Questions & Answers from 2024 Thome AD Office Hours, 6/14/2023

Are early-stage investigators and researchers who are new to the field of Alzheimer's disease able to apply for the award? How do such investigators demonstrate success?

> An applicant's career stage or seniority is not a consideration in the Thome funding mechanism. Applicants with limited experience specific to Alzheimer's Disease research can strengthen their proposals and show feasibility with support from collaborators. We also encourage applicants to invite a colleague, preferably a tenured faculty member, to do a close read and provide feedback on the completed application.

Will you accept resubmissions, and do you provide feedback to applicants?

> Yes, previous applicants are welcome to reapply as long as they do not have a current Thome Foundation award for either the AD or AMD programs. Feedback is typically provided to applicants to strengthen their future proposals.

Are there any guidelines about the timeline from this award along the translational spectrum?

> The program guidelines specify the research should be "near term". We realize this can take some time. Proposals should avoid the beginning/early stages, which are more aligned with basic research. A timeline of 5-10 years away from clinical research is appropriate and can be pointed out in the proposal.

I am interested if there are any particular mouse AD models that are priority, or ones that should be avoided (i.e., do not typically do well with the reviewer panel)?

> There are no particular mouse models that are prioritized or recommended to be avoided. Be sure your proposal provides rationale and cites literature for the model(s) you choose, that your research has proper controls in place, and that clinical endpoints align clearly with human relevant clinical endpoints.

Could research be proposed involving compounds not yet in use for treating AD?

> Yes, please be intentional about the rationale and include data demonstrating a logical link.

Regarding co-investigators, is this a multiple-PI model, or a single PI and co-investigator model?

> Thome awards are made to one PI, who will serve as the administrative lead on the project. Applicants may propose to work with co-investigators. If invited to the Full Stage, your budget should include any co-investigators (i.e., co-investigators from your institution would be listed on the lead budget and co-investigators from other institutions would be included via subaward.)

I collected data from previous clinical trials but have not had the funding available to analyze the data; can I do that work under Thome?

Please send us some proposed aims so we can make an assessment (ThomeAwards@hria.org).