CurePSP Biomarker Accelerator Program: Request for Applications

Last updated October 1, 2025

Program Background:

There is currently no definitive way to diagnose progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). Families and their physicians must rely on clinical evaluation and indirect imaging methods, often leading to misdiagnosis, delays in care, and missed opportunities for early intervention. Without reliable biomarkers to detect PSP, track its progression, stratify patients, or assess treatment responses, clinical trials struggle to measure effectiveness, treatment decisions remain uncertain, and patient outcomes are limited.

Recent breakthroughs in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease research have demonstrated the transformative potential of biomarkers—enabling earlier and more accurate diagnoses, guiding treatment decisions, and accelerating drug development. These advancements are offering hope for other neurodegenerative diseases, including PSP, where the need for biomarkers is urgent.

To address this critical gap, CurePSP is launching the Biomarker Accelerator Program—a groundbreaking initiative to drive biomarker development for PSP. By building on existing discoveries and supporting the critical validation work needed to bring biomarkers into clinical use, this program will help transform PSP diagnosis, guide more precise treatment strategies, accelerate clinical research, and ultimately improve the lives of those affected by PSP.

Biomarker Accelerator Program Overview:

The Biomarker Accelerator Program will fund projects driving biomarker discoveries to accelerate diagnosis, treatment, research, or clinical care for PSP. The proposed studies should build upon existing discoveries by conducting the next steps needed to move the biomarkers into research or clinical settings. The existing discoveries may come from preclinical models, fluids, tissue, proteomics, imaging, genetic data, or other modalities. Projects can propose to further validate/replicate these findings, develop assays or tools, integrate biomarkers of different modalities, or other approaches that will advance biomarker development for PSP.

While diagnostic biomarkers are a primary goal of this program, we will accept proposals focused on any context of use that will further research or clinical care for PSP.

The following topics are eligible for this program:

- Projects should focus on accelerating translation of biomarkers for PSP.
- Projects can use any type of biomarker- fluid, blood, imaging, molecular, genetic, digital, or other.

- While diagnostic biomarkers are a primary goal of this program, projects can focus on any context of use, including diagnosis, monitoring, prognostic, or others. See more here.
- Projects can propose validating/replicating existing discoveries in different settings or new cohorts, validating existing methodology, developing a standardized assay/tool, integrating discoveries from different modalities (for example, CSF and blood, fluid and imaging), or other work needed to move a discovery into an actionable biomarker.
- If the proposed work includes biomarkers that are not unique to PSP etiology (for example, inflammatory markers), there should be a strong case for how this biomarker would be applied to PSP, or integrated with other biomarkers, to allow for PSP-specific biomarkers.

The following topics are ineligible for this program:

- Projects conducting empirical discovery science to identify new biomarkers or targets- for example, exploratory genetic or proteomic large screening projects to identify a potential new biomarker/target- are not eligible for this program
- Projects should exclusively focus on PSP, and should not focus on other tauopathies or other diseases besides PSP.
- Projects testing biomarkers from other disease areas in an exploratory manner in PSP are not eligible for this program.
- Due to the term length of the award, establishment of a new, prospective patient cohort is not in scope.

Program Eligibility:

The CurePSP Biomarker Accelerator Program is open to researchers at academic institutions and researchers at small companies (nonprofits and for-profit organizations). Partnership between academia and larger companies is allowed. Investigators can be located in the U.S. or internationally. For-profits and non-profits must provide documentation verifying status. We require small for-profit organizations to submit documentation of net assets and annual earnings for consideration, and documentation showing that your organization has segregation of duties between transaction execution and transaction recording. Preference may be given to for-profit companies with 50 or fewer employees.

The Principal Investigator of the project must be a full-time faculty member or paid employee of the organization submitting the proposal. If the applicant is not a paid employee, they must demonstrate that they are part of the company and a listed employee. Applications from post-doctoral researchers will not be accepted.

Current awardees of CurePSP are eligible, provided their other funded grant does not directly overlap with this proposal.

Please contact Jennifer Brummet at brummet@curepsp.org if you have any questions about your eligibility.

Award Overview:

The Biomarker Accelerator Program will fund each award up to $500,000 for the duration of the project. No indirect costs are allowed for this program. The proposed award term can be up to three years.

Budget spending should appropriately align to the award length, specific aims and proposed milestones of the project.

Allowable expenses for this grant will include salary and benefits for project personnel, and direct research expenses such as consumable supplies, facility use charges, special equipment, or other items required to conduct the proposed project. Funds can be used to support costs associated with data sharing, resource sharing, or open access publication. Funds can be used to support travel directly associated with the project- for example, travel between collaborator sites or to conduct parts of the proposed project at a different site. Travel expenses should be kept to a minimum, and should not exceed 5% of the overall budget. All travel should be detailed in the budget justification on the full proposal.

The Principal Investigator's and/or co-Principal Investigator's institution is expected to provide the required physical facilities and administrative services normally available in an institution. Unallowable expenses include facilities and administration costs (indirect costs), expenses related to IP protection (patents, licensing, or similar) secretarial/administrative salaries, conference travel, wire or bank transfer fees, books and periodicals, membership dues, office and laboratory furniture, office equipment and supplies, rental of office or laboratory space, recruiting and relocation expenses, personal services, or construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings or laboratories.

Grant payments will be sent to the contracted institution, and any subcontracts will be handled through the lead institution. The application should be submitted to CurePSP by the institution/organization that employs the Principal Investigator.

In the event of an award, CurePSP will work with the PI and PI's institution to complete an award contract that outlines annual reporting requirements, payment schedule, and other conditions of the award. CurePSP plans to work with awardees to find a mutually agreeable way for awardees to engage with our community- for example, a presentation or written piece discussing the proposed project or its results.

CurePSP will waive intellectual property rights to any project outcomes.

Timeline:

- Letter of Intent Launch: October 15, 2025
- Letter of Intent Deadline: December 15, 2025, 5:00 PM US Eastern Time
- Letter of Intent Decision Notification: By January 31, 2026
- Full Proposal Deadline: March 31, 2026, 5:00 PM US Eastern Time

● Application Review: Spring - Summer 2026

● Award Notifications – By September 2026

Letter of Intent Instructions:

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is a required first step in the application process.

Please read these full instructions carefully and plan in advance to ensure all components will be complete at the time you submit your proposal, including required signatures.

Required components of the application include the following sections to be completed as online forms in PropsosalCentral. Additional instructions will be available on screen in ProposalCentral. No applications, nor any parts of or updates to the application, will be accepted if submitted after the deadline or if sent directly to CurePSP by electronic or U.S. mail.

ProposalCentral:

LOIs must be submitted through ProposalCentral (https://ProposalCentral.altum.com)

- Applicants who do not yet have an account with ProposalCentral need to register as a new user and provide the requested professional profile information before proceeding.
- If you are already registered with ProposalCentral, access the site with your current username and password. You can click on "Forgot Your Username/Password" to reset your password.
- Once you are logged in, you can access the application by selecting the "Grant Opportunities" tab. You can filter the list to display only CurePSP grant opportunities.
- Locate the Biomarker Accelerator Program, and click on Apply Now to begin an application.
- To return to an in-progress application, log in as an Applicant and navigate to the Proposals tab to access your in-progress proposal.

If you have difficulty registering, logging in, or starting your application, please contact ProposalCentral customer support by phone at (800)875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Contacts:

For technical issues, please contact ProposalCentral customer support by phone at (800)875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

For questions about eligibility, your application, or the review process, please contact Jennifer Brummet at brummet@curepsp.org

Step-By-Step LOI Instructions:

1. Title Page: Enter project title

2. Download Templates and Instructions: Download a biosketch template and application instructions.
3. Enable Other Users to Access this proposal, including an institution administrator
4. Principal investigator: Review and confirm the information is correct or edit your professional profile.
5. Institution: Please confirm the appropriate institution is selected. The PI should be an employee at this institution, and this should be the institution that would administer the award and receive the grant payment in the event of an award
6. Project Summary, Team, and Feasibility:
    - Project summary: Enter directly in ProposalCentral; maximum 6,000 characters.
        - Brief project overview, including background, rationale, description of the existing discovery work, description of preliminary data, and the proposed next steps for translation.
        - Case for translation: Potential use case of the biomarker; how it would further PSP translational research, clinical research, or clinical care; scalability and accessibility of the proposed biomarker.
        - Brief overview of the specific aims of the proposed project.
        - You can also upload up to one page of figures or graphs (see "Attachments" below).
    - Team: Enter directly in ProposalCentral; maximum 2,500 characters.
        - Project team: Please list all other collaborators, consultants, or other personnel that will be involved with the project.
    - Feasibility: Enter directly in ProposalCentral; maximum 2,500 characters.
        - Include a brief overview of your access to the facilities, equipment, biospecimens, or other resources that are necessary for the success of the project.
7. Attachments:
    - Upload biosketches for all project personnel.
    - Upload a W8 or W9 form for the lead institution/company.
    - Preliminary data: Max 1 page. Include figures or graphs of preliminary data.
    - For U.S. entities, upload documentation of your organization's not-for-profit status and a W9 signed and dated by the signing official. Non-U.S. entities must provide a W8 signed and dated by the signing official.
    - Small for-profit organizations must submit documentation of net assets and annual earnings for consideration, and documentation showing that your organization has segregation of duties between transaction execution and transaction recording.
8. PI Data Sheet: Please enter your personal demographics. Applicant information is pre-loaded from the applicant's Professional Profile and can be updated directly

on this page. These fields will not be visible to reviewers or used as part of the review process. These fields will be visible to CurePSP staff and will be used to help CurePSP understand our granting programs through analysis of aggregated data.

9. Validate: Click the 'Validate' button on the screen to check for any missing required information. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step. Validating the proposal does not submit the application to CurePSP. You must proceed to the submission page and click the Submit button there to complete the process.
10. Submit: To submit your Proposal, please click the 'Submit' button below. You will be unable to submit if you have not provided all the required information. Any missing information will be listed on the screen. If your submission is successful, you will receive a confirmation message on the screen and a confirmation email from pcsupport@altum.com will be sent to the applicant. Please add pcsupport@altum.com to your safe senders list to ensure receipt of your submission.

Your LOI will not be accepted without the required information and documents.

Evaluation of LOIs:

All LOIs will be evaluated prior to invitation for a full proposal. Only LOIs that meet program-specific guidelines and meet review criteria will be invited to submit full applications. LOIs will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the priorities of the RFA, including a focus on accelerating biomarkers for PSP.

2. Evidence of preliminary data with a strong case and plan for translation

3. Potential for impact on PSP research or clinical care

4. Evidence of quality specific aims and scientific rigor

5. Priority may be given to proposals that include interdisciplinary teams and those that involve early career researchers to accomplish the proposed project.

All applicants will receive an email informing them if their LOI is invited to submit a full proposal or not. Formal feedback is not provided for LOIs.

Full Proposal Instructions:

For applicants invited to submit a full application, additional materials and information will be required. Please see below for application instructions. Final instructions will be provided after LOI approval.

All proposal attachments should follow the formatting and content requirements listed below.

Font Type/Size: Use 11-point Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial as the minimum font size for the text of the application. 9-point Times New Roman, Calibri or 9-point Arial may be used for figures, legends, and tables.

Spacing: Single-spaced text is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.

Margins: The margins of your text should be at least 1 inch all around ("normal" setting in MS Word).

Required components of the application include the following sections to be completed as online forms in PropsosalCentral or submitted as individual proposal attachments in PDF format. Additional instructions will be available on screen in ProposalCentral and within downloadable templates for proposal attachments. No applications, nor any parts of or updates to the application, will be accepted if submitted after the deadline or if sent directly to CurePSP by electronic or U.S. mail.

For technical issues, please contact ProposalCentral customer support by phone at (800)875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

For questions about eligibility, your application, or the review process, please contact Jennifer Brummet at brummet@curepsp.org

Step-By-Step Instructions:

1. **Title Page**:
    a. Please enter a project title (75 characters max).
    b. Enter the total amount requested ($500,000 maximum).
    c. Enter your proposed project start and end date. Award terms can be up to three years.

2. **Instructions and templates**: The application instructions can be downloaded from this page. Additionally, you can download templates for the biosketch and research plan.

3. **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal**: You can give other users viewing, editing, or administrative access to your grant application (for example, a collaborator, or university administrator).
    a. An electronic signature is required for submission of your proposal. Please ensure your institution's signatory has Edit access on this screen.

4. **Principal Investigator**: Select the PI from the list. Review and confirm the information is correct or edit your professional profile.

5. **Key Personnel**: Please enter the names and contact information for all co-PIs, collaborators, consultants, or other key personnel involved with the proposal. An ORCID ID is required for the PI.
    a. Co-PIs share project design and project execution responsibilities with the PI. Collaborators are often defined as individuals who will participate actively in the study and bring a specific set of expertise; they may contribute to the scientific design. Consultants are defined as individuals who will provide any combination of advice, services, guidance, and reagents without as much "hands- on" involvement in the development or execution of the project. We encourage you to include letters of intent to collaborate or consult in the Appendix. Details of contractual arrangements with collaborators or consultants should be provided in the Justification of Budget section of the application.
    b. * The PI (not other personnel) is responsible for honoring their obligations to CurePSP, executing the proposed research plan, communicating with CurePSP, and fulfilling the reporting requirements.

6. **Institutional Support**: Please enter contact information for your signing official, department head, and financial officer. This includes the authorized signing official that will provide the e-signature required for submission (see #14 below).

7. **Abstracts**: Please enter a lay abstract and a technical abstract.
    a. **Lay Abstract**: 2,000 characters. The abstract should be written for a general audience. Technical terms should be minimized or explained, and Greek characters and other symbols should be avoided or spelled out. Provide an overview of the proposed project and its potential to impact research or clinical care in PSP.
    b. **Technical Abstract**: 3,000 characters. Please provide a clear, concise overview of the proposed work by addressing the following points:
        a. Background: Provide a brief statement of the ideas and preliminary data behind the proposed work.
        b. Objective and Hypothesis: State the objectives and hypothesis to be tested. Cite evidence or provide a rationale that supports it.
        c. Specific Aims: Concisely state the specific aims of the study.
        d. Study Design: Briefly describe the study design, emphasizing those elements you consider most relevant to assignment of the proposal for peer review.
        e. Case for Translation: Provide a brief statement explaining the potential relevance to PSP. If this application is funded, this description will become public information. Therefore, do not include proprietary or confidential information.
        f. Potential to impact research or clinical care in PSP.

8. Budget Period Detail: Enter a proposed project/budget start and end date. Enter costs for relevant budget categories.
    a. Personnel: Names and positions of all personnel must be individually listed and the percentage of time to be devoted to the project by each person should be noted, even when salary is not requested. If the individual has not been selected, please list as "vacancy." The costs to the institution of employee fringe benefits should be indicated as a percentage of the employee's salary. The amount of fringe benefits requested must be prorated to the salary requested. (For example, if 50% of an individual's annual salary is requested then no more than 50% of that individual's annual cost for fringe benefits can be requested.) The costs for overheads are not covered by funds from CurePSP.
    b. Permanent Equipment: Defined as all items costing over $500 with a useful life of 3 or more years. List separately and justify the need for each item of equipment. Applicants are encouraged to keep permanent equipment to a minimum.
    c. Consumables: Group into major categories (e.g. glassware, chemicals, radioisotopes, survey materials, animals).
    d. Miscellaneous Expenditures: List specific amounts for each item; examples of expenditures allowed include: publication costs, special fees (e.g., publication costs, pathology, computer time and scientific software, and equipment maintenance).
    e. Subcontracts: If any portion of the proposed research is to be carried out at another institution, enter the total costs and provide information on the use of the funds.
    f. Travel. A list of all planned travel should be provided here. Please note that travel funds should be directly related to the proposed work, and total no more than 5% of the requested budget.
    g. Total Amount Requested: Budget totals should reflect a maximum duration of three years, $500,000.

9. **Budget Summary and Justification**: Max 3,000 characters. Justify all items of equipment costing over $500, and the need for personnel, supplies, travel, and other miscellaneous items.

10. **Current and Pending Support**: Please add all of your existing and pending support. CurePSP will not provide funding that is redundant with that from other sources, but recognizes that some projects will require funding from multiple sources to cover expenses. Indicate overlap with proposed project.
    a. **Current Support**: List all current awards; give the source of funds, grant number, title of project, period of time covered by the grant, the amount of direct cost support for current year and total grant period, and percent effort. Outline the

goals of the project in a brief two or three sentence paragraph. If necessary, an explanatory letter should be included in the appendix to clarify the differences between the present application to the CurePSP and currently funded projects.

b. **Pending Support**: List all pending applications to other funding sources for research support; identify those applications to be considered on an either/or basis with the CurePSP application. For pending support that is either/or with the CurePSP application, only one award can be accepted if both are approved for funding.

11. **PI Data Sheet**: Please enter your personal demographics. Applicant information is pre-loaded from the applicant's Professional Profile and can be updated directly on this page. These fields will not be visible to reviewers or used as part of the review process. These fields will be visible to CurePSP staff and will be used to help CurePSP understand our granting programs through analysis of aggregated data.

12. **Attachments**: Please upload the below components of your proposal as attachments.
    a. **Biosketches**: Upload a biosketch for the PI, co-PI, collaborator, and any other key personnel. Follow NIH-format. Max. 5 pages per researcher. A template is available, or, you can access the latest NIH biosketch template online here.
    b. **Research Plan**: Max 4. Pages. A template is available. You can insert figures. Limit research plan to max. 4 pages. There is no need to discuss PSP fundamentals. Proposals should be realistic in terms of work to be accomplished in the period of time for which support is requested.
        i. Background and Significance: Summarize the background, rationale, description of existing discovery work, and preliminary data that this project aims to build upon.
        ii. Specific Aims: List the objectives and goal of the research proposed and describe the specific aims briefly in order of priority.
        iii. Research Design and Methods: Describe your proposed methods and procedures in sufficient detail to permit evaluation by other scientists. Discuss potential difficulties and imitations of the methods and procedures, and provide alternative approaches. If there are specific go, no-go metrics your team will consider throughout the course of the project, please detail those. Order your priorities, and estimate the length of time that you believe will be required to complete each specific aim.
    c. **Case for Translation**: Max 2 pages. Describe the potential use case of the biomarker, and discuss the context of use for the proposed biomarker. Describe how this biomarker and project would further PSP translational research, clinical research, or clinical care. Describe scalability and accessibility of the proposed biomarker.
    d. **Feasibility**: Max 1 page. Please include an overview of the facilities, equipment, biospecimens, or other resources that are necessary for the success of the project

and describe your access to these resources. If they are not currently available to you, please detail the current status and expected timelines.

e. **Team**: Max 1 page. Please list all co-PIs, collaborators, consultants, or other personnel that will be involved with the project with a brief description of their role and contribution.

f. **Milestones/Deliverables**: Max 1 page. Create a comprehensive list of milestones and deliverables including a timeline when those are due. It is recommended to visualize the timeline using e.g. a Gantt chart. You can insert figures here.
    i. If there are specific go, no-go metrics your team will consider throughout the course of the project, please include those in this document.

g. **Data Sharing Plan**: Max 1 page. A template with further details is available for download in ProposalCentral. Describe the types of data or tools that will be generated, where they will be made available, when the data will be shared, and where results will be disseminated. As a reminder, CurePSP awards will support costs associated with data sharing and open-access publishing if requested in the budget.

h. **References**: No page limit. Each literature citation should include the author names, title, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.

i. **Appendix**: Optional; no page limit. No figures or references should be included in the appendix.
    i. Applicants can upload letters from collaborators or organizations confirming access to key resources, assurances and certifications, or support letters.
    ii. All activities involving human subjects or vertebrate animals must be approved by an appropriate institutional committee before the application will be funded by the CurePSP. Furthermore, compliance with current US Department of Health and Human Services guidelines for financial conflict of interest, recombinant DNA, research misconduct, and vertebrate animals is required. The assurances and certifications are made and verified by the signature of the institutional official signing the application. Assurances and certificates may be included into the Appendix.

13. **Validate Application**: Click the 'Validate' button below to check for any missing REQUIRED information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step - SUBMISSION. Validating the proposal DOES NOT submit the application to the funder. You must proceed to the submission page and click the Submit button there to complete the process.

14. **Signature Page**: Enter the name of a signing official for your institution/organization on the Institutional Support page. They will receive a prompt to complete an e-signature for this proposal. This signature is required on the Signature Page for submission.

    a. **Download application**: Optional. After you complete the signature and validation, you can download a PDF of your application for your records. Note: It may generate a cover page with many blank fields. This page does not need to be filled in prior to submission.

15. **Submit**: To submit your Proposal, please click the 'Submit' button below. You will be unable to submit if you have not provided all the required information. Any missing information will be listed on the screen. If your submission is successful, you will receive a confirmation message on the screen and a confirmation email from pcsupport@altum.com will be sent to the applicant. Please add pcsupport@altum.com to your safe senders list to ensure receipt of your submission.

Evaluation of Proposals:

Proposals will be evaluated by reviewers with expertise in PSP, biomarkers (fluid, imaging, or digital), assay development, and other relevant areas needed to assess the proposals.

Reviewers may be from academia, non-profit, and industry. All reviewers will sign a confidentiality and conflict of interest agreement.

CurePSP prioritizes partnering with like-minded organizations that share our goal of furthering PSP research. Proposals may be shared with CurePSP's partners for co-funding consideration. Our partners will sign the same confidentiality and conflict of interest agreement as our reviewers.

Proposals will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

1. Research aims: Proposals will be scored for evidence of quality aims and scientific rigor.
2. Case for translation: Proposals will be evaluated based on the evidence of preliminary data and the case and plan for translation.
3. Potential impact: Proposals will be reviewed for alignment with priorities of the RFA, including a focus on accelerating biomarkers for PSP, and, the potential to impact PSP research or clinical care.
4. Budget and timeline: Proposals will be reviewed for an appropriate budget for the proposed work. Proposals will be reviewed for an appropriate scope of work in the time proposed.
5. Team composition and feasibility: Proposals will be reviewed for the appropriate team for the proposed work. Proposals will also be reviewed for feasibility, such as ensuring the

team can perform the proposed work, access to the required facilities and biospecimens. Priority may be given to proposals that include interdisciplinary teams and those that involve early career researchers to accomplish the proposed project.