

Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life for individuals and families worldwide affected by GBS, CIDP and variants by:

- ▶ Providing a network for all patients, their caregivers and families so that GBS or CIDP patients can depend on the Foundation for support and reliable, up-to-date information.
- ▶ Providing public and professional educational programs worldwide designed to heighten awareness and improve the understanding and treatment of GBS, CIDP and variants.
- ▶ Expanding the Foundation's role in sponsoring research and engaging in patient advocacy.

For more information, please contact:

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Non-profit 501(c)(3)



Research Grants



Introduction

Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), also called acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuritis and Landry's ascending paralysis, is an acute or subacute symmetrically paralyzing disorder reflective of underlying demyelination and sometimes axonal damage of the peripheral nerves. Although rare, GBS can be devastating, leading in some cases to respiratory failure and, rarely, to long term major disability. Eventually, most patients return to a normal or near normal lifestyle, but may have a protracted recovery until they are again able to walk. The causes of and better treatments for GBS as well as other chronic inflammatory neuropathies, such as chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculopathy (CIDP), are in need of investigation. There is a role for multiple lines of research, including determination of better education methods for the medical and lay communities about these disorders, clarification of their pathogenesis, as well as development of better treatment options.

Funding Sources

As part of the GBS|CIDP Foundation International's mission to provide education and support research, we offer research grants to qualified applicants. Contributions from individuals who have been personally touched by GBS or CIDP and by several commercial sources. Through the generosity of these contributors, to whom the Foundation is most grateful, we are able to offer a Research Grants Program. The GBS|CIDP Foundation International has world-wide representation, sharing resources with local support group chapters nationally and internationally. The Foundation's Global Medical Advisory Board includes many of the most respected clinicians and researchers in the field.

Areas of Interest

Foundation interests include GBS, both demyelinating and axonal variants, Miller Fisher syndrome, CIDP, multifocal motor neuropathy, and others. Research interests cover a broad range of subjects including development of methods to more rapidly diagnose these disorders, creation of educational and communication programs to inform patients and families of the Foundation's availability, identification of mechanisms involved in the pathogenesis of family disorders, development of more effective treatments to limit the disease process, prevent complications and reduce long-term adverse sequelae.

Grants Amounts

The Foundation awards up to \$60,000. The application request may be utilized to apply for funding a project in its entirety or in part. If the application is to fund part of a project then the component to be funded by the Foundation should be clearly delineated with respect to the total research activity.

Proposals may address any aspect of GBS, CIDP or a variant. We do accept requests from international sources. We encourage all interested parties to submit applications. Even if not funded, we express our sincerest thanks to the entire GBS research community for efforts on behalf of our patients.

Application Guidelines

Grants are supplied for a period of one year. The application process utilizes two steps more fully described below. Initially a letter of intent is requested that summarizes the research plan. If the applicant is thereafter notified, a complete application is then requested. In keeping with guidelines of the Foundation's Board of Directors and Grant Application Review (GAR) Committee, applications are not accepted from members of this committee or their immediate associates. Foundation Global Medical Advisory Board members who are not on the GAR Committee are permitted and invited to submit an application.

Letters of intent, and if requested, full proposals should be sent as a pdf file to: grants@gbs-cidp.org

Details of the Application Procedure

LETTER OF INTENT

Applicants should submit a one page Letter of Intent by November 1. The Letter should contain the following information: title of the project, name and title of investigator(s) along with their contact information (department and institution name, address, phone number, and email address) and a synopsis of the proposal not to exceed 300 words. The letter should be typed in 12 point, Times Roman font, with 1" margins. A PDF file should be submitted to the organization by email. Receipt of the letter will be acknowledged by email. Notification by email to submit or not submit a full application will be made by December 10.

THE COMPLETE APPLICATION

If notification to submit a full application is received, the following structure should be followed.

a. Format. The application should be typed, double spaced, in 8 1/2" x 11" format with no less than a 1" borders in 12 point Times Roman font. Submit a PDF of the proposal to grants@gbs-cidp.org. The top of each page should contain in the header on one line, the principal investigator's first initial and last name, and an abbreviated title of the project. Pages should be numbered sequentially at the lower right corner in the footer.

b. Cover Page. This should list the principal investigator(s) and title(s), organization affiliation(s), tax exempt number if applicable, and contact name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address and title of the research project. If funding is sought for a component of a research project, list the project and that part for which funding is sought.

c. Synopsis. Page 2, on the upper half, should be used for a synopsis in scientific language of the research project. It should include (1) objective or rationale for study (2) methods and (3) potential outcomes and implications. On the lower half of the same page, provide the **Impact Statement in lay language**, at a level suitable for the non-scientist/physician with a college background.

d. Detailed description of proposed study. The description should not exceed five pages. If funds are to support a specific component of a larger project, the component should be explained in detail, as well as how it relates to the larger project. Recommended subject headings include:

1. Specific Aims or Objectives, background information, rationale for study and any preliminary results to support the proposal, if available;
2. Methods. Use language that will be comprehensible to experts in GBS but not necessarily familiar with the methodology; use only acronyms and abbreviations that are clearly explained;
3. Data analysis: how the data will be analyzed and expected statistical or other methods that will be used;
4. Timeline for the project.

e. Budget. Designate whether funding is for the entire project or a component of a project. No funds will be provided for overhead, indirect costs, etc. The budget should be itemized accordingly. If funding is sought for a component of a project, provide relevant information regarding funding for the rest of the project, including anticipated or known sources.

f. Appendices. The Appendix should list the following items, each on a separate page: 1) Bibliography; 2) Biosketch of the Principal Investigator(s); and 3) Job descriptions of each relevant staff member.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Grant Award recipient shall provide a six-month progress report, and a final report at the end of the project year in two versions, one at a scientific level and the other at a non-scientific level. The final report should include plans, where applicable, to submit results of the research for peer reviewed publication and, as may be warranted, copies of any meeting presentations in abstract form or manuscripts. The end date of the study period is one year from the award check made on July 1.

APPLICATION PROCESS SCHEDULE

All correspondences can be submitted either by regular mail or email.

Investigators invited to submit a full application should be aware of the following schedule for reviewing grants:

- **November 1**
Letter of intent
- **December 15**
Notification of Grant Status and Full Application
- **January 31**
Full Application Deadline by Midnight
- **March 15**
Grant Committee Reviews Full Applications
- **April 15**
Presentation by Grant Committee to Board of Directors for Approval
- **May 30**
Announcement of awards