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Our 2024 funding cycle opens on September 15, 2023.
Letters of Intent are due by November 1.

Apply for Funding

The Hereditary Disease Foundation provides Postdoctoral Fellowships and Grants to researchers around the world to advance the discovery and development of treatments for Huntington's disease and other brain disorders. Our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) (<https://www.hdfoundation.org/scientific-advisory-board>) is composed of over 30 distinguished international scientists who set the scientific priorities for the Foundation. Each year, the Board reviews more than 100 grant and postdoctoral fellowship applications and selects the most groundbreaking research projects for funding.

Click [here](https://www.hdfoundation.org/funded-research-projects) (<https://www.hdfoundation.org/funded-research-projects>) to see currently funded projects.

The Hereditary Disease Foundation is committed to funding innovative research to cure Huntington's disease and impact other brain disorders. We have strategies in place for our grant funding programs to maximize our effectiveness. We have been passionate about funding catalytic and paradigm-changing research since our birth in 1968 – including identifying the Huntington's disease marker in 1983 and the HD gene in 1993, and supporting gene lowering approaches since 2002. We continue to make an impact by funding research that pushes the envelope.

Types of Funding

Postdoctoral Researcher Fellowships: These fellowships are intended to cultivate interest in Huntington's disease research by encouraging promising early career scientists (postdoctoral fellows or up to 7 years past completion of PhD). HDF awards **two-year fellowships of up to \$100,000 per year**. Beginning with the 2023 funding cycle, fellowships will be funded for a maximum of 2 years in total funding. *Postdoctoral researchers cannot reapply for additional funding for a new project.*

Research Grants: Grants provide more experienced researchers with the seed funding to enable them to collect the preliminary data needed to obtain major, long-term funding from other organizations, including **the National Institutes of Health**. The Hereditary Disease Foundation awards **one-year grants of \$100,000**.

With (1) evidence of substantial progress and clear, compelling rationales for continuation; (2) a written request by the grantee for a one-year extension of the project as part of the grant progress report; and (3) competitive review by the HDF review committee, a subset of grants will be selected for the renewal for an additional year of funding of up to \$100,000 (maximum possibility of one year renewal for two years in total funding).

Please feel free to share this notice with any researchers who may also be interested in applying.

Overview of Application Process

The Hereditary Disease Foundation accepts Letters of Intent (LOIs) for Postdoctoral Fellowships and Grants every year – see key dates below. HDF provides funding to researchers to advance the discovery and development of treatments for Huntington's disease and other brain diseases.

The process of applying for funding for either a Postdoctoral Fellowship or a Research Grant starts with an applicant's submission of an LOI through ProposalCentral

(<https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=262>) **between September 15, 2023 and November 1, 2023**. On ProposalCentral, click 'Apply Now' to begin your LOI.

LOIs should have a direct application to Huntington's disease. All LOIs related to HD are reviewed by a committee comprised of members of the SAB, who independently review and score each LOI. To be as respectful as possible to everyone's time, including the applicants writing the grants, only the LOIs that the SAB review committee consider the most impactful will have a full application requested.

HDF funds Research Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships at the post-graduate level. HDF grant and fellowship applicants must present a specific research plan. Please read FAQ before proceeding.

Key dates*

Letter of Intent Submission Dates

September 15, 2023 - November 1, 2023 (BY 11:59 PM ET)

Invitation to Submit Full Application

December 15, 2023

Application Deadline

February 15, 2024 (BY 11:59 PM ET)

Funding Decision

Early Spring, 2024

Start Date

May-June, 2024

*These dates are current for the 2024 Funding Cycle.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Grants

Before You Apply

HOW ARE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS REVIEWED?

The Hereditary Disease Foundation [Scientific Advisory Board](https://www.hdfoundation.org/scientific-advisory-board) (<https://www.hdfoundation.org/scientific-advisory-board>) sets the scientific priorities of the Foundation, reviews fellowship and grant applications, and selects the most groundbreaking research projects for funding. The SAB is comprised of over thirty of the world's leaders in basic science and clinical research, and includes clinicians specialized in Huntington's disease, and leading scientists from the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. Former and current members of our SAB include Nobel Prize recipients, National Academy of Science members, Royal Society members, American Academy of Arts and Sciences members, President's National Medal of Science recipients, MacArthur Foundation Genius Prize recipients, National Institutes of Health Directors, National Genome Research Institute, NIH Directors, and Society for Neuroscience Presidents.

WHAT IS THE REVIEW PROCESS?

The Hereditary Disease Foundation is nationally and globally renowned and recognized by leaders in the fields of medicine and science. HDF is dedicated to finding a cure for HD. LOIs should have a direct application to Huntington's disease. Only the most meritorious applicants with proven track records in their respective fields are awarded funding.

HDF fellowships and grants are among the most highly competitive and prestigious in the field. After initial review of Letters of Intent, short-listed applicants are invited to submit full applications for funding. These applications undergo thorough primary review by at least three SAB members. Each application is scored based on the criteria below, and a composite score is calculated for each application. Approximately half of the applications are reviewed by the full SAB before a final decision is made based on the overall proposed project and the excellence of the applicant in the field – including documented achievements and the research environment.

WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO JUDGE AND SCORE APPLICATIONS?

The SAB keeps the following criteria in mind to judge and score applications:

- 1) RELEVANCE: Will the proposed project contribute to identifying and understanding the fundamental defects in Huntington's disease or advance therapeutic development in HD?
- 2) NOVELTY: Are the expected findings novel?
- 3) SIGNIFICANCE: How will the expected findings advance the understanding of mechanisms involved in Huntington's disease? Will the work provide new model systems of HD? Will it provide a treatment or therapeutic avenue for HD? Will the findings constitute a resource for HD researchers?
- 4) HYPOTHESIS: Does the proposal put forward a hypothesis and is the hypothesis supported by background literature or preliminary data?
- 5) PLAN: Is the proposed scientific plan appropriate and feasible for addressing the question(s) the hypothesis intends to answer? Are the methodologies established? Are the experiments appropriately designed with sufficient power? Are the numbers of animals/subjects proposed in the plan sufficient to draw statistically sound conclusions?
- 6) APPLICANT: Is the applicant capable of conducting the proposed plan and interpreting the results? Does the applicant have a track record in publishable research?
- 7) ENVIRONMENT: Does the research environment provide the support needed to conduct the experiments

proposed? Are the facilities/equipment proposed to be used by the applicant available for use in the host institution?

8) BUDGET: Is the budget appropriate for the proposed plan?

WHO RECEIVES HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION FUNDING?

The Hereditary Disease Foundation gives highest priority to providing funding to investigators enthusiastic about launching a career in Huntington's disease research. These include postdoctoral fellows, instructors and new assistant professors.

DOES THE HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHERS?

Yes! The Hereditary Disease Foundation funds applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships and Grants for researchers working in laboratories around the world.

WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR AN HDF GRANT OR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP?

The Hereditary Disease Foundation accepts and reviews Letters of Intent and Funding Applications each year. Please see Key Dates for the most current key dates for Letters of Intent, Application deadlines, as well as review and decision dates. All dates are subject to change.

MENTORSHIP CRITERIA FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

The Postdoctoral Fellowship applicant's mentor must agree in advance to direct the proposed research. The Hereditary Disease Foundation cannot arrange laboratories and mentors for applicants.

WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships: Postdoctoral Fellowships are up to \$100,000 per year for two years for salary, supplies, equipment, and benefits. We will provide salary support based on the [NIH Guidelines](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-076.html) (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-076.html>) PER YEAR for the two years as well as additional funding for supplies, equipment, and benefits. 100% full-time professional effort should be given toward the project, even if the NIH Guidelines salary budget does not cover 100% institutional salary. Budget for salary should take precedence and should be allocated prior to funding for supplies, equipment, and benefits. If the requested NIH salary level does not cover 100% salary, salary should come from elsewhere.

THE HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION DOES NOT PAY INDIRECT COSTS (overhead costs). Please include amounts for Year 1 and Year 2 along with combined Total for both years. Fellowships are for two years.

Research Grants: Grants are up to \$100,000 for one year for salary, supplies, equipment, and benefits. THE HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION DOES NOT PAY INDIRECTS (overhead costs).

DOES THE HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION OFFER SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR SCIENTISTS?

The Hereditary Disease Foundation presents two special prizes each year – the Leslie Gehry Prize for Innovation in Science and the Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize. Each award is nominated and selected by a Prize Committee, not by application.

The [Leslie Gehry Prize for Innovation in Science](#) (/leslie-gehry-prize) is presented annually to recognize an outstanding scientist whose originality, spontaneity, precision, and rigor have advanced the search for treatments and cures for Huntington's disease and other brain disorders. The award was created by the acclaimed architect and HDF Founding Director Frank Gehry and his family in memory of his late daughter.

The Nancy S. Wexler Young Investigator Prize (<https://www.hdfoundation.org/nancy-s-wexler-prize>) honors the pioneering spirit, relentless dedication, and enduring optimism of Nancy S. Wexler, PhD, President of the Hereditary Disease Foundation. It is presented annually to an early career researcher whose work reflects the highest caliber of excellence, diligence, and creative thinking.

Post-Award

IS IT POSSIBLE TO TRANSFER MY GRANT TO ANOTHER INSTITUTION?

Yes. If you would like to transfer your grant to another institution, please request an Institutional Transfer of Grants/Postdoctoral Fellowships form by emailing Sarah Hernandez, PhD (<mailto:sarahhernandez@hdfoundation.org?cc=julieporter%40hdfoundation.org>), Director of Research Programs.

Prior approval from the Hereditary Disease Foundation is required for the transfer of the grant. A grantee's transfer of Institution may involve the transfer of equipment purchased with grant funds. A grantee may transfer his/her grant from a U.S. institution to a foreign institution. The transfer request must be made before the anticipated start date at the new institution. The transfer form can be directly uploaded to ProposalCentral and will require:

- A letter from Grantee requesting the transfer to include: Grantee's Name, Grant type and year, Current and New Institution, Date of Transfer, Transfer Type (Pre-Award Transfer - applies to grantees who have not received any funding from the HDF, or Active-Award Transfer - applies to grantees who have received at least one payment from the HDF).
- A relinquishment letter from the current institution
- A final financial report from the current institution, including the total amount of funds to be transferred to the new institution (please send the financial report with a check for any unexpended funds, made payable to the Hereditary Disease Foundation) (for active-award transfers only)
- An acceptance letter from the institution stating willingness to administer the grant
- A letter from an on-site mentor in the grantee's new department stating willingness to act in the capacity asserting that the project can continue as stated in the original grant application (for Postdoctoral Fellowships only)
- New mentor's CV/NIH biosketch (for Postdoctoral Fellowships only)
- A revised budget, if necessary
- Updated contact information (mailing address, phones, emails) for both the grantee and mentor(s)
- Updated contact information (name, mailing address, phone, email) for grants office

HOW DO I REPORT MY PROGRESS?

Each grantee or postdoctoral fellows must submit a progress report approximately every six months and a final report at the completion of the project that is satisfactory to the HDF's Scientific Advisory Board.

All reports, both interim and final, are due biannually in the Fall and Spring. Interim and final reports should be submitted through ProposalCentral. Each report should include a 150-word understandable, non-technical summary of your current progress. A new report will need to be submitted in order to initiate all payments. Payments are made based on the approval of this progress report.

If the Grantee becomes aware that a progress report cannot be submitted on a timely basis the Grantee must promptly notify the HDF by contacting Sarah Hernandez, PhD (mailto:sarahhernandez@HDFoundation.org?cc=julieporter%40HDFoundation.org), Director of Research Programs.

WHAT ARE MY BUDGET REQUIREMENTS?

The Grantee and/or the Research Institution must maintain records of expenditures of the grant or fellowship, including out-of-pocket costs, and provide expenditure reports to HDF upon request. Budgets should be submitted through ProposalCentral.

The proceeds of the grant or fellowship must be used exclusively for the research project identified in the grant award letter.

CAN I MAKE REVISIONS TO MY ORIGINAL BUDGET?

Yes, changes can be made to your original budget proposal. If the Grantee becomes aware that (1) the research project should be modified, or (2) other research personnel are needed for the research, please promptly notify us by contacting Sarah Hernandez, PhD (mailto:sarahhernandez@hdfoundation.org?cc=julieporter%40hdfoundation.org), Director of Research Programs. Acceptance of any modification shall be at the sole discretion of the HDF.

WHEN DOES MY GRANT BEGIN?

Once your grant has been approved for funding, you will receive a Funding Award Letter where you will be requested to select a start date for your project. Awarded Grants and Postdoctoral Fellowships can be initiated between May-June of the awarding year.

CAN I EXTEND MY PROJECT DATE PAST MY PROJECT END DATE?

Yes, if no additional funds are required from the Hereditary Disease Foundation and the project's originally approved scope will not change, the Grantee may extend the final completion date one time for a period of up to 12 months beyond the original approved completion date.

Such an action affirms that additional work remains to be completed on the project and that resources are available to continue to support the project, or that additional time is needed to provide for an orderly closeout. The fact that funds remain at the completion date of the grant is not, in itself, sufficient justification for an extension without additional funds.

Please submit No Cost Extension requests through ProposalCentral no later than 3 months prior to your project completion date.

HDF will notify you of the acceptance of your extension upon approval by our Scientific Advisory Board.

ARE GRANT AWARDS GUARANTEED?

HDF reserves the right to terminate payment of the grant or fellowship at any time for any reason. If the Grantee desires to terminate the research project, the Grantee must promptly notify the HDF by contacting Sarah Hernandez, PhD (mailto:sarahhernandez@hdfoundation.org?cc=julieporter%40hdfoundation.org), Director of Research Programs and repay all unexpended amounts of the grant or fellowship.


Other Questions? Contact Us!

Many questions can be answered by reading the FAQ, but we encourage you to reach out to us if you have additional questions.

All questions can be directed to Sarah Hernandez, PhD (<mailto:sarahhernandez@hdfoundation.org?cc=julieporter%40hdfoundation.org>), Director of Research Programs.

Thank you for your interest in the Hereditary Disease Foundation.

HEREDITARY DISEASE FOUNDATION, 601 W168TH STREET, SUITE 54, NEW YORK, NY, 10032, UNITED STATES 212-928-2121 CURES@HDFFOUNDATION.ORG ([MAILTO:CURES@HDFFOUNDATION.ORG](mailto:CURES@HDFFOUNDATION.ORG))

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(<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/23-7376197>)

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