

## **Research Funding by the National Fragile X Foundation**

### **REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

#### **Translational Research re: Fragile X-associated Disorders (FXD)**

*“Translating current science into effective treatments today”*

#### **Deadline: April 30, 2012**

With the specific goal of improving the lives of individuals with Fragile X (FX), the National Fragile X Foundation (NFXF) will award at least one grant plus one or more additional grants based on the availability of funds. Grants will be funded based on fundable scores resulting from peer review.

The NFXF supports a broad range of research endeavors that will lead to better understanding, recognition, treatment and an eventual cure of children and adults with a FXD, including fragile X syndrome (FXS), fragile X-associated tremor/ataxia syndrome (FXTAS), and fragile X-associated ovarian insufficiency (FXPOI).

Translational research projects focus on bringing discoveries made about the nature, causes, and consequences of Fragile X-associated Disorders into the realm of therapeutics and interventions designed to treat the symptoms or underlying deficits of those disorders.

The following forms of investigation are potentially appropriate for the current round of funding: Examples of appropriate projects include investigations of the effects of drugs on people with the disorders or in animal models, studies of educational or psychosocial interventions focused on reducing symptoms or optimizing outcomes of affected people, and studies refining or developing measures that can be used to evaluate the outcomes of therapeutics and interventions.

Eligibility: Open to all investigators with demonstrated ability to carry out research on FXD.

Human Subjects Protocol: Research protocols involving the use of animal or human subjects must undergo standard institutional review, and receive appropriate institutional approval prior to funding. Although applications may be submitted while review is pending, verification of institutional approval is required prior to funding.

Duration and Level of Funding: Funding is for a one or two-year period. Please specify the duration of your request in both your cover letter and in your email. Senior established investigators will be eligible for awards of *up to* \$50,000 per year. Junior investigators may receive up to \$35,000 per year. (If applicant’s junior or senior status is unclear, final determination will be made by the relevant co-chair of the NFXF’s Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee.) The award announcement will specify if the award is for one or two years. If the award is for one year, applicants may reapply for a second year of funding at the time of the next competitive process. Indirect costs may be requested with a cap of 5% *within* the noted award limits. The availability of additional funding will also depend on the future resources and programmatic goals of the NFXF.

Reporting Requirements: Awardees will be required to provide written evidence of productivity toward the goals of the project through semi-annual progress reports as well as presentation of their final results in the Foundation Quarterly journal. As all grantees will be required to present their results at the NFXF’s international conference in July 2014 funding for travel, not to exceed \$1000, should be allocated in the budget request.

Review Criteria: Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Innovation: The NFXF encourages innovative research. Applications for research using new and innovative strategies and techniques will receive priority. New knowledge: The NFXF is committed to developing new knowledge that will lead to effective treatment, prevention and cure of FX. Proposals will be evaluated relative to their likelihood for contributing critical new knowledge. Scientific merit: The review panel will also evaluate applications on the basis of scientific merit. In the case of proposals that utilize human subjects, preference will be given to applications that propose utilizing the Fragile X Clinical & Research Consortium.

Review Process: Review groups, selected from the NFXF's Scientific and Clinical Advisory Committee or other designated advisors who have been approved by the committee chair, will review and score the applications using the US National Institute of Health (NIH) scoring system.

Notification: All attempts will be made to notify awardees by June 2012 with funding to follow shortly thereafter, provided award acceptance, award administration and applicable human or animal subjects documentation is submitted in a timely manner. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will receive reviewers' comments, when provided.

Application Requirements: There is no application form. Applicants who wish to respond to the NFXF's announcement should submit a proposal no more than 10 pages in length, *excluding* references, budget and other supporting documents. The proposal needs to include specific aims, background, previous studies, research plans and references. Proposals should be 12 pt. Arial or Times New Roman typeface with 1/2 inch margins, single-spaced. In addition, the CV of all key personnel should be attached. In the case of funding requests for support of post-doctoral fellows, both the CV of the fellow and of the mentor must be attached.

- ◆ A one-page hardcopy letter must be sent to the NFXF offices. This letter should clearly state: applicant's name, title, institution, complete contact information, title of proposed research project, amount requested and requested duration.  
Submit letter to: National Fragile X Foundation / Research Applications  
1615 Bonanza Street, Suite 202 / Walnut Creek, CA 94596
- ◆ The complete application should be submitted as an email attachment *only*.  
PDF documents only.

Submit emailed application to: RobMiller@FragileX.org

Subject Line: "Translational Research Application - [*Applicant's* last name]"

Body of email should include: applicant's name, title, institution, complete contact information, title of proposed research project, amount requested and requested duration.

Deadlines:

- ◆ Letters must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2012
- ◆ Emailed applications must be received no later than April 30, 2012

Questions: For questions concerning applications contact Robert Miller, Executive Director of the NFXF, at: 925-938-9300, or at RobMiller@FragileX.org.