



For a World Without  
Myasthenia Gravis

April 26, 2024

## **Research Funding Announcement**

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Community Health  
Charities Member Agency  
MGFA code # 11240



### **Overview:**

The Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America (MGFA) requests submission of proposals to support high-impact clinical research or scientific investigations 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 which improve present treatment paradigms. Scientific projects will require a clear plan that will lead to new competitive federal or private foundation supported investigations. The proposal should be within the scope of the research agenda of the MGFA, which may be found below:

The research committee of the MGFA is committed to supporting research that will ultimately improve the lives of patients with myasthenia gravis and related neuromuscular junction disorders. The committee has identified 5 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 intends 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.

**The MGFA will fund highly meritorious projects with a maximum total cost of \$100,000 per year, for a period of 3 years, of which no more than 10% may be dedicated to indirect costs. Special funding and/or changes to the award period must be requested in the LOI and approved prior to submission of proposal.**

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### **Instructions:**

#### **Letter Of Intent**

**Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent (LOI) using the form provided by June 14, 2024 via the MGFA's grant portal, [ProposalCentral](#). There, you will find additional documents and details regarding the application process. You will be informed by June 28, 2024, if you are invited to submit a full proposal.**

#### **Full Proposal**

Applicants are required to include the following. Templatized materials are available on the Proposal Central portal. Please make sure to follow the NIH standard formatting and provide as much detail as possible. The full application consists of:

- ***A five-page research proposal***, which must be strictly formatted according to the NIH standard for 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 and research priorities of the MGFA.
- ***A separate Lay Summary*** of up to ½ a page in length or approximately 200 words.
- ***A detailed budget and budget 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 by a clinician, 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.

- **Resubmission applications [Previously Submitted to the MGFA] are required to submit an additional Introduction to Application.** The Introduction must include a summary of substantial additions, deletions, and changes to the application. It must also include a response to weaknesses raised by the reviewers and provided in the Summary Statement. The Introduction may not exceed one page.

All components of the full proposal should be submitted via MGFA's grants portal, [ProposalCentral](#), no later than **September 6, 2024**. A preliminary review to ensure compliance with guidelines will be performed. Submissions that do not follow the required NIH formatting will not be reviewed.

Proposals will be reviewed by a study section comprised of the MGFA research committee as well as ad hoc reviewers when required; NIH scoring scale and categories will be used. Funding notification is expected by **November 2024** and funds provided by **December 2024**.

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 mid-and-senior- level investigators with faculty status. This RFA is not open to for-profit (i.e. biotechnology, pharmaceutical, etc) applicants. Applications in all areas of MG research will be accepted from U.S. and international applicants.

### **Research Funding Application & Review Calendar**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Research Funding Announcement	April 26, 2024
Letter of Intent Deadline	June 14, 2024
Invitation to Apply for Application	June 28, 2024
Application Deadline	September 6, 2024
Funding notification	November 2024

Funding provided	December 2024
Annual Report due	Progress report due annually as stipulated in award letter
Final Report due	Final Report due 90 days after completion of award

For technical inquiries such as system access or site navigation related to ProposalCentral, please send an email to [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).

For questions related to the MGFA or this funding announcement, please contact [Ichandler@myasthenia.org](mailto:Ichandler@myasthenia.org).