YOUNG INVESTIGATOR GRANT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MDS Foundation, Inc.
4573 South Broad Street
Suite 150
Yardville, NJ 08620

lharrison@mds-foundation.org

Please visit https://www.mds-foundation.org/professional/learn/young-investigator-grants for the most up-to-date information.

MDS FOUNDATION, INC.

The MDS Foundation, Inc. (MDSF) is a global non-profit advocacy organization that for 30 years has supported patients and their families as well as healthcare providers in the fields of MDS and its related diseases.

Mission: MDSF supports and educates patients, their communities, and healthcare providers, and contributes to innovative research in the fields of MDS and its related continuum of diseases to better diagnose, control and ultimately cure these diseases.

Vision: Every MDS patient will benefit from our initiatives and research as early as possible. For more information, please visit our website at www.mds-foundation.org.

Grant Summary

The purpose of this Young Investigator Grant is to provide an investigator, that is early in their career, the opportunity to initiate, continue or complete a project that focuses on either basic or clinical management into the causation, epidemiology, molecular biology, cytogenetics, morphology, prognosis and treatment of the Myelodysplastic Syndromes or related myeloid neoplasms.

This application is for a 2-year grant in the amount of $150,000. The grant period is from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027. Funding may be used towards salary support, technician support, supplies, equipment, travel, etc. necessary for the pursuit of the recipient's research project.

Grant Eligibility Requirements

1. An investigator, US or International, that is early in their career as defined below
   - Principal Investigator (PD/PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever date is later, within the past 10 years and who has **NOT** previously competed successfully as PD/PI for a substantial independent research award (i.e., NIH, Leukemia Society grant or equivalent). An additional year may be granted to those who chose to serve as chief residents or for military service.
2. The proposal must be for research into MDS or related myeloid neoplasms and may be either translational or basic type investigations.
3. Must be an MDS Foundation professional member in good standing. If you are not currently a professional member or need to renew your membership, please click here.

Payment Schedule from the MDS Foundation, Inc.

All payments will be made to the designation indicated in the application. The MDS Foundation, Inc., will submit payments based on the following schedule:

July 01, 2025	$75,000
July 15, 2026	$75,000

Physician Payments Sunshine Act

The Physician Payments Sunshine Act, or "Sunshine Act", is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (health care reform) that passed in 2010. The law is designed to bring transparency to financial relationships between physicians, teaching hospitals, and healthcare companies. The Sunshine Act requires manufacturers of pharmaceutical drugs and devices, as well as group purchasing organizations, to report payments or transfers of value made to U.S. physicians and teaching hospitals.

The MDS Foundation understands that payments made through MDS Young Investigator Grants are **not reportable** under the Sunshine Act as indirect payments or transfers of value because these awards are **not funded** by companies that are considered manufacturers of pharmaceutical drugs and devices and/or group purchasing organizations.

Proposal Process

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements and instructions of this Request for Proposals (RFP). All application materials must be in English, in PDF format and must be submitted online via ProposalCentral.

Completed proposals (including all required documents) must be submitted by ***Friday, February 28th at 11:59 pm ET***. ***No late proposals will be accepted***. Applicants are encouraged to submit early because technical help will *not* be available after 5:00 pm ET on Friday, February 28, 2025. ***If applicants are not current MDS Foundation professional members in good standing, their application will not be reviewed.***

Important Instructions about Attachments. Attachments must be in PDF format, uploaded in the portal and must be in accordance with document page limits. Documents should not be password protected.

Proposal Sections - *mandatory* components, except where indicated

1. **General Information.** This section includes general information about this grant and the eligibility requirements. It also requires your Project Title and Type of Research.

2. **Download Templates & Instructions.** This section includes a biosketch template and a copy of this RFP.

3. **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal.** This section allows you to give other users access to this application. This section is where you will give the Signing Official and Primary Mentor access to sign this application. The Signing Official and Primary Mentor will need at least "Edit" access under "Permissions". *Please make sure to grant access ahead of time to avoid any last-minute issues with signing and submitting your application.*

4. **Applicant/PI.** This section includes all relevant information about the applicant/PI including ORCHID ID and authorization.

5. **Organization/Institution.** This section includes information about the applicant's organization/institution including the EIN or TIN number, fiscal officer and the signing official.

6. **Primary Mentor.** This section includes the contact information for your primary mentor.

7. **Mentor's Letter of Support.** In this section you will enter your primary mentor's email address. This will generate an email containing a link your mentor can use to upload their letter. The email will contain the following items that are required to be included in the letter:
   - Training plan for the applicant, including intended structure of the mentor/investigator interaction during the proposed investigation
   - A critical review of both the applicant and the research proposal
   - The role of the applicant in the development of the proposal
   - The role(s) or anticipated role(s) the applicant holds (will hold) at the institution
   - The level of institutional commitment to the applicant's career development as an independent clinical investigator
   - Assurance that the applicant's sponsoring institution will provide adequate facilities and support for performance of the proposed work

8. **Organization Assurances.** This section provides assurance that the institution promises to comply with applicable regulations governing research with human subjects and use of animals. If applicable, IRB and/or IACUC application documents must be uploaded.

9. **Project Information.** This section includes a brief abstract of the research proposal (<100 words)

10. **Budget Period Detail & Justification.** The grant funds will be directed to the sponsoring institution and should be used towards salary support, technician support, supplies, equipment, travel, etc. necessary for the pursuit of the recipient's research project. Grant funds may not be applied to patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor, or to tuition or fees for academic courses. The budget guidelines are as follows:
    - Total Award: The total award amount is $150,000 for two years, payable on July 1, 2025 and July 15, 2026 in two equal installments of $75,000. The proposed budget must not exceed the total award amount.
    - Research support: At least $132,000 should support costs directly related to the research project such as personnel salary, supplies, equipment, and other expenses. Budgeted items must be consistent with available institutional facilities and resources. Patient care costs that are reimbursable by a third-party payor, and tuition and fees for academic courses are unallowable costs.
    - Travel: Up to $3,000 can be allotted for the applicant's travel to the MDS Foundation's International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes to attend the Awards Ceremony and for any other travel essential to conducting the study. We would be ***very pleased*** if you would

attend the MDS Foundation's Awards Ceremony which will take place during our International Symposium on Myelodysplastic Syndromes, May 7-10, 2025 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands – https://mds.kenes.com/.

- Indirect costs: Up to $15,000 (or 10% of the total award amount) may be applied to overhead or facilities and administrative costs of the recipient's institution in administering the recipient's research project.

11. **Budget Summary.** Budget totals are read-only on this page. Please confirm amounts are accurate.

12. **Prior Publications.** *(Optional)* Up to two prior publications may be added. The applicant must be a co-author of these publications.

13. **Upload Attachments**. Required attachments include:
- Applicant's Biosketch: Applicants may use their current NIH biosketch or they may use the biosketch template available in the "Download Templates & Instructions" section. The biosketch must have no more than four (4) pages.
- Cited References: A list of all cited references must be submitted as a separate document.
- Mentor's Letter of Support; This will be uploaded directly by your mentor. Please see instructions list in the "Mentor's Letter of Support" section above.
- Project Timeline: Enter major milestones for your project, the expected completion date, and if there is an associated deliverable. A deliverable is something that can be included in a progress report, such as a publication or an approval letter. You are not required to have deliverables. However, the timeline should make it clear what outcomes will be achieved during the grant period.
- Research Strategy: The research strategy should be limited to **four** (4) typewritten, single-spaced pages. ALL pertinent tables, pictures, and graphs *MUST* be included within the *4-page limit*. The Research Strategy must contain the following information:
  - *Significance and Background*:
    - Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
    - Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or critical practice in one or more broad fields.
    - Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will change if the proposed aims are achieved.
  - *Innovation*:
    - Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.
    - Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approached or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
    - Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.
  - *Approach*:
    - Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted as well as any resource sharing plans as appropriate.
    - Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims.
    - If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work. Please include appropriate detail and/or documentation to assure a reviewer that your project is feasible in the timeframe of the grant.
    - Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to

4

personnel and precautions to be exercised.

- Clearly state the applicant's role in the project (i.e. writing of protocol, performing the assays, etc.). When human subjects are involved, the precautions to ensure patient safety and confidentiality and the relevance or implications for patient care should be explained.
- List and describe the facilities and resources available to conduct the study, including a description of industry support for any clinical trials.
- Specific Aims**:** List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology. The specific aims should state concisely and realistically what the research intends to accomplish and/or what hypothesis is to be tested and should list measurable objectives for the proposed project.

14. **PI Demographics**. This section is for applicants who want to include their demographics. Please note that "Date of Birth" is required.

15. **E-Signatures & Print Application**. Before submitting the application, an electronic signature is required from the Applicant/PI, Primary Mentor, & Signing Official from the applicant's institution. Type your name in the text box and click the green 'Sign' button. A date and time stamp will appear next to the button indicating that the electronic signature was successful. To give the Signing Official and Primary Mentor access to sign this application, enter their information in the "Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal? section and grant them at least "Edit" access. *Please make sure to grant access ahead of time to avoid any last-minute issues with signing and submitting your application. You may also print a copy of your application.

16. **Validate**. This section will validate that all required information and files are included in your application. Validating your proposal does **not** submit your application.

17. **Submit**. Please click the "Submit" button. 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.

Optional Components

1. **Clinical Protocol.** If your project involves a clinical protocol, please submit a copy of the protocol with your proposal.

2. **Additional Letters of Support.** If you would like to include additional letter(s) of support with your application, please attach the additional letter(s) in one single PDF file.

Important Dates

Applications Open: **01/08/2025**
Applications Due: **02/28/2025**
Notification Date: **04/09/2025**
Grant Term: **07/01/2025-06/30/2027**

*__**Completed applications must be submitted before the deadline on Friday, February 28th at 11:59 pm ET. No late applications will be accepted.**__*

Proposal Changes

- **Withdrawal of Proposal.** Please advise the MDS Foundation promptly at lharrison@mds-foundation.org should you decide to withdraw your proposal for any reason. Your email should include your name, the title of your proposal, and the reason for your withdrawal.
- **Change of Institution or Position.** If at any time during the application or review process you have a career plan change or leave your current position, please notify the MDS Foundation, Inc.
- **Mentor Change of Institution.** If at any time during the application or review process your mentor leaves his/her current position or institution, please submit this change to the MDS Foundation.
- **Budget Changes.** If any changes to the submitted budget are expected that could result in a deviation of 10% over or 10% under, a budget revision request must be submitted in writing. This revision request should include justification for the changes along with a revised budget.
- **Research Changes.** If any changes are anticipated in the goals or results of the research, a plan should be submitted in writing with a clear explanation of the changes.

Submit all Changes, Reports, Questions to: Lea Harrison at lharrison@mds-foundation.org. All change requests and reports will be reviewed by the MDS Foundation's staff and members of the MDS Foundation's Board of Director's Research Committee.

Technical Support
If you need technical support, please contact ProposalCentral at pcsupport@altum.com or via phone at 800-875-2562 (toll-free US & Canada) OR +1 703-964-5860 (direct dial international).

Award Notification
All communication will be sent to the primary email address entered for the applicant. Please make sure that this email address is correct. Please add lharrison@mds-foundation.org to your safe senders list and/or check your spam folder if you are not receiving communications such as document submission notifications, application submission confirmation, etc. The anticipated notification date is April 9, 2025.

Required Reports
Progress reports shall be submitted based on the following reporting schedule. Future funding is subject to timely submission and satisfactory review of these reports. The final report should summarize the full project. Both reports must include the following components:

1. Institution's Name
2. Primary Investigator's Name and Telephone Number
3. Reporting Period
4. Program summary and Results to Date
5. Signature of Principal Investigator

Reporting Schedule Dates
Mid-term Progress & Expenditure Report   06/01/2026
Final Cumulative Progress & Expense Report   08/01/2027

Young Investigator Grant

CHECKLIST

Mandatory Components

- ☐ Contact Information
- ☐ Project Information – including Abstract (<100 words), IRB, and Animal Use Assurances
- ☐ Specific Aims
- ☐ Applicant's Biosketch (4 pages maximum)
- ☐ Research Strategy (4 pages maximum including tables, pictures, graphs, single spaced)
- ☐ Cited References
- ☐ Project Timeline
- ☐ Budget and Justification
- ☐ Mentor's Letter of Support
- ☐ Required Signatures

Optional Components

- ☐ Clinical Protocol
- ☐ Prior Publications (maximum of two publications)
- ☐ Additional Letters of Support

Completed applications must be submitted before the deadline on *Friday, February 28th at 11:59 pm ET**. No late applications will be accepted.*