



Research Grants

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Research Grant Application Guidelines

Applications for the 2026 DSF Grant Application Cycle are due on Friday, August 21st

Research Grant Awards are intended for established, experienced, independent investigators affiliated with a research or academic institution whose proposed projects investigate hypotheses directly related to Dravet syndrome. Proposals are scored according to NIH guidelines based on the quality of preliminary data, research design, feasibility, investigator's qualifications, and overall impact. Grants are awarded for \$250,000 over 2 years (beginning January 1 of each year), with indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the award.

Investigators applying for a research grant should ensure their proposed project addresses the needs of the Dravet syndrome community and DSF's mission to support research toward better treatments and a cure for Dravet syndrome.

Eligibility: Applicants should be affiliated with a research or academic institution (excluding for-profit companies), may be US or foreign based, established in their field, and in good standing with their institution.

Our priority areas include:

- Understanding the mechanisms of epileptogenesis in Dravet syndrome.
- Development of enhanced models to study Dravet syndrome.
- Understanding of the cellular, molecular, and genetic mechanisms that contribute to the pathogenesis of Dravet syndrome.
- Revealing causes and interventions for comorbidities in Dravet syndrome.
- Understanding causes and developing interventions for SUDEP.
- Development of novel treatments and interventions that will prevent the onset or halt the progression of Dravet syndrome. This includes research that may overcome the current size and delivery hurdles for gene-therapy approaches.

Application Instructions

Applications which do not include the following materials and meet the specified page limitations will be returned unprocessed, or will be deferred until a subsequent granting cycle.

- Please use a size 11 font or larger with margins of at least 0.5 inches.
- All documents should be submitted as PDFs. Each file name should include the lead investigator's last name and the document section name (as listed below; i.e. "Jones_FacePage").
- Applications must be received by 11:59pm (US Pacific Time) on the specified due date.

1. Face Page – found here

Fillable PDF form that must be signed by applicant and an institutional grants program official.

If submitting a collaborative, multi-investigator grant, please include a Face Page for each. The lead investigator's information should be listed in the application submission. If all investigators are all employed by the same institution, the signing official is only required to sign the lead-PI's FacePage.

2. Scientific Abstract and Lay abstract – 1 page

Please include a single page including a scientific abstract and a lay abstract.

The scientific abstract should convey the hypothesis, goals, importance, and impact of the research.

The lay abstract should convey the same information in language appropriate for someone without scientific training to understand clearly. The lay abstract is used in the Board of Director's decision making process following scientific review and care should be taken that the description is clear, accurate, and emphasizes the realistic impacts of the project.

3. Budget Page – 1 page

Often displayed as a table, the budget page should include a simple numeric breakdown of how grant funds will be utilized, including indirect costs and a final total of the funds being requested.

Indirect costs of no more than 10% of the total award are permitted, and must be included within the \$250,000 budget.

If the total budget for your project exceeds the amount you are requesting from DSF, your budget page must include a breakdown of how all funds, including those from other sources, will be used.

4. Budget Justification – 1 page

The budget justification page should provide an explanation and rationale of each line item of the budget including why specific personnel and/or supplies are critical to the proposed study.

5. Hypothesis and Specific Aims – 1 page

Please use a single page to lay out the hypothesis and rationale for the proposal including the specific aims to be accomplished.

6. Research Plan – 4 pages

This should include background, preliminary data, experimental approach, methods, expected outcomes and discussion of potential pitfalls and alternative approaches

7. Impact Statement – ½ page

A statement on how the research will impact the understanding, treatment or care of people with Dravet syndrome or related epilepsy

8. Bibliography – no page limit

Please provide citations in NIH format (listing all authors)

9. CV/Biosketch – not to exceed 4 pages

Please use NIH format (an example can be [found here](#)).

For multi-PI applications, please submit a CV/Biosketch for each PI.

Applications undergo a rigorous NIH-style scientific review process and final decisions are made by the DSF Board of Directors, ensuring projects funded by DSF meet high scientific standards and align with the most pressing needs of the patient community. DSF takes integrity around our grant review process seriously, carefully avoiding conflicts of interest for scientific grant reviewers and panels and bringing in additional reviewers from relevant research fields when necessary to avoid conflicts of interest and ensure reviewers have the appropriate expertise to evaluate the submissions.

Applicants will be informed of the status of their application by late November, following scientific review and final decisions by DSF's Board of Directors. Awardees are then announced publicly at the annual DSF Research Roundtable that is held just prior to the American Epilepsy Society Meeting.

Step 1: Download/fill out the editable PDFs Below

Research Grant Application Face Page

CV/Biosketch

Step 2: Upload all required files as PDFs via the form below

Note: The application fields will populate automatically after you select the grant category for which you are applying.

Name *(Required)*

First

Last

Email *(Required)*

Phone *(Required)*

Which are you applying for?
(Required)

- ☐ Transformational Science Grant
- ☐ Research Grant
- ☐ Clinical Research Grant
- ☐ Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant
- ☐ Clinician Researcher Award

Notes

Submit

 English

Dravet Syndrome Foundation, Inc

Contact Us

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FEIN #27-0924627
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