

Edward N. and Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research

Pre-Application Informational Session

Applications Due:

Thursday, August 22nd at 12 PM ET

ThomeAwards@hria.org

www.hria.org/tmf/thomeamd



**HEALTH
RESOURCES
IN ACTION**

MEET OUR TEAM



Who We Are



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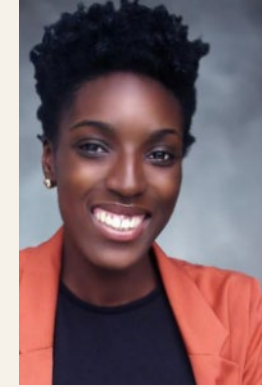
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HRiA partners with individuals, organizations, and communities to transform the practices, policies, and systems that improve health and advance equity.



Agenda

- Research Focus
- Program Overview
- Eligibility
- Review Criteria
- Proposal Writing Tips
- Common Pitfalls to Avoid
- Q & A



The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation was created:

“to advance the health of older adults through the support of direct service projects and medical research on diseases and disorders affecting older adults.”



Research Focus

Successful research proposals should fall along the preclinical research spectrum such that they can be “carried out using cell or animal models of disease; samples of human or animal tissues; or computer assisted simulations of drug, device or diagnostic interactions within living systems”¹

Funding areas include, but are not limited to:

1. The discovery and testing of small molecule, genetic, and other therapies directed at promising targets associated with AMD
2. Local drug delivery systems and neuroprotective strategies
3. New imaging modalities or computational studies that improve treatment strategies and outcomes

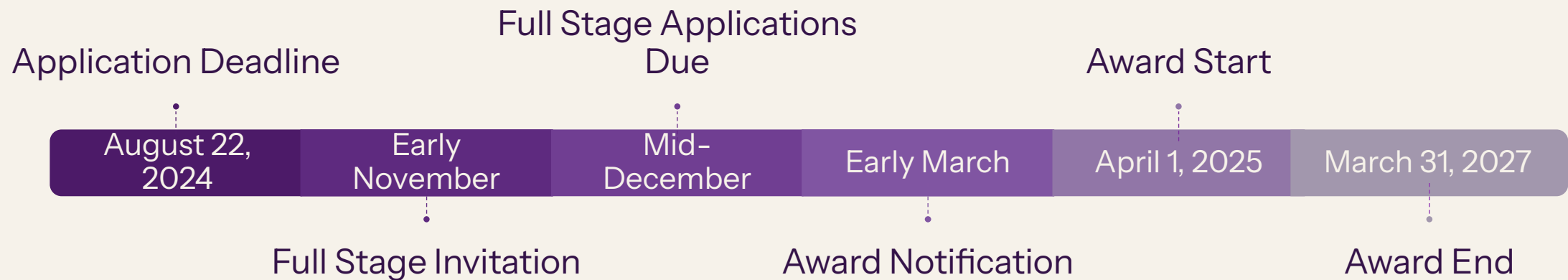
Basic research and clinical trails are outside the scope of this program.

¹ Preclinical Research Definition: <https://ncats.nih.gov/translation/spectrum>

Program Overview

Award Duration: 2 years

Award Amount: \$500,000
(this award does not cover indirect costs)



Eligibility

- The administrative lead applicant must hold a faculty appointment at a non-profit academic, medical, or research institution in the United States.
- PIs must be independent investigators with demonstrated institutional support and specialized space and facilities needed to conduct the proposed research.
- Applicants and key personnel may not have funding for a similar project.
- Individuals who are current Thome Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration or Alzheimer's Disease Research awardees at the time of Initial Proposal deadline are not eligible to apply for the 2025 grant cycle.
- Each PI may only submit one application.



Significance, Innovation, and Impact

- Seeks to improve therapies and therapeutic strategies for individuals suffering from AMD
- Seeks to move insights from basic sciences towards clinical practice
- Creative and addresses a critical scientific or therapeutic barrier/roadblock that will open a new avenue for AMD therapies

Research Project

- Based on sound precedents and clear rationale
- Objectives are technically feasible
- Research methodology is realistic and sufficiently powered
- Proposed work suggests next steps upon the finding of positive, negative, or null results
- Timeline is comprehensive, activities described are related to the project completion and enhance the effectiveness of the scope of work
- Budget is realistic and appropriate

Applicant & Co-Investigators

- Applicant's background and experience is well-suited for completion of the proposed work
- Roles of the Co-Investigators are well-defined and aligned with the background and skills necessary for the successful completion of the research
- Application shows a strong commitment to fostering a positive research culture, including activities that support a diverse, equitable, and inclusive research environment

Review Criteria



Proposal Writing Tips



Clear, concise,
logical



Understandable
language



Reflective of
program goals and
review criteria



All personnel should
be clearly justified



Be realistic (budget,
work, timeline)



Seek feedback from
others

Proposals that Generate Excitement

- “This proposed work could significantly advance our understanding of how to approach treatment of AMD”
- “This proposal is highly innovative, involves a cross-disciplinary team, and would be a game changer if it works”
- “The project team has wonderful evidence that shows that pathways X is critical in AMD development and are clearly testing therapy Y to see if it can impact change in both the development and treatment of AMD”

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Clarity

- “Translatability of animal models to human AMD disease unclear.”
- “While there are several questions posed in the proposal and endpoints are defined, it is not clear what will constitute a successful outcome and how the data will be used going forward.”
- “While the logical structure and motivation of the aims are clear, the scope and nature of the experiments are not defined.”

Research Focus

- “*New Mouse Model* does not model AMD well. This is an interesting basic science question, but it is not really ready for translation yet.”
- “The power of the study is not evident – no sample calculations are presented for numbers needed in these groups.”
- “The feasibility of the *fantastic sequencing* and other new techniques in the proposal have not been determined. Additional preliminary data is needed.”

Funding Overlap

- “It is unclear if there is overlap between this application and current/pending funding.”

Questions?

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View the Office Hours Recording
[HERE](#)

