AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

American Brain Foundation's Cure One, Cure Many Award in Lewy Body Dementia

FUNDED IN COLLABORATION WITH

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH

APPLICATIONS MANAGED BY

American Academy of Neurology

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Important Dates

- Pre-Proposals Accepted: June 2, 2025
- Pre-Proposals Due: July 15, 2025
- Invitations to Submit Full Applications Issued: August 2025
- Full Applications Due: September 30, 2025
- Anticipated Award Announcement: November 2025
- Anticipated Award and Funding Start: January 15, 2026

Program Description

Lewy Body Dementia (LBD) is the second most common progressive dementia after Alzheimer's disease (AD) and affects millions of individuals worldwide. When an individual presents with cognitive impairment, however, there are virtually no tools available to enable a clinician to make an accurate diagnosis of LBD.

Particularly for AD, molecular biomarkers as identified with positron emission tomography imaging agents, and potentially assays of Alzheimer proteins in the cerebrospinal fluid and blood may provide helpful evidence to support or refute the clinical diagnosis of the illness. However, biomarkers to aid in the clinical detection of dementia attributable to LBD are currently lacking. The lack of validated biomarkers for LBD contributes to delayed diagnosis and misdiagnosis, and thus potentially exposes individuals affected by LBD to inappropriate medication use and results in the failure to treat LBD-specific manifestations. The absence of biomarkers also impedes pertinent clinical and translational research, including drug and biomarker discovery efforts.

In collaboration with the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), Alzheimer's Association (alz.org), and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (mjff.org), the American Brain Foundation (ABF) now seeks applications aimed for discovery, validation, and acceleration of LBD-related biomarkers.

The first Cure One, Cure Many Award in 2022 was granted to Drs. Owen A. Ross, Pamela J. McLean, and Bradley F. Boeve for their research on identifying biomarkers for LBD. Their work focuses on advancing diagnostic approaches for LBD, with an emphasis on early detection through molecular and imaging biomarkers.

Funding Available

The ABF intends to award a single grant of up to US $2 million for a budget period of up to 2 years. The Review Committee, however, reserves the right to award a lesser amount to an application if the full $2 million is deemed to be unjustified and/or to fund an additional application should funds allow.

Final budgets will be determined based on a review of proposed work. Academic and non-profit institutions are allowed to allocate up to 15% of the total award amount to indirect costs. No additional indirect costs will be allowed. Applicants are encouraged to leverage additional sources of funding and resources.

Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by basic, translational, or clinical investigators from:

- U.S. and international public and private non-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments, and eligible agencies of the federal government; and
- U.S. and international biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies, or other publicly or privately held for-profit entities.

Past awardees are eligible to apply for this funding.

The American Brain Foundation provides equal opportunities to all applicants for funding without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, pregnancy, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic disposition, neurodiversity, disability, veteran status, or any other protected category under federal, state, and local law.

Evaluation and Selection

The American Brain Foundation seeks proposals that have the potential to identify one or more biomarkers that will support or confirm that LBD is the underlying cause of dementia at any stage. For the purposes of this RFA, biomarkers should be focused on measuring biological changes as determined by biofluid and/or imaging studies or other types of measure (e.g., genotyping, retinal or skin assays, etc.).

Potential areas appropriate for this program could include, but are not limited to, the following areas of investigation:

- Work to advance the discovery or development of fluid or imaging biomarker measurements of LBD
- Studies that focus on other emerging technologies to identify disease-specific biomarkers
- Projects that develop biomarkers to measure disease-related changes, such as dementia progression
- Projects can be aimed at the discovery, development, and/or validation of these biomarkers

Regardless of the stage (discovery, development or validation), applications must address the diagnosis of LBD.

The ABF is particularly interested in:

- Transformative projects that have high potential to generate translational biomarkers for LBD upon project completion; proposals should clearly outline translation potential
- Innovative approaches to improve feasibility of translation into the clinic (e.g., not burdensome to the individual)
- Diagnostic tools that specifically target LBD but may have cross application to other Lewy body diseases

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of scientists convened by the ABF, AAN, Alzheimer's Association, and Michael J. Fox Foundation based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the research priorities of the Program as defined in this RFA;
2. Scientific rationale, specific aims, and methodological rigor of the proposed project, with specific focus on the translational component of moving the work to the clinic;
3. Potential impact of project on accurate and early diagnosis of LBD;
4. Expertise and breadth of the study team; preference will be given to strong study teams that include team members at all levels of training, and diverse backgrounds and scientific expertise, and to collaborative efforts.

The American Brain Foundation and its partners are committed to supporting research that incorporates a broad range of perspectives and includes study populations that reflect the full spectrum of individuals affected by LBD. Research consistently shows that teams with varied backgrounds and viewpoints produce stronger outcomes; therefore, we encourage applicants to include information about the composition of the team that will lead the proposed work.

Pre-Proposal Instructions

Deadline: July 15, 2025 at 5pm CT

Please submit proposals in Arial 11 font, minimum 0.5-inch margins. Content should be non-confidential.

Pre-proposals should be no longer than one (1) page and must include:

- Name of grant to which you are applying (LBD)
- Project title
- Name and contact information for the Principal Investigator
- Lay summary (one paragraph)
- Project description outlining key aims, overarching themes of the proposed project, and the role of collaboration/partnerships in the proposed project.
- List of team members and their affiliations (not part of page limit)

Applicants must also upload NIH-style Biosketches for each principal investigator. Biosketches do not count towards the one-page limit.

Full Application Instructions

Deadline: September 30, 2025 at 5pm CT

Full applications are by invitation only.

Five pages total, excluding cover page and references.

Full applications should include:

- Cover page:
  - Title of proposal
  - Amount of funding requested
  - Principal Investigator name(s), academic titles, departments, and contact info, with one PI designated as the contact PI.
  - Name, title, and contact info for institutional official responsible for grant administration
- Project description
  - Specific aims
  - Background and significance
  - Approach
  - Collaborators and partners
  - Deliverables
  - Criteria for success
  - Brief management plan
- References (not part of page limit)
- Budget and budget justification
  - Up to 15% of the total grant may be used towards indirect costs

To Apply

Applications will be managed by the American Academy of Neurology (AAN). All applications must be submitted online via SmartSimple. Visit https://aan.smartsimple.com/ and follow the instructions for the Cure One, Cure Many Awards.

Contact Information

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