CEO will determine the financial feasibility of any additional research funding opportunity (in addition to the High Impact and Pilot funding for that fiscal year) based on approved budget, fiscal year projections, and research reserves at the time of request.
- As a Dynamic grant is time sensitive and/or a different funding request than the Pilot and High Impact grants, the Research Review Committee will comprise five (5) reviewers including no less than two (2) Board members.
- 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.

Duration & Payment Structure

- Proposals for Dynamic grant funding should outline a project duration lasting 1 to 2 years.
- 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.
- 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 the 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.

Timeline

- Applications and decisions for Dynamic grant funding will be reviewed on an as needed and rolling basis.