Myocarditis Foundation Early Career Research Award

Grant Requirements

The Myocarditis Foundation is dedicated to improving the understanding, diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes of patients affected by myocarditis and related inflammatory heart diseases through research, education, and advocacy. By supporting early-career investigators, the Foundation seeks to cultivate the next generation of researchers, encourage innovative ideas, and build sustained expertise in a field where important scientific and clinical questions remain unanswered. The research grant program provides critical early funding for promising studies focused on myocarditis, pericarditis, and inflammatory cardiomyopathy to advance understanding of disease mechanisms, improve diagnosis and risk stratification, and develop more effective approaches to prevention and treatment.

Applicant Eligibility:

- **Career Stage:**
    - Applicants must be **post-doctoral fellows**, **clinical fellows**, or **early-career investigators** within the first **5 years** of beginning their first faculty position.
- **Degree Requirements:**
    - Candidates must hold an **MD, DO, and/or PhD**, or an equivalent research degree.
- **Research Commitment:**
    - Applicants must commit meaningful effort to research activities during the funding period.
- **Mentorship:**
    - Applicants must identify a **primary mentor** with demonstrated expertise in myocarditis or related cardiovascular research.

Project Eligibility:

- **Scientific Focus:**
    - The proposed project must directly relate to **myocarditis, pericarditis, or inflammatory cardiomyopathy**, including (but not limited to) mechanisms, diagnostics, biomarkers, immunology, clinical management, epidemiology, prevention, or therapeutic development.

- **Scope:**
    - Basic, translational, or clinical research studies are eligible.
- **Feasibility:**
    - Projects must be feasible within the proposed timeline and budget and must demonstrate preliminary data or a clear rationale.
    - The project must be impactful (i.e., could lead to larger grant funding, such as R01 applications).

Funding Structure:

- **Award Amount:**
    - Up to **$40,000** over the entire award duration.
- **Duration:**
    - Grant may be proposed for **1–2 years** of support.
- **Allowable Costs:**
    - Supplies, assay costs, and laboratory expenses
    - Statistical or core-facility fees
    - Laboratory staff salary
    - Travel to present findings at a scientific meeting
- **Non-Allowable Costs:**
    - Major equipment purchases
    - PI salary
    - Tuition support
    - Indirect/overhead costs

Application Components:

1. **Cover Letter (up to 3 pages):** Clearly state the following:
    a. Applicant name, title, position, and institution
    b. Title of the project
    c. Specific goals or objectives of the research project and state how the research relates to the goal of hastening progress in understanding myocarditis, pericarditis, and/or inflammatory cardiomyopathy.
    d. Mentor name, title, position, and institution
    e. Why the mentor was chosen and what the mentor will bring to the proposal/Applicant's career development.

f. State motivation for applying for this award/studying myocarditis, and what the impact of this award will be on the Applicant's career.

2. **Research Proposal (up to 4 pages):**
    - **a.** Specific Aims
    - **b.** Background, Significance, and Impact
    - **c.** Preliminary data (if applicable)
    - **d.** Research Strategy
    - **e.** Timeline and Milestones

3. **Biosketch (up to 5 pages each):**
    - **a.** Applicant's NIH-style SciENcv Biosketch (or equivalent)
    - **b.** Mentor's NIH style SciENcv Biosketch (or equivalent)

4. **Mentor Letter of Support (up to 2 pages):**
    - **a.** Describe briefly the Applicant's qualifications, intention, and desire to hasten progress in understanding myocarditis. The Mentor must include a statement of their willingness to supervise and support the Applicant throughout the 1-2-year research project and verify that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, all the information contained in the application is true, correct, complete, and made in good faith.

5. **Institutional Letter of Support (up to 2 pages):**
    - **a.** Confirming protected research time and access to necessary facilities from Applicant's Chair, Chief, or another Institutional Official.

6. **Budget and Justification (up to 2 pages):**
    - **a.** Itemized and aligned with proposed activities and allowed expenses.

<u>Evaluation Criteria:</u>

- Scientific Merit and Innovation
- Relevance to Myocarditis Research and Patient Impact
- Feasibility and Rigor of Study Design
- Applicant's Potential for Research Independence
- Strength of Mentorship and Environment

<u>Awardee Expectations:</u>

- **Progress Reports:**
    - 1-year grant: Semi-annual scientific progress updates required.
    - 2-year grant: Annual scientific progress updates required.
- **Financial Reporting:**
    - Detailed expenditure reports, as required.
- **Presentation of Findings:**
    - Awardees are expected to present results at a Myocarditis Foundation–associated meeting, scientific meetings, or through an approved communication platform.
- **Acknowledgment:**
    - The Myocarditis Foundation must be acknowledged in publications and presentations arising from the funded work. The MF requests that its involvement be acknowledged and that any print- or internet-related notifications (e.g., marketing/promotion materials or press releases) be approved by the Foundation before distribution.

Post-Award Requirements:

- **Manuscript Submission:**
    - Grantees should submit at least one manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal from funded work.
- **Family Support Meeting:**
    - Awardees are encouraged to attend a Myocarditis Foundation Family Support Meeting to present research and interact with families and experts in the field.
- **Continuation of Research:**
    - Projects should aim to generate preliminary data to support future funding applications (e.g., NIH K- or R-series awards).

Submission Information and Contact Information:

Applicants must submit an electronic copy of the proposal in a single PDF format to helene@myocarditisfoundation.org by December 1.

Any questions? Please call Helene Webster at (281) 713-2962 or email helene@myocarditisfoundation.org.