



**Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
2012 Senior Research Award
Program Guidelines**

MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

2012 SENIOR RESEARCH AWARD

Program Description:

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) seeks proposals for the 2012 Senior Research Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers who have more than five years experience in blood cancer research. Applications for the MMRF 2012 Senior Research Award Program are due March 27, 2012. The goal of this initiative is to accelerate the development of therapeutic approaches for myeloma and may include proposals in basic science or translational research.

Proposals may request up to \$100,000 for each year of the two (2) year period of the grant for a total of \$200,000.

Key Dates:

- January 27, 2012 – Request for Applications issued
- March 27, 2012 – Application due date
- May 2012 – Applicant notification
- July 2012 – Anticipated funding start date

Background:

Multiple myeloma, a plasma cell malignancy, is currently an incurable but treatable disease. In the United States alone, approximately 20,000 new cases will be diagnosed this year and nearly 11,000 people will die from this disease.

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) was established in 1998 as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization by twin sisters Karen Andrews and Kathy Giusti, a newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patient, with the unique mission of accelerating the search for a cure for multiple myeloma. Today, the MMRF is the largest non-profit foundation dedicated to the single mission of accelerating the search for a cure for multiple myeloma. As the world's number one funder of myeloma research, the MMRF has raised more than \$170 million to fund more than 270 research grants at more than 95 research institutions around the globe. As part of its mission to accelerate a cure for multiple myeloma, the MMRF is committed to distributing awards throughout 2012 to support its research grant programs.

Several therapies are now utilized to help myeloma patients live longer, healthier lives and several promising targets for developing new therapies have been identified in myeloma. Significant advances in our understanding of the pathophysiology and molecular biology of multiple myeloma have identified numerous putative molecular targets for therapeutic intervention and a large number of

potential new drugs. Certain promising treatment options may also be under investigation in other hematological malignancies or solid tumors, but have yet to be studied in multiple myeloma. The MMRF anticipates that the lead therapeutic approaches identified through this program will require additional resources for clinical development. The MMRF welcomes proposals to the MMRF 2012 Seniors Award on any and all multiple myeloma related topics.

Process:

Applications for the MMRF 2012 Senior Research Award Program are solicited from investigators at not-for-profit, universities, hospitals, clinics, and academic or research institutes based either in the United States or abroad. The model systems and laboratory assays that will be used in the research program must be clearly identified.

An ad hoc scientific review panel will review applications and provide a scientific rating for each proposal. The Award Committee will consider most favorably translational research proposals that will identify or contribute to novel therapeutic approaches for myeloma in an accelerated timeframe. The Committee will also weigh the previous accomplishments of the applicant, the probability of meaningful results from the proposed research, and the likely contribution of the research to the advancement of knowledge of myeloma. All candidates will receive notification of the final selection of a winner by MMRF staff.

Eligibility: The goal of this initiative is to accelerate the development of therapeutic approaches for myeloma and may include proposals in basic science, validation, or translational research. The Senior Research Awards are aimed at investigators with more than five (5) years of experience in blood cancer research. Potential applicants with significant experience in other areas but less than the requisite experience in blood cancer should contact Dr. Joan Levy, Director of Translational Research (levyj@themmr.org) regarding eligibility. The MMRF will consider these exceptions on a case-by-case basis and may offer recommendations for collaborations with myeloma experts.

Applications will only be accepted from research investigators who are currently in good standing with the MMRF. An applicant will automatically be considered to be in good standing unless he or she has failed to either provide progress reports on prior MMRF-funded grants and/or consistently declined requests to review grant applications.

Funds Available:

Proposals may request up to \$100,000 total costs per year, including up to 10% indirect costs for a two (2) year period.

**Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation
2012 Senior Research Award Program
Application Instructions**

A. General Requirements

- a. Relevance:** Proposed preclinical research in multiple myeloma, which is intended to develop innovative approaches to treatment.
- b. Required Format:** Applications must be typed in English on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper, using single-spaced text, half-inch margins, using either 10 pt font Arial, 10 pt font Courier or 12 pt font Arial or 12 pt font Times New Roman. Page limitations must be observed for each section as described below.
- c. Good Standing:** Applications will only be accepted from research investigators who are currently in good standing with the MMRF. An applicant will automatically be considered to be in good standing unless he or she has failed to either provide progress reports on prior MMRF-funded grants and/or consistently declined requests to review grant applications.

Note: Sections B – E should be completed in the template titled “Prerequisite Information” which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL (available at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>). Download the template, complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

B. Abstract

This Section should contain the following:

- 1) A Technical abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using technical language.
- 2) A General Audience abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 100 words or less using non-technical language (i.e. at a level an eighth grader would understand)

C. Biographical Sketch

This Section should contain the biographical sketches of the Principal Investigator and all key personnel. This should include any personnel who are referenced in the budget. Do not exceed two pages per biographical sketch.

D. Budget

Please provide a detailed budget and budget justification fully outlining specific needs for professional and technical staff and itemized supplies by category.

All budget items should be explained under *Budget Justification*.

E. Other Research Support

Other support is defined as any specific funds or resources, including governmental, non-governmental or institutional, available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application) in direct support of their research endeavors. This should include active support and pending support.

Information regarding active or pending sources of support available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application), whether related to this application or not, is an important part of the review and award process and must be included.

Note: Sections F - G should be completed in the template titled “Application Template” which is provided as a downloadable file to applicants on proposalCENTRAL. Download the template, complete each section, save the document and upload as a single PDF file.

F. Project Description

Limited to **10 pages, excluding** supporting materials such as references, figures, and tables (*see Section G regarding submission of supporting materials*). The project description should be presented in the following sequence:

- a) Specific Aims (approximately 1.5 pages)
- b) Scientific Background and Clinical Significance of Proposed Studies (approximately 2.0 pages)
- c) Previous Work/Preliminary Data (approximately 3.5 pages)
- d) Methods, Model Systems and Assays Proposed (approximately 1.5 pages)
- e) Plans for Clinical Application of the Data (approximately 1.0 pages)
- f) Resources and Environment (approximately 0.5 page)

Clinical research protocols, if part of the application, should be submitted as Appendix material. Include IRB/Ethical Committee Approval (non US applicants) date (if protocol has been approved), and IRB/Ethical Committee Compliance number.

G. Supporting Materials (References, Figures and Tables)

A list of publications referenced (i.e. a list of references) in the Project Description should be submitted and are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description. Recent and relevant applicant’s publications should be included in Section J.

Figures referenced in the project description should be submitted are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description.

Tables referenced in the project description should be submitted and are not included in the 10 page limit for the Project Description.

Note: There is no template provided for Sections H – J. These documents need to upload as separate PDF files. Please see each section for any specific instructions or notes.

H. Laboratory Animals Statement

For projects which involve laboratory animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Approval Date and Animal Welfare Assurance number must be given. Non US applicants should submit approval documentation from the Animal Ethics Committee.

Note: If the applicant has documentation to submit (in addition to what is described above) then this documentation needs to upload as a PDF file.

I. Biohazards Statement

An institutional statement and assurances regarding potential biohazards and safeguards must be included. This may not be applicable to applicants from countries outside the US.

Note: The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (or equivalent office) at most institutes and universities can provide the applicant with a letter stating that the laboratory and/or the applicant is in compliance with applicable laws.

J. Relevant Publications

A set of the applicant's publications which are relevant to the proposed project can be included. Please be aware that any password protection feature **must** be removed. **Limit:** applicants will be limited to five (5) publications. Submitting numerous large files adds to the download time of your application and can add time delays to the submission site.

Note: Applicants can either include all publications into one document as a Publication Appendix or submit each publication as a separate Appendix. Include in the name of the document(s) or Appendix(s) the following: 1) Applicant's last name and 2) Description of the document or appendix. For example: Smith Publication Appendix.pdf (one document with all publications) or Smith Paper on Mouse Model X.pdf and Smith Paper on Myeloma Drug Y. pdf, etc.

K. Signatures: The signature page is provided as a printable document and is the last step before submitting the application. Applicants should print the signature page, sign (applicant) then have appropriate institutional representatives sign the document such as the Institute Signing Official and Finance Officials. *Please check with your institute's Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure you are obtaining the appropriate signatures.* Once signed, the document needs to be scanned, converted to a PDF and uploaded with the grant application. *Note: This signature page needs to upload as a PDF file. See Section N: Complete and Submit the Application for instructions.*

L. Complete and Submit the Application:

Applicants and institutes' grants and contracts offices need to register with proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>). Applicants must submit a complete application using this portal. Paper applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be submitted via proposalCENTRAL by 5:00 PM EST on March 27, 2012.
Applications received after this date will not be considered.