2015 Grant Application Guidelines
for
Young Investigator Grants

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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 cancers.

The Young Investigator Grants are designed as start-up funds for new scientists at the end of their fellowship training or early in their research career. Demonstration of outstanding mentorship and demonstration of a career plan that shows commitment to pediatric cancer investigation are critical components of a successful application.

Contact:

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation
333 E. Lancaster Avenue, #414 ~ Wynnewood, PA 19096
Ph. (610) 649-3034 or (866) 333-1213 ~ Fax (610) 649-3038
ALSFgrants.org

Grants Specialist: Kay Schaul
Grants@AlexsLemonade.org

Updated 4-Sep-14

Young Investigator Grants

Submission Process

All requests must be submitted using ALSF's online application process. Applicants can request a password or sign in by going to the Guidelines and Submission page of ALSFgrants.org. Once you have signed in you may:

- Start the a grant application
    - Part 1 – Complete online form
    - Part 2 – Upload application as 1 PDF (max 10 MB) –see guidelines below
- Save your application and return at a later time to continue working
- Copy and paste information from another document into the form
- Submit and receive email confirmation

Restrictions

We will not consider medical grant applications in psychosocial aspects of pediatric cancer. Please see our Psychosocial Grants or Nurse Researcher Grant categories for inquiries regarding psychosocial research topics.

The Young Investigator Grant is not transferrable to another investigator or to the mentor.

We encourage you to contact us if you have any questions about the appropriateness of your research ideas for this funding mechanism via Grants@AlexsLemonade.org. Applications not following the guidelines will be administratively rejected.

Review Process

- Proposals must fall within the scope of Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation's mission in order to be considered.
- Grants will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts according to the NIH recognized peer-review process and overseen by ALSF's Scientific Advisory Board.
- Funds will be granted to non-profit institutions or organizations operating in the United States or Canada. Primary Investigators need not be U.S. citizens.

Grant Cycle Dates

Application Due Date	December 15, 2014 (11:59 PM ET)
Award Notification	May 2015
Project Start/End Dates	July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017
Progress Report	June 15, 2016 (with financials ending 5/31/16)
Final Report	July 31, 2017 * (with final financials ending 6/30/17)

*****Young Investigators Grants are not eligible for renewal.

Please contact Kay Schaul at (610) 649-3034 if you have any questions about your grant application and submission or email questions to Grants@AlexsLemonade.org

Young Investigator Grants

Description

Young Investigator Grants are designed as start-up funds for new scientists at the end of their fellowship training or early in their research career. Demonstration of outstanding mentorship and demonstration of a career plan that shows commitment to pediatric cancer investigation are critical components of a successful application.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants should be at the early stages of their research careers as defined below.
- Applicants may have their M.D., Ph.D. or dual M.D., Ph.D. and must not have achieved an appointment higher than assistant professor. In addition,
    - M.D. (D.O.) or M.D.,Ph.D. applicants must either be finished the third year of an accredited fellowship program at the time funding will start or must be no more than 6 years after finishing a 3-year fellowship at the time the award would start (i.e. the fellowship ended in 2009 or later). Applicant must be no more than 12 years after receiving the most recent professional degree (M.D., D.O., MBBS or equivalent) at the time the funding would start. Preference will be given to applicants not more than 12 years since receiving the earliest professional degree.
    - M.D. applicants who did not do a 3-year fellowship must have 3 years of research experience after M.D. was awarded and be no more than 12 years after receiving the M.D. at the time the funding would start.
    - Ph.D. applicants must be within six years from the granting of the Ph.D. at the time the funding would start, i.e. those with Ph.D. received in 2009 are eligible to apply for a 2015 grant. Postdocs are encouraged to apply but must also be within the six year time frame.
- The applicant must not currently hold an independent NIH grant (R or P Award). Applicant may currently have a NIH K Award.
- A research mentor must be identified (a track record in pediatric oncology research is preferred). The application must document his/her involvement in experimental design and execution. A detailed plan for training activities is expected.

Budget

Maximum $50,000 in total costs will be awarded to applicants annually. Budget items may include salary, fringe, travel, supplies and small pieces of equipment (less than $5,000). A detailed budget and justification is required using the form provide on the ALSF website. A maximum of two years of funding may be requested. Funds from ALSF may not be used for indirect costs. ALSF adheres to the NIH salary cap for the current year.

Required Reports

- Progress Report: A second year of funding is contingent upon a non-competitive review of a report which must demonstrate satisfactory progress toward proposed research objectives and appropriate budget expenditures.
- Final Report: At the conclusion of funding the PI will submit a report of findings, expenditures as well as publications and presentations which acknowledge ALSF funding.

Grant Application

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 will begin from ALSFgrants.org, Guidelines and Submission page. New applicants must create a user ID and password; returning applicants will log in with an email address and password.

Part I: Online Form

A. Contact Information
Provide contact details for the applicant, institution, and a mentor. In addition, applicants are asked to submit contacts for accounts payable, grants management and media or public relations should the project be funded.

B. Project Overview and Layman's Summary
Specify the project title, request amount, human and animal subject requirements, and type of childhood cancer to be investigated. A 250 word summary of the research project in layman's terms is required. The Layman's Summary will be formatted automatically; text may be copied and pasted into this section. ALSF requests release of the summary for use, at ALSF's discretion, should the proposal be funded.

Part II: Application Outline

Important:

- All sections described below should be combined into one PDF (max 10 MB) and uploaded to the ALSF online form. Please include the scanned signed Cover Page.
- All templates mentioned can be found at ALSFgrants.org Guidelines and Submission page.
- 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 format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 points or larger with minimum of ½ inch margins.
- The order of the application should be followed, adhering to the maximum number of pages allowed for each subsection indicated in parentheses.
- Appendices are not allowed.

A. **Cover Page (1 page):** Use the document provided on the ALSF website noted above.
B. **Table of Contents (1 page):** Please provide a Table of Contents with page numbers to the corresponding sections.
C. **Project Information**
    1. **Scientific Abstract (1/2 page):** Please summarize the research objectives and rationale.
    2. **Overall Impact Statement (1/2 page):** Describe how this project will lead to new or improved cures for or impact on pediatric cancer patients.
    3. **Budget/Justification (2 pages):** Use ALSF's budget template. The signature from an institutional representative on the cover page of the grant application accepts the provision that no indirect costs will be paid.
    4. **Biographical Sketch (es):** Use the NIH PHS 398 four page biographical sketch format for the principal investigator, mentor and any key personnel.

5. **Mentoring Plan (1 page)**: Describe the mentor's role in the experimental design and execution. Describe detailed plan for career development including strategies for mentorship, in pediatric oncology research, continued education, and future research/funding.
6. **Mentor letter of recommendation**: this letter is separate from the mentor plan and should confirm the role and activities outlined in the mentoring plan.

D. Research Plan

1. **Resubmissions (1 page):** If this proposal was submitted previously and did not receive funding, please describe any changes in the application, i.e. respond to the reviewer's critique in terms of changes in experimental design or new data.
2. **Specific Aims (1 page):** State the hypotheses to be tested and relevance to pediatric cancer research. List the goals and long-term objectives. State the specific objectives this project intends to accomplish.
3. **Research Strategy**
   i. **Significance (1 page)**: Describe the relevant background for the current research plan. State the significance and importance of your proposed project with respect to *pediatric cancer research*. Relate the specific aims to the goals and long-term objectives.
   ii. **Impact (1 page)**: Describe how this project will modify or add to the pediatric oncology body of knowledge within the area of research and state how the integration of recent technology or novel approaches will directly affect outcomes.
   iii. **Approach (4 pages)**: Describe the overall strategy to accomplish the aims of the project. Describe methodology, analyses, and how research aims will be realistically accomplished within the proposed funding period. Provide an account of the PI's preliminary studies pertinent to the application. A time line is expected. Anticipation of potential problems and plans to deal with these is expected.
4. **Human Subjects (1/2 page)**: Include IRB approval letter. Please note if letter is not applicable or if approval is pending. Funds awarded will be held until letter is received.
5. **Vertebrate Animals (1/2 page)**: Include IACUC approval letter. Please indicate if letter is not applicable or if approval is pending. Funds awarded will be held until letter is received.
6. **Literature Cited:** A maximum of 30 references are allowed. Please use Vancouver format (numeric).
7. **Collaborators and/or Consultants**: Include any appropriate letters from individuals confirming their roles in the project.