Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust Awards Programs
Transformational Award

Frequently Asked Questions *updated April 2017* Grant Cycle 2017

General Questions

What is the goal of the Falk Trust Transformational Award?
Following a successful Catalyst Award, the Transformational Award is designed to support high-risk, high-reward projects that address critical scientific and therapeutic roadblocks. The Transformational Award provides a bridge to the technology transfer process for moving an exciting health care innovation to the next step in commercial development.

What types of proposals will be most competitive?
The Falk Foundation is interested in transformational efforts to cure disease and reduce suffering. Therefore, proposals that seek to develop proof of concept for future technology transfer, either in treatment or diagnosis, will be most competitive. Catalyst Award proposals that establish milestones that effectively test the clinical utility of science-based innovation, it may realistically result in products or ideas that will be available for technology transfer the end of the three-year catalyst/transformational awards cycle are most likely to gather positive reviews. The reviewers will include not only scientists, but also individuals with experience in technology transfer and biotech. Translational research, as described by NIH, covers a lot of ground from basic science to health services research. For those investigators who have previous experience with NIH awards, this is most similar to the small business innovation research award program, rather than an R01 mechanism.

My Transformational Award proposal was declined for funding in the last cycle. May I apply again in this cycle?
A Catalyst Award project may only be submitted once to the Falk Medical Research Trust for Transformational Award consideration. A new Catalyst proposal may be submitted in a future cycle.

How do I apply?
Please go to https://hria.org/tmf/FalkTAP and download the Guidelines and Instructions.

Is there a limit on how many applications in one cycle may be submitted from one applicant?
Yes, one application per Principal Investigator (PI).

I am based at an institution outside of the United States. Am I eligible?
Applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens but they must hold a faculty appointment at an invited non-profit, academic, medical, or research institution in the United States.

May a PI on one grant also be part of another grant submission?
Yes. A PI on one grant may be listed as personnel on someone else's grant.

I am Adjunct Faculty at my institution. May I apply?
No. The program only accepts applications from full-time independent faculty members.

If I am offered the Award but cannot accept it, may it be transferred to a co-investigator or other individual significantly involved in the project?
No. The grant can only be awarded to the Applicant who originally submitted the grant application.

If I apply and do not receive an Award, may I apply in future years?
Yes. If your institution is invited to apply in future years and your proposal is nominated.

Proposal Application

Are there formatting rules for the Research Proposal?
Yes – please refer to the Guidelines for specific instructions.

Should the references be placed after the Research Proposal?
Yes, please add any references cited after the research proposal. The bibliography of references related to the project are excluded from the maximum of 9 pages.

Are the section headings mentioned in the Research Proposal portion required or may other headings be included?
Please prepare your proposal using these headings.

Do you have a Biosketch form I should use?
Applicants to the 2017 Falk Program should use the current NIH biosketch format.

I have a Co-Investigator. Should their Biosketch be included in the Attachment?
Yes – please include biosketch(es) for any co-investigators.

How should the Co-Investigators be reflected in the proposal?
Please add all of the Co-Investigators C.V.s in the PDF uploaded. All of the key personnel should also be listed with their roles within the summary of the research plan. The information may also be included in the optional "management plan" page at the end of the proposal.

Where do I find the Application Face Sheet?
The Face Sheet is a downloadable Word document found at: https://hria.org/tmf/FalkTAP

May I use the NIH Current and Pending Support Form?
For each source of funding, please transfer the information from the NIH form to the Current and Pending Support Form provided with the application. Please including current and pending support for the Lead PI and any Co-PIs (but not Co-Investigators)

Is the project budget subject to the NIH salary cap requirements?
Salaries must be in proportion to the percent effort on the research project; however, percent effort may exceed the percent of total salary support requested from the Program. Institutions may elect to use the NIH salary cap in the project budget but it is not required.

On the Face Sheet, what is the difference between the Authorized Institutional Representative and the Institutional Officer to Receive Funds?
Depending on the institution, the Office of Sponsored Programs (or similar grants department) will sign off on the application to insure that you and the Institution have met the eligibility requirements. The Institutional Officer to Receive Funds is typically within the finance or accounting office. Please check with your institution to determine who should sign this section.

Online Application

Where do I find my Institution's Tax ID?
Please contact your Office of Sponsored Programs for this number.

How do I access the Online Application?
Please review the Guidelines for links and instructions.

I have started and saved an Online Application. However, when I try to log-in, I cannot find my previous application. Do I need to start a new one?
No –there is a separate log-in link for applicants who have already started and saved an application. Please be sure to click the link titled, "Go to your account page to return to a SAVED Application" to access your previous form.

What will be asked in the Online Application?
Your Institution's Tax ID number, an Eligibility Quiz, followed by Contact Information, Educational Background, Institutional information, Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary, and Non-technical Summary.

How do I combine and convert the multiple documents into one PDF file?
Please refer to the end of this document for step-by-step instructions.

Contact

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Instructions for Combining Multiple PDF Documents

Adobe Acrobat Version 8

Please combine and convert all requested materials into ONE PDF document for upload and name this file, LastName, FirstName.pdf. For example, Jane Doe's file would be named, Doe, Jane.pdf.

The following instructions apply to Adobe Acrobat Version 8. For instructions on combining files in other versions, please go to: www.adobe.com. This editing cannot be done with Adobe Reader or Distiller. To combine multiple PDF documents into one document:

1. Open Adobe Acrobat 8.0
2. Click File > Create PDF > From Multiple Files
3. Click Add Files… to locate the PDF files to be combined. Double-click a PDF file to add it to the list, or use the [Ctrl]-click combination to select multiple files in the same directory and then click Add Files.
4. To change the order of the files in the list, select the appropriate PDF and click Move Up or Move Down as needed.
5. Select Default File Size for the file size and conversion setting. If the PDF document is over the 3MB size limitation, then try using the Smaller File Size setting.
6. Click Next once all of the files to be combined have been added and are in the desired sequence.
7. Select "Merge Files into a Single PDF" and then click Create.
8. Review the results to ensure accuracy and then click Save.
9. Browse to the location on your computer where you wish to save the document, name the file, and then click Save.