



For a World Without
Myasthenia Gravis

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Community Health
Charities Member Agency
MGFA code # 11240



April 14, 2023

Research Funding Announcement

Nancy Law High Impact Clinical Research and Scientific Projects on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Neuromuscular Junction Disorders

Overview:

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) requests submission of proposals to support high-impact clinical research and scientific pilot studies that are focused and innovative. A clear plan of how success will be assessed is mandatory. High-impact clinical research proposals should focus on patient outcome measurements or alteration in clinical or research practices that aid in present treatment paradigm. Scientific pilot projects will require a clear plan that will lead to new federal, pharmaceutical, or private foundation supported investigations. The proposal should be within the scope of the research agenda of the MGFA, which may be found at www.myasthenia.org and below:

The research committee of the MGFA is committed to supporting research that will ultimately improve the lives of patients with myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular junction disorders. The committee has identified 5 broad research priorities of unmet need in the field.

- **Biomarkers**
 - Early diagnosis
 - Predictors of clinical outcome
 - Predictors of response to immunosuppressive therapy
 - Biomarkers for use in clinical trials
- **Mechanisms of disease**
 - Basic mechanisms of disease
 - How loss of self-tolerance is sustained throughout the disease course
- **Therapeutic strategies**
 - Development of new therapeutic targets
 - Targeted therapies that hopefully prevent widespread immunosuppression and off-target side effects
 - Optimizing treatment strategies with existing therapies

- **Improving patient outcomes**
 - The patient perspective on their disease, its impact on their daily life, and treatment considerations that are most important to them
 - Collateral effects of MG and its treatment, such as associated medical conditions, treatment-related side effects, and financial considerations
- **Pediatric treatment strategies, safety concerns, and long-term outcome**

Though this research agenda is intended to guide researchers towards topics that are important to the MGFA, the research committee will accept proposals outside of these priority areas and is committed to supporting the best science.

Instructions:

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent (LOI) using the form provided by June 12, 2023 via the MGFA's grant portal, [ProposalCentral](#). There, you will find additional documents and details regarding the application process. You will be informed by July 7, 2023, if you are invited to submit a full proposal.

The MGFA will fund highly meritorious projects with a maximum total cost of \$100,000 per year, for a period of 3 years, of which no more than 10% may be dedicated to indirect costs. Special funding requests and/or changes to the award period must be approved prior to submission of proposal through the LOI.

For the full proposal, the applicant must provide a detailed budget in the format used for NIH budgets. See the list of forms and links at the end of this announcement. There are no specific budget restrictions, but all aspects of the budget must be clearly justified. If Principal Investigator salary support is requested, then a letter from a department chair or equivalent must accompany the application to assure that the PI is afforded protected research time for the project.

The application consists of a total of six-page research section (NIH R21 Format), which should include specific aims (one page), background/preliminary data, innovation, and approach sections (5 pages). There is no limit to the reference

section. A separate single page section should describe how the funds will benefit the goals of the MGFA. Pilot grants should also state the plan for future support. A copy of a funding agency review, which supports the need to obtain preliminary data, would be evidence of a specific plan for future support. Such material may be included in an appendix. The application must also contain a **Lay Summary** of up to ½ a page in length or approximately 200 words.

All components of the application should be submitted via MGFA's grants portal, [ProposalCentral](#), **September 4, 2023**. A preliminary review to ensure compliance with guidelines will be performed, followed by scientific review. Proposals will be reviewed by the MGFA research committee as well as ad hoc reviewers when required. Funding notification is expected by **October 2023** and funds provided by **November 2023**. Participation in MGFA key activities, such as presentations at the MGFA Scientific Session during the AANEM Annual Meeting, and the MGFA National Conference, is expected from award recipients. The award recipient will be invited as a special guest to attend the MGFA National Conference, to be introduced and to share a few words, during the portion of the Conference when a keynote speaker, delivering the Nancy Law Lecture, will speak to the **importance of funding new and innovative research**, and the **role of MGFA in cutting-edge research**. Recipients may also be asked for interviews on their project and its relevance to the MG Community for MGFA's lay oriented website and/or newsletter at both the start and completion of the project.

Please make sure to follow the NIH standard formatting and provide as much detail as possible. Examples can be found on ProposalCentral or through the following links:

- [Letter of Intent](#)
- [Cover Letter](#)
- [Lay Summary Form](#)
- [Research Plan Form](#)
- [NIH Budget Form & MGFA Budget Justification Form](#)
- [Development of Future Support Form](#)
- [NIH Bio-sketch Form](#)

Eligibility

The RFA is open to established and new independent investigators with faculty status. This RFA is not open to for-profit (i.e. biotechnology, pharmaceutical, etc) applicants. Applications in all areas of MG research will be accepted from U.S. and international applicants.

Research Funding Application & Review Calendar

Activity	Timing
Research Funding Announcement	April 14, 2023
Letter of Intent Deadline	June 12, 2023
Application Deadline	September 8, 2023
Funding notification	October 30, 2023
Funding provided	November 2023
Annual Report due	November 2024; November 2025
Final Report due	February 1, 2027

For technical inquiries such as system access or site navigation related to ProposalCentral, please send an email to pcsupport@altum.com or call 1-800-875-2562 (Toll-free US and Canada) or +1-703-964.5840 (Direct Dial International). One can also find more information about how to register and apply using ProposalCentral with the following information:

[How to Register as a ProposalCentral user](#)

[How to Create an Application using ProposalCentral](#)

[User FAQs.pdf \(proposalcentral.com\)](#)