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## TESS Research Foundation 2022 Early-Stage Investigator Grant Application

**Award: Up to \$25,000**

**Target audience: Early-stage investigators**

**Application Due: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 by 11:55PM**

### Background and Purpose:

TESS Research Foundation's mission is to improve the lives of those affected by SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter Disorder (SLC13A5 Epilepsy) through research and community. SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter is characterized by a severe form of epilepsy beginning in infancy, a distinct movement disorder, speech difficulties and tooth abnormalities. The TESS Research Foundation provides research funds for early-stage investigators for studies related to SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter Disorder and who have no other reasonable funding source.

**Research plans should directly or indirectly address one of the following high-priority areas:**

- Elucidate the underlying mechanism of how the loss of functional citrate transporter encoded by SLC13A5 contributes to the development and progression of SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter Disorder symptoms.
- Create and characterize SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter Disorder (SLC13A5 Epilepsy) disease models (animal or cell-based) relevant for drug screening/therapy efficacy studies.
- Identify and develop clinical biomarkers or functional outcome measures for citrate transporter disorder (SLC13A5 Epilepsy) to assess disease burden or therapeutic impact in a clinical trial.
- Potential treatment modalities:
  - Pre-clinical/clinical screening, of small molecules/repurposed drug libraries
  - Other non-gene therapy treatment approaches

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Eligibility:

This research grant award is intended to provide funding for an early-stage investigator (within 5 years of terminal degree), including postdocs or graduate students, or an equivalent level at a research institution or a biotechnology/pharmaceutical company. The award may support laboratory supplies, personnel costs, services, or equipment necessary to conduct the proposed research. The TESS Research Foundation encourages collaborative projects between co-investigators, but only one investigator may be considered the “Principal Investigator” for the application purpose. U.S. citizenship is not required. Researchers outside the U.S. are also encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to projects that address more than one priority area. Smaller budgets for shorter focused projects are welcome.

If the research involves patient care or direct involvement with patients, the applicant must be licensed to practice their profession at their institution and must obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Research involving animals must obtain Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval.

Guidelines and Instructions:

Duration: Up to one year

Budget limits: up to \$25,000

Email the complete application as one file in PDF format, with all pages numbered, to [grants@tessfoundation.org](mailto:grants@tessfoundation.org).

Please include the following materials:

- Cover Page (included in application materials)
- Budget Sheet and Timeline, including budget for personnel, consumables, and other efforts (max 1 page, *No indirect costs are permitted*)
- Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Research Design and Statement on how the research will advance the understanding and treatments for people with SLC13A5 Citrate Transporter Disorder (max 3 pages)
- Citations (no limit)

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- CV of applicant and collaborators – max 3 pages (NIH Biosketch format is acceptable)
- Current/Past (3 years)/Pending Funding – 1 page
- Documentation of IACUC or IRB approval required to complete research proposal

*Note: no preliminary data is required to submit an application.*

Formatting requirements:

- Use at least 11 point font and ½ inch margins, including figures.

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

1. Significance of the proposal to address a high-priority area for SLC13A5 research
2. Research plan
3. Financial need

For general questions regarding the TESS Research Foundation grant program, please contact TESS Research Foundation Scientific Director, Tanya Brown, PhD, at [tanya@tessfoundation.org](mailto:tanya@tessfoundation.org).