

INTERNATIONAL WALDENSTROM MACROGLOBULINEMIA FOUNDATION

ROBERT A. KYLE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD GRANTS

2026 Request for Proposals

The International Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia Foundation (IWMF) is proud to announce the 2026 ROBERT A. KYLE CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARD GRANTS INITIATIVE – a Request for Proposals (RFP).

Program Description: Robert A. Kyle Career Development Award Grants

Under this Grant program, the IWMF acknowledges the crucial role of nurturing a new generation of researchers to study Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia (WM) and ensure continuous progress in the field. The primary objective of the Kyle Career Development Award is to inspire and provide support to talented young investigators with a background in hematology and/or oncology, encouraging them to either enter or persist in their work within the realm of Waldenstrom research. The Kyle Career Development Award Grants are in tribute to Dr. Robert A. Kyle's significant contributions to the field of plasma cell disorders and Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia over the past 50+ years.

The IWMF seeks to provide Grants to support young investigators (defined as a junior faculty member, instructor or assistant professor; and/or postdoctoral fellow) who are focused on research in the field of B cell or plasma cell malignancies. A successful applicant's academic program must have a formal teaching curriculum and mentoring from established investigators with a proven record of advancing relevant research in the B cell malignancy or plasma cell malignancy field. Highest priority for Kyle Awards will be given to translational research proposals; however, applications addressing critical questions in basic discovery science relevant to WM biology and pathogenesis will be considered.

Note: If a corporate asset is studied, the asset should be in ongoing, active development.

Grant Award Structure

- Each Grant will be 2 years in duration, with a maximum total Grant Award of up to \$160,000. No more than 50% of any total Grant Award will be paid in the first 12 months.

- Indirect costs are included in the total Grant Award and are limited to 5% of the total Grant Award value (i.e., \$4,000 per year for a \$160,000 total Grant Award).
- For institutions that choose not to use the full amount of available indirect funds for indirect costs, the Grant allows these funds to be applied toward the approved Budget for direct costs.
- Final Grant Awards will be subject to an approved application Budget and Budget Justification.

Research Focus

The IWMF's research funding is focused on advancing translational research breakthroughs that elucidate the molecular basis and pathogenesis of WM and on facilitating innovative clinical-enabling studies poised to significantly improve patient outcomes. The IWMF seeks applications for research and clinical studies that will have a meaningful impact on WM patients within the next 3-5 years. Therefore, the proposed preclinical or clinical research studies should demonstrate clear clinical relevance with the potential to improve patient-centered outcomes, inform evidence-based clinical decision making, or address gaps in current therapeutic insights and approaches. Applications lacking a well-defined link to advancing patient outcomes or translating research findings into meaningful therapeutic advances will be considered non-responsive.

Note: Grant applications that require access to investigational new drugs or approved drugs should have previously secured agreement from the manufacturing sponsor for access to study drug supply. The Grant funds should not be used to pay for or offset the cost of the drug.

The IWMF's Research Goal: to Accelerate the Cure for WM

The IWMF stands at the forefront of a global mission: to transform WM from an incurable malignancy into a disease that can be fully eradicated. The IWMF defines "cure" not simply as remission, but as the achievement of sustained, treatment-free survival—where patients are liberated from both the clinical burden and molecular traces of disease, as confirmed by innovative diagnostic technologies.

As the world's leading patient-centered organization dedicated exclusively to WM, the IWMF leverages its unrivaled network, Scientific Advisory Committee expertise, and global commitment to drive groundbreaking research, fund innovative therapeutic discoveries, advance novel clinical trials, and foster collaborations reshaping the future for all affected by this rare disease.

The IWMF's broader strategic research agenda and efforts to support WM patients are driven by several key objectives: (1) expanding philanthropic support to advance all facets of WM research and patient care; (2) demonstrating that both short- and long-term research investments yield measurable and meaningful clinical benefits; (3) attracting and sustaining a cadre of highly skilled investigators and clinicians, including developing early-career talent to ensure ongoing innovation in the WM field; (4) strengthening collaborative partnerships with leading non-profit organizations—including Blood Cancer United and the Lymphoma Research Foundation—to enhance support resources for WM patients; (5) maintaining active engagement with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to encourage continued research, development, and regulatory approvals of novel WM therapeutics; and (6) facilitating targeted funding for premier world-class academic institutions to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into transformative therapies for WM patients.

The IWMF has invested in 116 WM research Grants and 67 different researchers since 1999 and currently supports 32 research Grants, with total committed research funding of \$33 million as of September 2025.

How to Apply for a Research Grant: the IWMF's Process

The Grant application process for the *Kyle Development Award Grants Initiative* will follow the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) review guidelines.

Full Application (FA): An application for a research project can be submitted within the *Kyle Development Award Grants Initiative* via email (timeline and addresses listed below). The project description, significance, Aims, six-month timeline, mentoring/training plan, and scientific approach should not exceed 12 pages in length and follow the **Research Application** located on the IWMF website at <https://iwmf.com/applying-for-a-research-grant>. Additional pages should include references, biographical sketches, detailed Budget with Budget Justification, list of other projects, and appendices as necessary. Following a review process that follows the timeline noted below, Grant Awards will be made to successful applicants.

Who Can Apply: Applicants must hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree and work in domestic or foreign non-profit organizations, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, or laboratories, that have a teaching curriculum and mentoring program with senior investigators who have a track record in the

B cell or plasma cell malignancy fields. Applicants should be junior faculty members and/or postdoctoral fellows who have had a focus in clinical research on B cell or plasma cell malignancies for at least 2 years. Applicants need not be US citizens, and there are no restrictions on applicant age, race, gender, or creed. Applicants from non-academic facilities are not eligible.

Proposal Review Process: Research proposals are reviewed by an independent committee composed of selected members of the IWMF Research Committee, the IWMF Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), and other experts in the field. This independent committee may in turn respond to the research proposal applicant(s) with questions and/or request clarification regarding certain aspects of the proposal itself. The proposals are ranked according to NIH review criteria. The final decision for funding is made by the IWMF Board of Trustees. Any final decision to fund a proposal is based on funding availability. Applicants will be notified by the IWMF as soon as a decision is made.

Budget: A detailed Budget and Budget Justification should provide itemized detail for each major category for all the years of the project. This Budget can be summarized for year one and extrapolated for the remaining year. All totals and subtotals should be included. The maximum total Grant Award costs may be up to \$160,000, inclusive of 5% for indirect costs. The aggregate costs over the first 12 months of the project cannot exceed \$80,000.

Permissible direct costs include the following with the specified limitations:

- Personnel expenses including salary, wage, or stipend with fringe benefits.
- In total, no more than 40% of the direct costs may be requested for the salary and fringe benefit expenses of professional staff with a postgraduate degree (i.e., MD, PhD, DVM) regardless of function or role. This restriction does not apply to technical staff (lab assistants, nurses, etc.).
- Supplies and materials requests should be itemized by category.
- Equipment purchase requests must identify each item of equipment with an acquisition cost of more than \$500.

Permissible indirect costs (often referred to as Institutional Overhead, IDC, M&A, G&A, or pooled costs) are those costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily identified with a particular project (general maintenance, utilities, library, etc.). Indirect costs are limited to 5% of the total Grant Award. For sponsoring institutions that do not need to use all the indirect funds allocated for indirect costs, the remaining funds can be applied to the project's direct costs, or the applicant may elect to only request their true indirect costs.

Impermissible costs include membership dues, tuition, books, journals, publication costs, and travel costs.

Payment Guidelines: Prior to executing the Funding Agreement, the Awardee and the IWMF will agree upon a Budget (see above) that is based on the amount requested in the application and which may be modified by the IWMF. Additionally, a payment schedule, a bi-annual Progress Report schedule, and research milestones will be agreed upon and specified in the Funding Agreement. In all cases, payments will be tied to research milestones. The IWMF, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to cease payments and terminate the Grant Award if the IWMF determines that insufficient progress toward a milestone is achieved within the specified and agreed-upon timeframe. The IWMF will pay a *pro rata* amount for six months at the start of the project. Future payments will be made at designated six-month intervals after each Interim or Final Progress Report and accompanying Lay Summary has been received, and the IWMF Research Committee has reviewed it for satisfactorily meeting the IWMF reporting requirements (see below). Payments will be made after all reporting guidelines in the Funding Agreement have been met.

Reporting Requirements: **Progress Reports are required to be submitted to the IWMF by the Principal Investigator (PI) every six months for the duration of the project.** Interim Progress Reports must be submitted no later than 30 days after the six-month period ends. Such Progress Reports will describe the activities and results with respect to each specific Aim that has occurred during the preceding six-month period. Each Progress Report will include a proposed path forward over the next six-month period. Project Aims should not be changed during the research process without prior notification, justification, and agreement of the IWMF Research Committee. The PI must show in the reports that they are performing the obligations stated in the submitted and approved research proposal for each reporting period. Deviations from the six-month period timeline need to be explained to ensure that the project is on track. A Final Progress Report which describes the results and findings as they relate to the stated goals of the project for the full term of the project is required no later than 45 days after the project ending date. The PI should expect on occasion to receive requests for clarification of Progress Reports. A Lay Summary must accompany each Interim Progress Report and the Final Progress Report. The reports must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF file format. A final detailed expenditure report must also be sent no later than 90 days after the project ending date. Failure to submit timely Progress Reports and Lay Summaries may result in suspension of payment.

Review Criteria

An application will be judged on these criteria:

- The probability of a significant advance in WM treatment outcomes based on the research.
- The conceptual basis for the proposal.
- The novelty of the concept and strategy.
- A thoughtful and clear presentation.
- Preliminary data to indicate the likelihood of project success.
- The plan for bringing the research findings to clinical application.
- Experience, background, and qualifications of mentor(s), PI, and/or additional investigator(s).
- Adequacy of resources and environment (facilities, data management, data analysis, etc.).
- Adequacy of provisions for protection of human subjects.
- Access to sufficient patient samples (if appropriate to the project), either from the PI's own institution or from documented collaborations must be adequate. If a PI does not have access to sufficient samples, the IWMMF encourages the PI to collaborate with another researcher or bone marrow banks who will share samples with them pre-proposal. The PI may contact the IWMMF before submitting the proposal to discuss ways to obtain samples. Failure to have adequate samples to achieve project Aims and agreed-upon milestones may result in a cancellation of the project.

Timeline

Email Call for Proposals	September 18, 2025
Full Application Deadline	February 27, 2026 (No exceptions)
Review of Submitted Full Applications Completed	April 21, 2026
Notification of Awards	May 2026
Projects Must Start From	July 1, 2026, to February 26, 2027

Submissions

All proposals and other correspondence regarding the *Kyle Development Award Grants Initiative* should be sent to the following to: grantadmin@iwmf.com.

The IWMF Office will acknowledge receipt of each proposal within one business day via email. If you do not receive such an acknowledgment, please contact Robin Tucker, IWMF Finance Director, at rtucker@iwmf.com or call the IWMF Office at 941-927-4963.