



2010 'A' AWARD GUIDELINES

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Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation (ALSF) evolved from the front yard lemonade stand of cancer patient Alexandra "Alex" Scott (1996-2004) into a national fundraising movement to find a cure for all childhood cancer.

The 'A' Award is a three year grant designed for young scientists who want to jump-start their career in pediatric oncology research. The ideal candidate has an original project which is not currently being funded. Demonstration of outstanding mentorship and a future commitment to pediatric cancer investigation are critical components of a successful application.

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'A' Award Program Goals

- To encourage the best and brightest young researchers to build a life long career and become a leader in the pediatric cancer field.
- To further research that will lead to cures or impact children with cancer.

Review Process

- Applications, Progress Reports, Final Reports and respective Budgets will be reviewed by a scientific review panel. This is the second year that 'A' grant applications are being reviewed by ALSF. In 2009, we received 43 applications, and 3 were funded. These statistics do not necessarily reflect expectations for numbers of grants received or number to be funded in 2010.

Highlights

- Three year grant, \$125,000 a year
- Funds may be used for but not limited to salary, fringe, travel, research assistant, and supplies
- Recipient will have the opportunity to speak at a Foundation event
- Recipient will be given a choice of reference books to enhance their personal pediatric oncology library

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates may have their MD, PhD or MD/PhD and must not have achieved an appointment higher than assistant professor.
- MD or MD/PhD candidates: must be no more than 6 years after finishing 3-year fellowship. (i.e., if the fellowship ended in 2004, applicant is eligible for 2010 'A' Award).
- PhD candidates: must be no more than 6 years since being awarded PhD (i.e., if PhD is awarded in 2004, applicant is eligible for 2010 'A' Award).
- MD candidates who did not do a 3-year fellowship must have 3 years of research experience after MD was awarded and be no more than 6 years from receiving MD.
- A minimum of 75% of the candidate's time during 'A' Award must be allocated to research related activities.
- Candidates MAY have other research grants during the 'A' Award period, but there must be clear documentation of mechanisms to avoid scientific and/or budgetary overlap.
- Proposals must fall within Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's 'A' Award Program goals.
- Applicants previously funded by ALSF are not eligible for an 'A' Award.
- Applicants who have applied for a Young Investigator, Innovation, Program Infrastructure or Epidemiology Award in 2009 or 2010 are not eligible for a 2010 'A' Award.
- A mentoring plan for career development must be clearly articulated with appropriate letters of support.
- Funds must be granted to non-profit institutions or organizations operating in the United States or Canada.
- Researchers need not be U.S. citizens.

Progress

- Continued support for second and third years is contingent upon a non-competitive review and demonstration of satisfactory completion of proposed goals and appropriate budget expenditures.
- Periodic verbal updates with the Scientific Advisory Board will be scheduled.
- A final progress report is required at the conclusion of funding.

Restrictions

- Applications with indirect costs.
- Applications which do not fall into ALSF's mission.
- Applications received after the due date.
- Applications not following the below guidelines and submission process.
- Applications in psychosocial aspects of pediatric cancer and/or cancer control. Please see our Nurse Researcher grant categories for inquires regarding psychosocial research topics.

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'A' Award Application Submission Process

All applications must be submitted using ALSF's 2 part online submission process. Applicants must first complete the online form then upload the application in one pdf (max 10 MB). Applicants can request a password and start an application by visiting the Guidelines and Submission section of the website: www.ALSFgrants.org.

I. Online Form

A. Contact information

Applicant will be asked for basic contact information for themselves, their mentor, and their institution. In addition, applicants should submit a payable contact, should the project be funded.

B. Project Overview and Layman's Summary

Enter project title, request amount, type of childhood cancer the project is focused on as well as a 250 words summary of the research project in layman's terms. (You will be asked to release this summary for use at ALSF's discretion should proposal be funded.) You may copy and paste information from other documents into these sections.

II. Application Outline

Below is an outline for the 'A' Award Application.

- All sections should be combined into one pdf (max 10 MB) and uploaded to the ALSF online form.
- All templates mentioned can be found in the Guidelines and Submission section of: www.ALSFgrants.org.
- All pages of the application should be numbered; the name of the principal investigator should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Please follow NIH font guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 points or larger with a minimum of ½ inch margins.
- The order of the application should be as follows, adhering to the maximum number of pages allowed for each subsection indicated in parentheses.

A. Cover Page

The cover page needs to be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant's institution. The signature from an institutional representative specifically acknowledges the application and accepts the no indirect cost provision. Use the template provided.

B. Table of Contents (1 page)

Please provide a Table of Contents with page numbers to the corresponding sections.

C. Principal Investigator and Mentor Commitment

a. PI Statement (1/2 page)

Describe goals and long-term objectives for PI over the three year funding period. Include what PI hopes to gain from this experience and any future aspirations and long term career goals.

b. Environment

i. Mentoring Plan (1 page)

Describe plan for career development including strategies for mentorship, continued education, and future research/funding.

ii. Institution's Commitment (1 page)

Describe the laboratory facilities, office space and equipment dedicated to this project. Include institutions guarantee of protected time for this research.

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D. Project Information

a. Impact Statement (1/2 page)

State the significance and relevance of your proposed project with respect to pediatric cancer research. How will this project lead to new or improved cures or impact pediatric cancer patients?

b. Scientific Abstract (1/2 page)

Summarize the research objectives and rationale.

c. Budget and Justification

Use the budget template when completing your proposed budget and justification. No indirect costs will be paid.

d. Biographical Sketches

Use the PHS 398 four page biographical sketch format for PI and Mentor only.

e. Research Project Details

i. Specific Aims (1 page)

List the goals, long-term objectives and what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish. State the hypotheses to be tested.

ii. Background (1 page)

Briefly describe the relevant background for the research plan.

iii. Preliminary Studies (2 pages)

Provide the mentor and/or applicant's preliminary studies pertinent to the proposed project.

iv. Experimental Approach and Research Design (4 pages)

Describe the experimental approach to the research question. Emphasize innovation and describe how research will be realistically accomplished within the proposed funding period. Include anticipation of potential problems and plans to deal with them.

v. Human Subjects (1/2 page)

Describe the role that human subjects have in the proposed project. Relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including IRB approval letter. If pending, please note in this section.

vi. Vertebrate Animals (1/2 page)

Describe the role that animal subjects have in the proposed project. Relevant documentation should accompany the proposal, including I.A.C.U.C approval letter. If pending, please note in this section

vii. Literature Cited Maximum of 30 references. Please use "Vancouver" format.

viii. Research Collaborators/Consultants

Include letters from individuals (other than mentor) confirming their roles in the project.

ix. Letters of Recommendation

Include mentor letter and at least one other letter of recommendation. Be sure to address why applicant is a good candidate keeping in mind the goals of the 'A' Award Program.

x. Appendix

Appendices must be critical to the understanding of the application, such as accepted, but as yet unpublished manuscripts, a full protocol, or up to three pages of tables/figures for supplementary data. Excessive appendices will cause the application to be administratively rejected.

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APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND IMPORTANT DATES

**All applications must be received by the August 2, 2010 deadline.
Late applications will not be accepted.**

Application Due Date	Monday, August 2, 2010 (midnight eastern time)
Award Notification Date	Mid November 2010
Project Start Date	January 3, 2011
1 st year Report	January 3, 2012
2 nd year Report	January 2, 2013
Final Report	January 15, 2014 (financials as of Dec 31 st)

Submitting Your Application

All requests must be submitted using ALSF's online application process. Please do not send hard copies. Applicants can request a password by going to the Guidelines and Submission page on www.ALSFgrants.org. Once a password has been requested you may:

- Start the 'A' Award application.
 - o Part 1 – Complete online form
 - o Part 2 – Upload application as 1 pdf (max 10 MB) – see format guidelines on previous pages
- Save your application and return at a later time to continue working or submit.
- Copy and paste information from another document into the form.

**Please note: all formatting for Layman's Summary will be done automatically. Greek symbols will not be recognized by the system.

Applications not following the guidelines will be administratively rejected.
Please contact Lisa Towry at 610-649-3034 if you have any questions about your grant application and submission or email questions to grants@AlexsLemonade.org