Myocarditis Foundation

RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION

GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

The Myocarditis Foundation (MF) awards funds to support research related to all forms of myocarditis. The goal of MF's research program is to advance medical knowledge on the disease and develop more accurate diagnostic methods and life-improving therapies with the goal of saving more lives.

The Myocarditis Foundation (MF) accepts fellowship grant applications on an annual basis for innovative basic, clinical or translational research relevant to the cause or treatment of myocarditis. MF's fellowship grant program is designed to provide seed funding to investigators for the testing of initial hypotheses and collecting of preliminary data to help secure long-term funding by the National Institute of Health (NIH) and other major granting institutions. Funding is available at US $40,000 for salary only.

Grant award decisions are made through a careful and detailed peer-review selection process by our Medical Advisory Board. Scientific excellence and relevance to myocarditis are the basic criteria for selecting the supported research project. The award is designed to support training and career development of physician-scientists in myocarditis research.

MF will issue one request for proposals per year for either Adult or Pediatric Myocarditis. The deadline for grant submission is December 1 with final award decisions made by December 31. Upon receipt of a signed letter of agreement from the selected candidate, MF will disburse the funds in installments during the research year.

I. Basic Requirements

Candidates may apply up to 10 years following receipt of their MD, PhD or equivalent degree and reside in the United States or Canada, in order to apply for the fellowship. All applicants must select a preceptor with a proven track record of research in myocarditis. In addition to providing a letter of recommendation, the preceptor is expected to assist in preparing the application. For applicants wishing advice in selection of a preceptor, a list of potential preceptors is available from the MF.

II. Review Process

Each application will be reviewed by MF's Medical Advisory Board according to predetermined criteria. Independent recommendations and priority scores will then be forwarded to MF's Board of Directors where award decisions will be made based on the grant's scientific merit and MF's research priorities. The proposals will be scored on the basis of:

1. Importance and impact: The extent to which the research could make a significant contribution to the understanding, diagnosis and/or treatment of myocarditis.

2. Focus and Innovativeness: The study's uniqueness and possibility of breakthrough findings.

3. Feasibility: The quality of the science and qualifications of the applicant to carry out the proposed work, based on expertise, commitment and the availability of all the elements required for the project (laboratory, technology, reagents and human or animal subjects).

4. Prospect of long term funding: The likelihood of subsequent NIH or other major funding to sustain the project or for any potential follow-up work

All applications will be held in the strictest confidence and all decisions by MF are final.

III. Terms of the Award

1. Grant Period: One year funding period begins from the time of the award until the same time the following year (i.e. July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017).

2. Site of Project: Awards can be made to public or private universities, hospitals and biomedical research institutions in the United States or Canada. The research shall take place only in the research facility specified in the submitted research proposal.

3. Changes of Status of Applicant: The Applicant must give the Foundation immediate written notice if there is any change or potential change in the Applicant's affiliated institution. Upon such notice and approval from MF, the Applicant shall make arrangements to have the awarded funds transferred to the new institution the Applicant is affiliated with. If the Applicant ceases research in the field for which the grant was made, MF will request the return of the unexpended grant funds.

4. Expenditures: The research fellowship grant funds, as well as any earned interest, is made only for the purposes stated in the application and may not be expended for any other reason without MF's prior written approval. Any funds not expended or committed for the purpose of the research fellowship grant shall be promptly returned to the Foundation. The research fellowship grant funds may not be used for any of the following items: institutional overhead, construction or renovation, purchase of major capital equipment, office equipment or furniture, travel (unless related to research study), tuition fees, journal subscriptions, dues or membership, or equipment service contracts.

5. Grants Administration: The research fellowship grant funds shall be physically segregated and be shown separately on the Applicant's books for ease of reference and verification.

6. Institutional Support: The proposed research must comply with the regulations of the Applicant's Institutional Review Board (IRB) related to research on human or animal subjects. A copy of the approval or pending approval document must be included with the grant application.
   The Preceptor assumes responsibility for supervising the Applicant and verifying that all submitted research is complete, true and made in good faith. For clinical studies, the Applicant must demonstrate that access to a suitable caseload or patient population will be available for the study during the funding period.

7. Liability: MF assumes no financial liability of any kind undertaken by the Applicant. The Applicant's institution acknowledges that MF is not legally liable for the conduct of the

Applicant and the Preceptor.

8. Dissemination of Findings: All scientific data and/or findings resulting from work supported by MF shall be made available to the MF. If it has been determined that the data will not be published, it shall still be made available to the MF. All presentations and all publications must acknowledge MF's support. Two reprints of each publication and preferably a PDF file should be forwarded to MF for reference and inclusion on the Foundation website.

9. Progress Reports: The awarded Applicant will be expected to provide a six-month update as well as a formal twelve-month final report upon completion of the research year. Each report should include a narrative account of what was accomplished by the expenditure of funds including a description of progress being made towards achieving the goals of the grant. One year after the completion of the grant, the grantee will be asked to fill out a final questionnaire to describe any publications or subsequent funding received as a result of the Foundation's seed funding.

10. References to Work: If the Applicant would like to announce the research fellowship grant award, MF requests that MF's involvement be acknowledged and that any print or internet related notifications (i.e. marketing/promotion materials or press release) are approved by the Foundation before distribution.

IV. Application Process

Proposal narratives should be numbered consecutively at the bottom, single-spaced with 1-inch margins and using at least 12-point font. Please include the following items in your application, keeping in mind the maximum number of pages per section:

1. Cover Letter From Applicant and Application Form (3 pages)
   The cover letter should clearly state the title of the project, the specific goals of objectives of the research project and state how the research relates to the goal of hastening progress in understanding myocarditis. Please complete and attach the Research Fellowship Grant Application form.

2. Supporting Letter From Preceptor (1 page)
   Describe briefly the Applicant's qualifications, intention and desire to hasten progress in understanding myocarditis. The Preceptor must include a statement about his/her own willingness to supervise and support the Applicant throughout the one year research project and verify that to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, all the information contained in the application is true, correct, complete and made in good faith.

3. Biographical Sketches of Applicant and Preceptor (no more than 3 pages each)
   Please include:
   a. Name and position
   b. Education/training: List in reverse chronological order (starting with most recent course of study), institution & location, degree, year(s), field of study. Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional degrees/appointments and include postdoctoral training.
   c. Research and professional experience: list in reverse chronological order (starting with most recent) previous employment experience and honors including institution and location, position & title, experience and honors. Also list research

projects completed during last 3 years and selected publications and invited works pertinent to the application.

4. Research Plan (5 pages Maximum)
   The narrative should clearly state:
   a. Hypothesis
   b. Specific Aims
   c. Background/Significance
   d. Preliminary Data
   e. Methodology
   f. Expected Results

5. Additional Comments:
   Comment on the importance of MF funding, for example, does the grant allow you to pursue studies that would otherwise not be performed? Does the grant supplement other sources of support? Does the grant increase your competitiveness for other major funding sources?

   Comment on the significance of your work to hasten progress in understanding myocarditis. Is it similar to or a direct extension of work that has been or is being performed elsewhere by other investigators? Does the work complement or extend other studies that are being performed at your institution? How novel are the studies that you describe? Do you anticipate that the support would lead to the generation of physical resources that might be useful to other investigators in the field? If so, would you be willing to make it widely available for collaborative work?

6. Appendix
   Human subjects or vertebrate animal experimental IRB approval.

V. Submission Format

Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the proposal in either MSWord or PDF format to gen@myocarditisfoundation.org and one paper copy which must be received no later than, December 1, 2015 at the following address:

Myocarditis Foundation
Attn: Research Grants
3518 Echo Mountian Drive
Kingwood, TX 77345-2030

Any questions, please call Genevieve at 281-713-2962.