CurePSP Pathway and Pipeline Grant Application

Last updated: July 2024

Program Overview:

Through the Pathway and Pipeline Grant program, CurePSP provides seed funding to investigators who have innovative ideas that need proof of concept or pilot studies in order to qualify for larger funding sources. CurePSP provides grants to scientists of up to $100,000, for one- or two-year studies. Proposals are carefully evaluated by our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) in collaboration with our Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

CurePSP will fund studies focusing on PSP and CBD, two rare tauopathies, through two avenues, the pathway grants or pipeline grants program.

Pathway grants support projects studying the fundamental neurobiology of PSP or CBD. A more complete understanding of the underlying basic science and biochemical or molecular mechanisms of PSP and CBD will improve understanding of the diseases and provide foundational knowledge for future treatments. Studies focusing on mechanisms common to multiple neurogenerative diseases are encouraged.

Examples of pathway grant topics include (but are not limited to) tau biology and pathobiology, epigenetics and epigenomics, synaptic dysfunction/lost, neuroinflammation, new preclinical models (i.e. organoids), or approaches that elucidate other underlying molecular or cellular mechanisms of PSP or CBD.

Pipeline grants support translational projects focusing on new therapeutics and biomarkers for PSP and CBD. These projects will accelerate the development of therapeutics that can prevent, treat, or cure PSP or CBD by accelerating the translation of basic science discoveries into disease modifying treatments.

Examples of pipeline grant topics include (but are not limited to) symptomatic drug trials, the development of diagnostic biomarkers or other biomarkers with clear *context of use*, or rehabilitation strategies for motor and nonmotor deficits.

Important Dates:

- **August 2024**: Application submission opens through ProposalCentral.
- **October 3, 2024**: Submissions due by 5pm ET.
- **By February 2025**: Award notifications sent out.
- **March 1, 2025**: Earliest possible start date.

Eligibility:

CurePSP accepts proposals for research projects from international academic and research-conducting nonprofit organizations. CurePSP does not accept applications from country which is subject to trade sanctions or embargos by the U.S. government or who is a "blocked person" within the meaning of U.S Department of Treasury regulations.

All PIs must have an academic degree in science, social work, engineering, or medicine such as a ScD, PhD, MD, MD/PhD, DO, DSW, and DVM degree. Early career investigators are encouraged to apply. Postdoctoral fellows and medical fellows are eligible to apply.

Projects:

The Pathway and Pipeline Grant program focuses on PSP and CBD. If other tauopathies or proteinopathies are used for investigation, a strong cross-disease link must be part of the project's rationale. If you have questions about whether your proposal is a fit for our program, please contact Dr. Jennifer Brummet, CurePSP's Associate Director of Scientific Affairs and Partnerships, brummet@curepsp.org.

Use of Funds:

CurePSP research grants are not designed to cover the total cost of the research proposed nor the PI's entire compensation. The PI's institution is expected to provide the required physical facilities and administrative services normally available in an institution. **CurePSP's research grants do not provide money for facilities and administration costs (indirect costs),** or funds for such items as: secretarial/administrative salaries, 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.

CurePSP agrees to pay all direct but no indirect costs for this project.

Research Grants are intended to fit a variety of needs in scientific investigations related to PSP and/or CBD. A grant is generally made to cover the cost of such items as salaries and benefits for professional and technical personnel, special equipment, supplies, and other miscellaneous items required to conduct the proposed research. Funds can be used to support costs associated with data sharing or open access publication. Budgets submitted must be realistic estimates of the funds required for the proposed research. Because of its limited resources, CurePSP and its SAB Peer Review Process expect applicants to exercise considerable budget restraint.

Flexibility: It is the intent of CurePSP to be flexible in response to the changing needs of a research program. The PI may make minor alterations within the approved budget except where such expenditures conflict with the policies of CurePSP. Major changes e.g. change of milestones and deliverables) require written approval from Dr. Jennifer Brummet, CurePSP's Associate Director of Scientific Affairs and Partnerships, by email (brummet@curepsp.org).

<u>**Formatting:**</u>

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

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).

<u>Application Instructions</u>

Full Proposals: due by October 3, 5:00 PM ET

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 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.

ProposalCentral:

Proposals 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 Pathway and Pipeline Grant 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 Instructions:
   1. **Title Page:**

a. Please enter a project title (75 characters max).
b. Project Category: Please select whether you are applying to "Pipeline" or "Pathway"
c. Enter the total amount requested ($100,000 maximum), and whether you are requesting a one- or two-year award period.
d. Please indicate if this is a resubmission; if yes, please enter the date of previous submission.

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 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. Collaborators are defined as individuals who will participate actively in the design and execution of the studies whereas consultants are defined as individuals who will provide any combination of advice, guidance, and reagents without "hands- on" involvement in the project). 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 the co-PI or 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.
    b. Technical Abstract: 3,000 characters. Please provide a clear, concise overview of the proposed work by addressing the following points:
        Background: Provide a brief statement of the ideas and reasoning behind the proposed work. Objective and Hypothesis: State the objectives and hypothesis to be tested. Cite evidence or provide a rationale that supports it.
        Specific Aims: Concisely state the specific aims of the study.

Study Design: Briefly describe the study design, emphasizing those elements you consider most relevant to assignment of the proposal for peer review.

Scientific Relevance: Provide a brief statement explaining the potential relevance to tauopathies. If this application is funded, this description will become public information. Therefore, do not include proprietary or confidential information.

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 2 or more years. List separately and justify the need for each item of equipment. The maximum allowable for durable equipment is $8,000.

   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 a categorical breakdown on a continuation budget page.

   f. **Travel**. PIs are expected to present their results at CurePSP's annual research symposium following completion of the award. Travel and lodging expenses for this meeting can be requested here. A list of all planned travel should be provided here. Please note that CurePSP funds shall not be used for travel costs not approved in the budget as awarded.

   g. **Total Amount Requested**: Budget totals should reflect a maximum duration of 2 years, $100,000.

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, 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 or CBD fundamentals. Proposals should be realistic in terms of work to be accomplished in the period of time for which support is requested. Although it is permissible to submit applications on an "either/or" basis with other agencies, proposals should be adjusted to fit CurePSP's term and budget constraints.
        i. Specific Aims: List the objectives and goal of the research proposed and describe the specific aims briefly in order of priority.
        ii. Background and Significance: Concisely summarize and critically evaluate related work done by others and specifically state how the successful completion of the work proposed the in specific aims of the application will advance scientific knowledge or aspects of clinical practice.
        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. Order your priorities, and estimate the length of time that you believe will be required to complete each specific aim. Although the time estimated should not exceed the term for which support is requested, it is helpful to state how this project fits in with your long term research goals.
    c. **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.
    d. **Data Sharing Plan**: Max 1. page. A template with further details is available for download in ProposalCentral. Describe the types of data 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 open-access publishing if requested in the budget.
    e. **References**: No page limit. Each literature citation should include the author names, title, book or journal, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication.

    f. **Appendix**: Optional; no page limit. Upload assurances and certifications, support letters No figures or references should be included in the appendix.

        i. 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.

Overview of Required Application Materials:

Please see below for an overview of all required proposal components listed above. All materials need to be submitted through ProposalCentral in one of two ways as detailed below: 1) entered directly into ProposalCentral's web forms, or 2) uploaded as an attachment.

Required application components	Length	How to submit
Title and applicant information	Complete the fields in Proposal Central	Enter in ProposalCentral
Lay Abstract	2,000 characters	Enter in ProposalCentral
Technical Abstract	3,000 characters	Enter in ProposalCentral
Budget and budget justification	Complete the fields in Proposal Central	Enter in ProposalCentral
Biosketch	Max. 5 pages per researcher	Attachment
Other Support	Complete the fields in ProposalCentral	Enter in ProposalCentral
Research Plan	Max. 4 pages	Attachment

Milestones/Deliverables/Figures/Gantt Chart	Max. 1 page	Attachment
Data sharing plan	Max. 1 page	Attachment
References	No page limit	Attachment
Appendix (Assurances and Certification; Support Letters)	No page limit (should not include figures or references)	Attachment

Evaluation:

Applications are peer-reviewed by the CurePSP Scientific Advisory Board, and funding decisions are made by the Executive Director and Board of Directors.

Proposals are reviewed for:

- Scientific merit: Strengths and weaknesses of the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses of the proposed aims.
- Fit for CurePSP's Pathway and Pipeline grant program: This program prioritizes providing seed funding for projects in high-priority research areas related to PSP or CBD. Junior investigators are encouraged to apply.
- Budget, data sharing plan, and timeline: Is the budget appropriate for the proposed project? Is the data sharing plan appropriate for the proposed project? Is the project feasible for the proposed award period?