



MULTIPLE MYELOMA  
**Research Foundation**

**Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation**

**2015 Senior Research Award**

**Program Guidelines**



# MULTIPLE MYELOMA Research Foundation

## MULTIPLE MYELOMA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

### *2015 SENIOR RESEARCH AWARD*

#### **Program Description:**

The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) seeks proposals for the 2015 Senior Research Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers who have who have documented experience in blood cancer research or in research areas that are pertinent to multiple myeloma. 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. Applications for the MMRF 2015 Senior Research Award Program are due **March 17, 2015**.

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 5, 2015 – Request for Applications issued
- March 17, 2015 – Application due date
- July 2015 – Applicant notification
- September 2015 – 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, soon after Kathy's diagnosis with multiple myeloma. The mission of the MMRF is to relentlessly pursue innovative means that accelerate the development of next-generation multiple myeloma treatments to extend the lives of patients and lead to a cure. As the world's number one funder of myeloma research, the MMRF has raised more than **\$275 million to fund more than 350 research grants at more than 135 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 2015 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 2015 MMRF Senior Research Award on any and all multiple myeloma related topics.

**Process:**

Applications for the MMRF 2015 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.

Senior Research applications are reviewed by an external group of scientists who have the appropriate area of scientific expertise. Scientific ratings use the current NIH scoring system of 1-9 with 1 demonstrating the highest scientific merit and 9 being the lowest. Each proposal is evaluated by two independent outside reviewers and the scores are averaged together. The reviewers are instructed to weigh research that appears promising with previous accomplishments of the applicant, the probability of meaningful results from the proposed research and likely contributions of the research to the advancement of knowledge of myeloma biology, diagnosis, and treatment. All candidates will receive notification of the final outcome of their application by MMRF staff. **Written critiques of the application are not provided to the applicant.**

**Eligibility:**

The goal of this initiative is to accelerate the development of therapeutic approaches for myeloma and may include proposals in basic science, translational or clinical research. The Senior Research Awards are aimed at investigators who have documented experience in blood cancer research or in research areas that are pertinent to multiple myeloma. If there are questions concerning eligibility please contact Dr. Joan Levy, Director of Translational Research at [levyj@themmrf.org](mailto:levyj@themmrf.org). The MMRF will consider 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 for a two (2) year period, including up to 10% indirect costs.

Permissible direct costs include:

- Personnel expenses of the Principal Investigator, post-doctoral researchers, and non-administrative staff including salary, wage, or stipend with fringe benefits.
- Supplies and materials as itemized in the budget
- Annual travel expenses of no more than \$1500 for 1 researcher for attendance to a nationally-recognized scientific/medical conference

Permissible indirect (also referred to as institutional) costs:

- May not exceed **10%** of direct costs.

Impermissible Costs:

- Membership dues, books, journals, and tuition

The funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes specified in the application submitted to the MMRF as executed by the Principal Investigator, collaborating staff and institution in compliance with the budget annexed to the application.

**Application Information:**

Applications should be submitted through the [proposalCENTRAL Application System](https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com) *available at <https://proposalCENTRAL.altum.com>*. The specific instructions for this application are provided below and will be available on this site.

For scientific and administrative inquiries contact:

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# MULTIPLE MYELOMA Research Foundation

## Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation 2015 Senior Research Award Program Application Instructions

### A. General Requirements

- a. **Relevance:** Proposed research in multiple myeloma, which is intended to develop innovative approaches to treatment and a better understanding of the disease biology.
- b. **Required Format:** Applications must be in English using single-spaced text, half-inch margins, using either Arial or Times New Roman 11 or 12 pt font. 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. Please see the definition of permissible and impermissible charges in the above section on *Funds Available*.

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 2.5 pages)
- d) Methods, Model Systems and Assays Proposed (approximately 2.5 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 and 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 L: 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 17, 2015.**

**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**