



For a World Without  
Myasthenia Gravis

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## RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING

### Call for Proposals Now Open - 2023 Research Grants

Clinician and scientist investigators are engaged in groundbreaking myasthenia research all over the world. The MGFA funds promising research studies and clinical trials to discover potential new treatments and methods of living a better quality of life with MG.

**Proposals for the 2023 MGFA High-Impact Pilot Project Award are now being accepted.** If you are conducting research that will ultimately improve the lives of people with myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular junction disorders, **you are invited to submit a letter of intent by April 1.**

More details of this opportunity are available below.

#### High Impact Clinical Research and Scientific Pilot Projects on Myasthenia Gravis and Related Neuromuscular Junction Disorders

##### Overview

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) requests submission of proposals to support high-impact clinical research and scientific pilot studies that are focused and innovative. A clear plan of how success will be assessed is mandatory. High-impact clinical research proposals should focus on patient outcome measurements or alteration in clinical or research practices that aid in present treatment paradigm. Scientific pilot projects will require a clear plan

[Clinical Overview of MG \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Overview-of-MG\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Overview-of-MG)

[Research Grant Funding \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Grant-Funding\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Grant-Funding)

[Past Grant Recipients \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Grant-Recipients\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Grant-Recipients)

[MGFA Partners in MG Care \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Partners-in-MG-Care\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Partners-in-MG-Care)

[Emergency Management \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Management\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-Management)

[Resources for Professionals \(https://myasthenia.org/Pro-for-Professionals\)](https://myasthenia.org/Pro-for-Professionals)

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that will lead to new federal, pharmaceutical, or private foundation supported investigations. The proposal should be within the scope of the research agenda of the MGFA, as described below.

MGFA is committed to supporting research that will ultimately improve the lives of patients with myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular junction disorders. The research committee has identified five broad research priorities of unmet need in the field.

- Biomarkers
  - Early diagnosis
  - Predictors of clinical outcome
  - Predictors of response to immunosuppressive therapy
  - Biomarkers for use in clinical trials
- Mechanisms of disease
  - Basic mechanisms of disease
  - How loss of self-tolerance is sustained throughout the disease course
- Therapeutic strategies
  - Development of new therapeutic targets
  - Targeted therapies that hopefully prevent widespread immunosuppression and off-target side effects
  - Optimizing treatment strategies with existing therapies
- Improving patient outcomes
  - The patient perspective on their disease, its impact on their daily life, and treatment considerations that are most important to them
  - Collateral effects of MG and its treatment, such as associated medical conditions, treatment-related side effects, and financial considerations
- Pediatric treatment strategies, safety concerns, and long-term outcome

Though this research agenda is intended to guide researchers towards topics that are important to the MGFA, the research committee will accept proposals outside of these priority areas and is committed to supporting the best science.

MGFA will fund highly meritorious projects with a maximum of \$110,000, over two years, of which no more than \$10,000 may be allocated to indirect costs. Funds will be expended over two years from the time of the award. Special funding requests and/or changes to the award period must be approved prior to submission of proposal through the Letter of Intent.

## How to Submit

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent (LOI) by April 1, 2023 using the form provided in MGFA's grant portal, **ProposalCentral** (<https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp>). This form will be found by searching for Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of American under "Grant Opportunities." (Note: You must create an account and log in to access and submit all forms.) There, you will find additional documents and details regarding the application process. You will be informed by April 15, 2023, if you are invited to submit a full proposal.

Give now to help create a world without MG.

MGFA touches the lives of hundreds of thousands of patients, families, friends, and medical professionals from around the world. Your gift will support programming and fund cutting-edge research leading to better treatments and a cure for MG.

**Donate Now (/Donate-Now)**

Researchers invited to submit a full proposal must provide a detailed budget and justification in the NIH format. There are no specific budget restrictions, but all aspects of the budget must be clearly justified. If Principal Investigator salary support is requested, then a letter from a department chair or equivalent must accompany the application to assure that the PI is afforded protected research time for the project.

The application consists of:

- **A five-page research proposal**, which must be strictly formatted according to the NIH standard for R01/R21 applications: Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, and an Approach section which includes preliminary data, the experimental design, and interpretation sections. There is no limit to the reference section.
- **A separate single page** describing how the funds will benefit the goals of the MGFA, and also describe the plan for future support. For example, a copy of a funding agency review, which supports the need to obtain preliminary data, would be evidence of a specific plan for future support.
- **A separate Lay Summary** of up to ½ a page in length or approximately 200 words.

The appropriate forms are available and outlined in more detail in ProposalCentral. Proposals will be reviewed by the MGFA research committee as well as ad hoc reviewers when required; NIH scoring scale and categories will be used.

All components should be submitted via MGFA's grants portal, **ProposalCentral (<http://www.proposalcentral.com/>)**, no later than June 1, 2023. A preliminary review to assure compliance with guidelines will be performed, followed by scientific review. Funding notification is expected by August 2023 and funds provided by September 2023.

Participation in MGFA key activities, such as presentations on funded work at the MGFA Scientific Session at the AANEM Annual Meeting and the MGFA National Conference are expected from award recipients. Recipients may also be asked for interviews on their project and its relevance to the MG Community for MGFA's lay-oriented website and/or newsletter at both the start and completion of the project.

### Eligibility

The RFA is open to established and new investigators. Applications in all areas of MG research will be accepted from U.S. and international principal investigators.

### Key Dates

Activity	Date
Call for Proposals Opens	February 17, 2023
Letter of Intent Deadline	April 1, 2023
Notification of Invitation to Proceed with Application	April 15, 2023
Application Deadline	June 1, 2023
Funding notification	August 2023
Funding dispersal	September 2023
Progress Report / Final Study Report	To be determined; details stipulated in Notice of Award letter (typically at 1-year and at the end of the grant award period)

## Contacts for Questions

For technical inquiries such as system access or site navigation related to ProposalCentral, please email [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com) or call 1-800-875-2562 (toll-free US and Canada) or +1-703-964.5840 (Direct Dial International).

More information about how to register and apply using ProposalCentral:

- **How to Register as a ProposalCentral user**  
(<https://docs.proposalcentral.com/RegUser.pdf>)
- **How to Create an Application using ProposalCentral**  
(<https://docs.proposalcentral.com/CreateApp.pdf>)
- **User FAQs.pdf (proposalcentral.com)**  
(<https://proposalcentral.com/docs/User%20FAQs.pdf>)

For all other questions, please email [MGFA@myasthenia.org](mailto:MGFA@myasthenia.org)  
(<mailto:MGFA@myasthenia.org>).

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## MGFA Research Grant Agenda and Funding Areas

We support research that will improve the lives of patients with myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular junction disorders. The committee has identified five broad research priorities:

- **Biomarkers:** facilitate early diagnosis, predict clinical outcomes and immunosuppressive therapy response and utilize in clinical trials.
- **Disease Mechanisms:** understand basic mechanisms and self-tolerance loss throughout course of disease.
- **Targeted Therapies:** develop new therapeutic targets, prevent widespread immunosuppression and off-target side effects, optimize treatment strategies with existing therapies.
- **Patient Outcomes:** understand the full impact of disease on daily living and patient treatment priorities, understand collateral effects of disease; related medical conditions, side effects and financial impact.
- **Pediatric Treatment:** identify strategies, safety concerns, and long-term outcomes.

Funding areas include:

- *High-Impact Pilot Project Awards:* pilot studies leading to new federal, pharmaceutical or private foundation supported investigations
- *Transformative Research Awards:* focused, innovative investigations that are highly likely to produce fundamental alterations in understanding myasthenia gravis
- *Targeted Research and Special Projects Awards:* further greater understanding of MG and its impact on quality of life
- *Awards to Engage and Support Young Investigators and Clinicians:* recognize the importance of good clinical research and encourage young investigators' involvement in clinical studies

**View Past MGFA Research Grant Recipients here.** ([/Professionals/Past-Research-Grant-Recipients](#))

