

JDRF Scholar Award Request for Applications



dedicated to finding a cure

Application Release date: September 3rd, 2008

Application Deadline Date: December 1, 2008

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ANNOUNCEMENT

In an effort to expedite the progress toward a cure for type 1 diabetes, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) offers a Scholar Award. This award provides sustained support for pioneering basic or clinical research aimed at fulfilling the goals of JDRF—finding a cure for type 1 diabetes or its complications. The Scholar Award is designed to support individual scientists of exceptional creativity who propose pioneering research to reach these goals. The Scholar Award, which is JDRF's most prestigious award, will fund investigators with extraordinary talent and vision, who are willing to take risks and attempt new approaches to accelerate type 1 diabetes research. The Scholar Award is meant to support outstanding investigators who intend to pursue new research directions that are not funded from other sources. The awards are not meant simply to expand the funding of persons already well supported for exploring this concept. Each Scholar Award provides up to USD 250,000 annually, including indirect costs, for up to five years. A list of current JDRF Scholar Awards can be found at www.jdrf.org/scholarawards.

BACKGROUND

To fulfill its mission, JDRF depends critically on the creativity and excellence of individual scientists. In order to explore and develop the full potential of novel paradigms, the foundation will select a handful of scholars to operate without the restraints that are put on other forms of funding. JDRF thus seeks to support scientists, whose ideas have the potential for high impact, but may be too novel, span too diverse a range of disciplines, or be at a stage too early to succeed in the traditional peer review process. The Scholar Award is intended to encourage highly creative biomedical and clinical scientists to devote a major part of their career to seminal research in type 1 diabetes. The awards are not meant to support specific, fully defined research projects but rather to support original research directions and provide support to exceptionally creative scientists to pursue innovative approaches.

ELIGIBILITY

The JDRF Scholar Award is intended for researchers who hold an academic degree (D.M.D., D.O., D.V.M., M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent) in a scientific discipline and who also hold an independent investigator position at a university, health-science center, or comparable institution. The candidate will typically have at least ten years of relevant experience since receiving his/her degree. Prior research investigation in the field of type 1 diabetes is not mandatory. Scholar Award research may be conducted in any nation, within for-profit or non-profit, public or private organizations, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments, or eligible agencies of federal governments. No citizenship requirements apply to the JDRF Scholar Award. Racial/ethnic minority individuals, women and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply as principal investigators. If selected, investigators must show evidence of institutional infrastructure support.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications

Full applications must be submitted through proposalCENTRAL:

<http://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp?GMID=16>

Full on-line applications must be submitted no later than 11.59 p.m. ET on December 1st, 2008.

The application must include the following:

- A title
- An abstract for a technical audience and an abstract for a lay audience
- A narrative section that describes the investigator's innovative vision and the significance of the biomedical problem to be addressed, and his/her qualifications to engage in groundbreaking research. This section should describe the applicant's view of the major challenges in type 1 diabetes research to which he/she can make seminal contributions, and explain its relevance to curing the disease or its complications. Since the research plan is expected to evolve during the tenure of the grant, a detailed research plan only need to be provided for the first year. For the following four years only a broad description of the research is required.

The narrative section, which must not exceed 10 pages, should include separate sections addressing the following questions (items 4 through 6 must be limited to no more than two pages):

- 1 What is the scientific problem that will be addressed, and why is this important to curing type 1 diabetes or its complications?
 - 2 What are the pioneering, possibly high-risk approaches that, if successful, might lead to groundbreaking or paradigm-shifting results?
 - 3 Why is the planned research uniquely suited to achieve the goals of JDRF?
 - 4 What are the applicant's primary accomplishments?
 - 5 What concrete evidence can the applicant provide for his or her claim of creativity? For example, qualities common to many highly creative people include an interest in, and the ability to integrate diverse sources of information; an inclination to challenge paradigms and take intellectual leaps; persistence in the face of failure; an ability to attract the right collaborators; and the resilience and commitment necessary to plan and execute effective strategies for accomplishing goals.
 - 6 How will the new research direction differ from the applicant's past or current work?
 - 7 What is the expected percentage of time commitment to the project proposed to JDRF?
- A two-page biographical sketch and a list of selected peer-reviewed publications
 - A description of collaborative arrangements, if applicable
 - A list of current research support from all sources with a brief description of each supported project

SELECTION PROCESS

Scientific Review

All applications will be competitively reviewed by a group of distinguished scientists.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated for the probability that the investigator will pursue pioneering research relevant to curing type 1 diabetes or its complications, the likelihood that JDRF is the only potential source for funding the proposed research, and compelling justification for the advantage of being funded through this rather than alternative mechanisms.

The narrative section of the application and the examples of the applicant's most important scientific contributions will be evaluated for evidence of:

- Innovation of the proposed research and its relevance to and impact on the mission of JDRF
- Track record of innovation/creativity and the potential for future innovation relative to the applicant's career stage

- The applicant's motivation/enthusiasm/intellectual energy to pursue a challenging problem

Please note that JDRF does not provide summary statements for Scholar applications that are not funded.

Lay Review

All proposals to JDRF, including the Scholar Award, are reviewed by lay volunteers through its Lay Review Committee (LRC) members, who apply the above criteria.

Board Review

The recommendations of the scientific and lay review committees will be presented to the JDRF International Board for final approval before funds are awarded.

RECEIPT AND REVIEW SCHEDULE

Application Availability Date	Online Application deadline	Review	Notification	Earliest Start Date
9/3/08	12/01/08	March/April 2009	June/July 2009	September 1, 2009

AWARDS

Awardees will be required to submit written annual progress reports that summarize scientific advances and their significance to type 1 diabetes. All JDRF Scholars are expected to present their research progress at the annual JDRF Scholar Retreat.

INQUIRIES

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