

Research Program



2023 VF Research Program Funding Announcement Call for New Investigator Pilot Grants

(Applicants – including international – must be five years or less from fellowship graduation)

Call for Research Applications

The Vasculitis Foundation, a leading international supporter of research on vasculitis, is pleased to announce requests for applications for our 2024 research funding cycle through our Young Investigator Award.

The Young Investigator Award provides grants to assist investigators in the early or pilot phase of a study or as additional support for a promising ongoing investigation. It is hoped that these studies will be further developed to attract future funding from other sources.

Qualifications: Applicants must be five years or less from fellowship graduation.

International Competition: Grant applications are accepted from U.S. and international institutions.

Application deadline: Thursday, August 31, 2023

Awards: \$25,000 maximum per year for two years (total \$50,000)

Funding will be available July 2024

The VF Research Program provides one or two-year seed grants to support pilot studies in researching:

- Etiology/Pathogenesis (could include a broad range of studies of immunity, inflammation, or vascular biology. (Relevance to human vasculitis will be taken into account by the reviewers.)
 - Epidemiology, including genetics
 - Diagnosis, including identification of disease subtypes
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- Treatment/Management, including therapeutics to treat vasculitis or prevent complications, biomarkers, and psychosocial outcomes



Goals: To improve the quality of life for patients with vasculitis, and ultimately find the cause/s and cure for vasculitis.

Please register for an account in order to submit your application (look for the Register button in the top upper right corner of the page).

Grant applications are reviewed on the following:

- 1. Significance:** Does this study address an important problem related to vasculitis disease? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts or methods that drive this field?
- 2. Preliminary Evidence:** Provide an account of the principal investigator's preliminary studies or other investigator's studies pertinent to the application information. Preliminary data can often aid reviewers in assessing the likelihood of the success of the proposed project.
- 3. Experimental design, methods and analysis:** Are the conceptual framework design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the investigator acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- 4. Investigator(s):** Is the investigator appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers (if any)? Is there evidence the applicant is committed to pursuing research related to vasculitis?
- 5. Institutional Support:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of unique features of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- 6. Are human subjects involved?** LOIs and grant applications may be submitted without IRB approval; if the application is selected for funding, the applicant must provide copies of approval by an institutional review board (IRB) or ethics board (EB), before funding will be released.
- 7. Animal Welfare.** Will vertebrate animals be used in the proposed research? If yes, LOIs and grant applications may be submitted for review without approval, but if accepted for funding, statements of compliance must be obtained from the American Veterinary Medicine Association and IACUC local guidelines, or equivalent documentation for non-USA countries.
- 8. Budget:** Maximum awards will be for \$25,000 per year for a maximum of \$50,000 for 2 years.

Restrictions

1. Applicants may submit only one grant application per grant review.
2. No more than one (1) grant in any given year will be awarded to any institution or major branches of institution.
3. Applicants may hold only one grant at any given time from the Vasculitis Foundation. Investigators who are currently receiving funding (as an investigator or member of a team or from a fellowship) from the Vasculitis Foundation are not eligible to receive additional funding. The current study or fellowship must be closed and final narrative and financial reports submitted and approved by the VF Research Team before the investigator is eligible to submit a new grant application.
4. Before research can begin, grant agreements must be signed and all approvals such as IRB must be obtained.

Indirect Costs:

Implemented April 2019: The VF adopts the following policy: All budgets for restricted funding shall include at least 15-20% (of cost) set aside for unrestricted costs for individuals and family foundations and at least a 20% for corporations with exceptions to be approved by VF executive director.

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**Read the Vasculitis
Foundation's 2016
Research Report**

We can't do it without you!

2016 VF Research and Fellowship Report

We are pleased to provide this report on the Vasculitis Foundation's Research and Fellowship Programs to our patients, families, physicians, researchers, and, especially, to our many donors. The VF Research program broke the \$2,000,000 mark in funding in February 2016, made possible by the generous donations of our members and extended vasculitis community. Since 2002, the Vasculitis Foundation has funded 42 studies in

Australia, Austria, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, and the United States.

This report details our accomplishments since our Second International Vasculitis Research Consensus Conference held in Chicago, Illinois in 2012. During the conference, participants evaluated programs and explored new areas of inquiry that the Foundation could fund over the next five years.

[Click here to download the report.](#)

2012 Consensus Conference

The Vasculitis Foundation hosted the 2nd International Vasculitis Research Consensus Conference on Friday, April 20, 2012, at the Hilton Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Gary S. Hoffman, Cleveland Clinic Center for Vasculitis Care and Research, functioned as the program moderator and facilitator.

The purpose of the conference was to utilize the combined skills and experience of leading experts in vasculitis from different subspecialties and other scientific fields to evaluate the VF Research Program and explore new areas of inquiry that the Foundation should support over the next five years.

[Click here to download the VF Research Consensus Conference Report 2012.](#)

Grants awarded by the Vasculitis Foundation

2021 Grants

Investigator: Lynn Fussner, MD

Co-Investigators: Ulrich Specks, MD; Mark D. Wewers, MD; Peter Merkel, MD, MPH

Institution: The Ohio State University, Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine

Title: **Role of Monocytes and Alpha-1 Antitrypsin in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis**

Award: \$45,000 one-year

<https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/vf-awards-research-grant-to-pulmonary-critical-care-medicine-physician-at-osu/>

2020 Grants

Investigator: Eric Gapud, MD, PhD

Institution: Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Research Project: **Mechanisms and patient outcomes for antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody-associated vasculitis, giant cell arteritis, Behçet's disease, and Takayasu arteritis**

Award: \$75,000, funded through the Darwin James Liao, MD, Memorial Fund

<https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/success-stories/dr-eric-gapud-giving-back-by-furthering-his-medical-training-in-vasculitis/>

Investigator: Dragana Odobasic, PhD, Research Fellow

Co-investigator: Stephen Holdsworth, MD, PhD

Institution: Monash University, Department of Medicine, Melbourne, Australia

Title: **Tolerogenic Dendritic Cells for Antigen-Specific Immunosuppression in MPO-ANCA Vasculitis**

Award: \$49,822

<https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/success-stories/vasculitis-foundations-young-investigator-award-goes-to-monash-university-research-fellow/>

2019 Grants

Investigator: Maria C. Sid, MD

Co-investigators: Marc Corbera-Bellalta; Nekane Terrades-García; Georgina Espígol-Frigolé; Sergio Prieto-González; Javier Marco-Hernández

Institution: Hospital Clinic, Institute of Biomedical Research, Barcelona, Spain

Title: **Effects of Blocking IL-6 Receptor with Tocilizumab on Ex Vivo Cultured Arteries from Patients with Giant-Cell Arteritis. Searching for Predictors of Response.**

Award: \$48,000

<https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/team/maria-c-cid-md/>

Investigator: Solbritt Rantapää Dahlqvist, MD, PhD

Co-Investigators: Ewa Berglin, MD, PhD; Johanna Dahlqvist, MD, PhD; Ingegerd Johansson, DDS, PhD; Linda Johansson, PhD

Institution: Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden

Title: **Analyses of antibodies, biomarkers and microbiome in relation to genetic markers in pre-clinical individuals developing antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody associated vasculitis**

Award: \$100,000

<https://www.vasculitisfoundation.org/team/solbritt-rantapaa-dahlqvist-md-phd/>

2018 Grants

Investigator: Dan Jane-Wit, MD, PhD

Co-investigator: Caodi Fang, MS

Institution: Yale University, Department of Internal Medicine

Title: **Endothelial Cell Inflammasomes in ANCA-Associated Vasculitis**

Award: \$25,000 for first year; \$25,000 for second year

Investigators: EUVAS Council: Ingeborg Bajema, Thomas Hauser, David Jayne, Alfred Mahr and Kerstin Westman), Peter Hoglund, Lund, Sweden; Mikkel Fauschou, Copenhagen, Raashid Luqmani, Oxford, and Laura Moi

Institution: University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Title: **Long term patient follow-up of ANCA associated vasculitis**, An international inception cohort study by the European Vasculitis Society

Award: \$62,000 one-year

Investigator: Sonia Sharma, PhD

Co-Investigators: Rekha Dhanwani, PhD; Mohit Jain, MD, PhD

Institution: La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, Department of Cell Biology

Title: **Metabolic dysregulation of pro-inflammatory responses in DADA2 vasculitis**

Award: \$50,000, one-year



2017 Grants

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Investigator: Mark Gorelik, MD, Co-investigator: Stephanie Davis, MS

Institution: Pediatric Rheumatology, Baylor College of Medicine

Title: **Follistatin Like 1 Protein Blockade in Kawasaki Disease**

Award: \$25,000, one-year

Investigator: Divi Cornec, MD, PhD

Co-investigators: Ulrich Specks, MD, Pers Jacques-Olivier, PhD

Institution: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

Title: **In Depth Characterization of PR3-specific B Cells in ANCA-associated Vasculitis**

Grant: \$100,000, two-years

Investigator: Mary H. Foster, MD

Co-investigators: Amy Clark, PhD, Robert Tighe, MD

Institution: Nephrology, Duke University

Title: **Dual immunization to model gene-environment interactions in ANCA vasculitis**

Grant: One-year, \$49,946

Investigator: Nataliya Milman, MD, FRCPC, MSc

Co-investigators: Peter Merkel, Annelies Boonen, Peter Tugwel, George A. Wells, Paula Patterson

Institution: Rheumatology, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute

Title: **ICF Core Sets for ANCA-Associated Vasculitis**

Grant: Two-year, \$20,000

2016 Grants

Analysis of Glycosylation of Proteinase 3-ANCA IgG Variable Domains, \$49,500

Prof. dr. Peter Heeringa, Department of Pathology and Medical Biology, Vasculitis Expertise Center, University Medical Center, Groningen, Netherlands

Rational Treatment of Glomerulonephritis using a Novel Urine Biomarker, \$49,294

Professor Mark Little, Trinity Health Kidney Centre, Nephrology, Renal Inflammation Group, St. James Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

A Randomized Multi-center Study for Isolated Skin Vasculitis (ARAMIS), \$50,479

Robert Micheletti, MD, Assistant Professor, Dermatology and Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2015 Grants

Immune Regulation by IL-6 in Giant Cell Arteritis, \$50,000

Jonathan Choy, PhD, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia Canada

Longitudinal Study of Morbidity and Mortality in Vasculitis Patients, \$98,641 (two-year study)

Susan Jick, DSc, Professor of Epidemiology, Director Boston Collaborative Drug Surveillance Program Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts

Role of LAMP-2 in Tolerance to ANCA Antigens, \$50,000

Penelope Kain, MD, PhD, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria



2014 Grants

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The Role of micro RNA in a Novel Mouse Model of Vasculitis, \$50,000

Carola G. Vinuesa, MD, MSc, PhD, John Curtin School of Medical Research The Australian National University, Canberra City, Australia

Rho-kinase Activity in Large Vessel Vasculitis, \$50,000

Lindsay Lally, MD, principal investigator, Rheumatology Fellow; Robert Spiera, MD, co-investigator, Hospital for Special Surgery, New York

Microbubble Contrast-Enhanced Vascular Ultrasonography: A Novel Method of Detecting Large Vessel Vasculitis? \$50,000

Kimberly P. Liang, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2013 Grants

Circulating microparticles as therapeutic targets of plasma exchange in antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA) associated vasculitis, \$99,206 (two years)

Paul Brogan, FRCPCH, reader in vasculitis and honorary consultant pediatric rheumatologist, UCL Institute of Child Health and Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

To Understand the Role of 14-3-3 In Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA), \$50,000

Ritu Chakravarti, Ph.D., research associate, Department of Pathobiology, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland, Ohio

Disease-specific dysregulation of miRNA in Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA/Wegener's), \$50,000

Susanne Schinke, MD, research fellow, Department of Rheumatology and Clinical Immunology, The University of Lübeck, Germany

Development of a uniform histology scoring systems for Small Vessel CNS Vasculitis in adulthood and childhood, \$40,128

Susanne Benseler, MD, pediatric rheumatologist, associate professor of paediatrics, The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Canada

2012 Grants

Impact of Healthcare Utilization & Informal Caregiving for Primary Systemic Vasculitis: A National Perspective, \$99,920

Carolyn T. Thorpe, PhD, MPH, Pharmacy and Therapeutics, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Exome sequencing in granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA, Wegener's), \$50,000

Sharon Chung, MD, MAS, Division of Rheumatology, University of California, San Francisco

Investigating the molecular mechanism for IL-25-driven Act 1-dependent eosinophilic vasculitis, \$50,000

Shadi Swaidani, PhD, Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute, Cleveland, Ohio

Small molecule therapeutics in Giant Cell Arteritis, \$50,000

Cornelia Weyand, MD, PhD, Stanford University School of Medicine, California

2011 Grants



Defining an animal model for the study of Wegener's Granulomatosis, \$75,000

Felipe Andrade, MD, PhD, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland

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2010 Grants

Reproductive Health in Young Men and Women with Vasculitis, \$49,978

Megan E. B. Clowse, MD, Rheumatology and Immunology, Duke University, Raleigh, North Carolina

Classification and Diagnostic Criteria in Primary Systemic Vasculitis, \$99,738

Raashid Ahmed Luqmani, MD, Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Science Oxford, England

Identification of susceptibility genes in Takayasu's arteritis, \$50,000

Amr H. Sawalha, MD, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2009 Grants

PARP-1 in CSS-associated IL-10 Promoter Polymorphisms, \$50,000

Jianguo Liu, MD, PhD, Division of Immunobiology, Department of Internal Medicine, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, Saint Louis, Missouri

2008 Grants

Vasculitic T Cells in Giant Cell Arteritis, \$99,583

C.M. Weyand, MD, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia

An Investigation of the Role of the Innate Immune Response in Kawasaki Disease, \$49,980

Neil Bowles, PhD, Eccles Institute of Human Genetics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

Investigating the role of the novel Th 17 cells in the pathogenesis of ANCA associated vasculitis and their potential for immunomodulation, \$48,000

Alan Salama, MBBS, PhD, FRCP, Renal Section, Division of Medicine Imperial College London, England

2007 Grants

ANCA Vasculitis: Autoimmune B Cell dysregulation and its Clinical Impact, \$50,000

Patrick Nachman, MD, University of North Carolina Kidney Center, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Expression and activation of p38MAPK isoforms in ANCA-associated renal vasculitis, \$50,000

Jochen Zwerina, MD, Department of Internal Medicine 3 and Institute for Clinical Immunology, University of Erlangen, Germany

2006 Grants

Identification and characterization of immunodominant, conformational epitopes of antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies, \$35,000

Antje Mueller, MD, Csernok, MD, Peter Lamphrecht, MD, University of Rheumatology, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Campus Lubeck, Germany

Gene Expression Profile of Temporal Arteries of Giant Cell Arteritis, \$35,000

Rula Hajj-Ali, MD, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Environmental Factors in the Pathogenesis of Wegener's Granulomatosis, \$35,000

Daniel Albert, MD, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Localized Wegener's Granulomatosis: Epidemiological, clinical and histopathological characteristics, \$30,000

Peer Malte Aries, MD, and Prof. Wolfgang L. Gross, MD, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital of Schleswig-Holstein

A Pilot Project Towards Establishment of a US/Canadian Diagnostic Registry of Children with Wegener's Granulomatosis and Related Vasculitides, \$34,900

David A. Cabral, MBBS, BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Renal transplantation in Wegener's granulomatosis: mortality, allograft outcomes and incidence of malignancies from the United Network for Organ Sharing database 1988-2005, \$16,000

Nadine Tanenbaum, MD, Duke University, Raleigh, North Carolina

2004 Grants

Identification of novel Wegener's Granulomatosis Susceptibility Genes, \$35,000

Katherine Siminovitch, PhD, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Wegener's Granulomatosis and Microscopic Polyarteritis Case Control Study in Western Montana, \$7,500

Andrew Zeft, MD, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

Development of a Measure to Assess Patients' Adherence to Vasculitis Treatment Regimens, \$35,000

Robert DeVellis, PhD, Associate Director, Arthritis Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Analysis of NKG2D expression on CD28- T-cells and non-classical MHC-class I antigen expression on antigen-presenting cells as clues to an antigen-driven process and new targets of treatment in Wegener's granulomatosis, \$35,000

Prof. Wolfgang L. Gross, MD, and Peter Lamprecht, MD, Department of Rheumatology, University Hospital of Schleswig-Holstein, Campus Luebeck, and Rheumaklinik Bad Bramstedt, Germany

2003 Grants

The role of shear stress in neutrophil proteinase-3 expression and its importance in vascular injury sites in Wegener's granulomatosis, \$35,000

Deborah Stearns-Kurosawa, PhD, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2002 Grants

Host-microbial interactions in Wegener's Granulomatosis: the role of ANCA and S. aureus persistence, \$35,000

Robert Inman, MD, University of Toronto, Canada

Short-Term Cyclophosphamide Therapy in a Cohort of Over 200 Patients, \$35,000

Gary Hoffman, MD, MS and Alexandra Villa-Forte, MD, MPH, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

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START DOING YOUR BIT TO HELP OTHERS. SUPPORT OUR WORK.

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OUR MISSION

Building upon the collective strength of the vasculitis community, the Foundation supports, inspires and empowers individuals with vasculitis and their families through a wide range of education, research, clinical, and awareness initiatives.

The Vasculitis Foundation is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. All contributions are 100% tax-deductible.

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