

# Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research

*A program of the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation*

## Terms of the Award

### **Overview:**

The Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation is committed to effecting permanent positive change in the lives of the residents of Greater Boston, particularly individuals and families in economically disadvantaged communities. Today, three generations of the Smith family oversee the Foundation, stewarding approximately \$15 million annually in grants aimed at promoting greater health, educational attainment, and economic mobility. In the area of health, the Foundation supports the advancement of biomedical research and the expansion of access to high-quality health care at safety net institutions serving low-income individuals and communities of Greater Boston.

In 1991, the Smith Family Foundation created a grantmaking program that would identify and support promising junior faculty to find breakthroughs in such areas as AIDS/HIV, cancer, heart disease, diabetes or neuroscience. Since 2008, the Excellence Award has broadened to support newly independent faculty engaged in basic biomedical science as well as physics, chemistry and engineering with a focus on biomedicine. The Awards are currently in the amount of \$300,000 over three years.

The Smith Family Awards Program for Excellence in Biomedical Research is managed by The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action (HRiA). HRiA is a nonprofit organization in Boston that advances public health and medical research. Over the past 27 years, this Awards Program has helped launch the careers of 169 outstanding scientists with support totaling \$34.7 million.

Awards are made to nonprofit academic, medical or research institutions in Massachusetts as well as at Brown University and Yale University (or one of their affiliated entities) on behalf of the Award Recipients. The Award Recipient Institution is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Award, including any subcontracts, and maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures.

**Award Amount and Funding Period:** Three-year grants totaling \$300,000 (\$100,000 per year) will be made for the period of December 1, 2019 – November 30, 2022. The start date of the Award may be postponed for up to three months without a formal request. Any longer delays must be approved by The Medical Foundation. A delayed start date will not reduce the total Award Period (i.e., a project start date of March 1, 2020 will revise the project end date to February 28, 2023).

**Institutional Assurances:** The Award Recipient must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the use of human subjects or biologic samples, including informed consent (when appropriate), animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in this research project. It is the Award Recipient Institution's responsibility to make sure that all approvals are in place prior to releasing the Award funds. The signatures of the

Authorized Institutional Representative on the Application Face Sheet and the Institutional Officer on the "Institutional Officer Acceptance Agreement" confirm this oversight.

**Liability:** The Smith Family Foundation and The Medical Foundation do not assume any liability or responsibility for activities supported by this Award including, without limitation, incidents or accidents involving any project personnel or study subjects (whether on travel, in the laboratory or classroom, or elsewhere).

**Scientific Misconduct:** The appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines with regard to scientific misconduct must be in place and enforced at the Award Recipient Institution. In the unlikely event that an Award Recipient is involved in an investigation of scientific or financial misconduct, he or she will be subject to the procedures in place at the Institution. The Institution must notify The Medical Foundation of both the investigation and the procedures that the Institution will follow.

According to the NIH/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, research misconduct is defined as the "fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results." A finding of scientific and/or financial misconduct must be reported to The Medical Foundation and may affect the Award Recipient's continued eligibility for support under this Program.

**Financial Responsibilities of Award Recipient Institution:** The Institution will keep systematic records of all expenditures relating to this Award. Vouchers consisting of bills, invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, etc. will be retained by the Award Recipient Institution for three (3) years after the close of the Award Period and will be available for inspection by representatives of the Smith Family Foundation during normal business hours and upon reasonable notice throughout this period. The Smith Family Foundation may, at its own expense, examine, audit, or have audited the records of the Institution insofar as they relate to activities supported by this Award.

**Use of the Award Funds:** The laws of the United States place certain restrictions on the manner in which funds awarded by charitable trusts and foundations may be expended. The Smith Family Foundation Award, including any earned interest, may be used to support salaries and fringe benefits; publication of scientific data; travel to scientific meetings; laboratory and data processing supplies; and other direct expenses such as equipment essential to the project.

Salaries must be in proportion to the percent effort on the project; however, percent effort may exceed the percent of salary support requested from the Smith Family Foundation.

**Funds may not be used for** new construction; the renovation of existing facilities, fundraising, endowments, accumulated deficits or any political activity. Funds awarded for the direct costs of the project may not be used for general operating costs.

**Indirect costs** (institutional overhead) may not exceed 5% of direct costs or \$4,762 each year of the three-year Award period. The annual amount, including overhead, is \$100,000 per year for a total of \$300,000 over the three-year period of the Award.

In instances where there is a subcontract, the combined dollar amount for indirects taken by both the Award Recipient Institution and contracting institution may not exceed \$4,762 each year of the Three-Year Award.

**Re-budgeting:** Expenditures are expected to be within reasonable range of the Budget that was submitted with the grant application. Requests for re-budgeting or reallocation of Award funds over \$20,000 must be conveyed by email to the Grants Officer and include the current allocation of funds along with specific detail and justification for the reallocation. Any line item change to the budget must receive prior approval from The Medical Foundation.

**Reporting Requirements:** Awards will be made for a three-year period; award payments will be made once a year. **Year 2 and Year 3 funding** are contingent upon the timely submission of Progress and Financial Reports and a satisfactory assessment of the Award Recipient's progress by the Scientific Review Committee.

**Scientific and Fiscal Progress Reports** will be due in September 2020, regardless of the start date of the Award. **Final Reports** are due sixty (60) days following conclusion of the Award Period or an approved No-Cost Extension. **The Award Recipient will receive an email notice and forms for these reports, approximately three weeks prior to their due dates.** The Smith Family Foundation and The Medical Foundation reserve the right to place a hold on funds in cases where the Award Recipient is non-compliant with these Reporting Requirements.

**Carryover of Funds:** Funds, up to \$50,000, remaining at the end of Years 1 and 2 of the Award Period may be carried over to the next year and incorporated into that year's budget.

**No-Cost Extension:** Following the three-year Award Period, a **no-cost extension for up to nine months** may be granted upon email notification to the Grants Officer. Requests for a no-cost extension should be made at least 30 days prior to the conclusion of the Award period. This communication must include an explanation for the extension, the unexpended balance, and a timeline for completing the project. Any funds remaining at the close of the extended project period must be returned to The Medical Foundation within sixty (60) days. Final Scientific and Fiscal Reports will be due 60 days following completion of the extension.

**Transfer or Termination of Award:** Awards are made to the Institution where the named Award Recipient is conducting research. If the Award Recipient is planning a move to another nonprofit research institution during the Award Period, transfer of funds to continue the project must be requested via email to the Grants Officer. This communication must include a Fiscal Report stating the remaining fund balance as well as a letter from the proposed Department Chair confirming the availability of resources to continue the project. If the transfer is approved, the Award Recipient will be responsible for notifying The Medical Foundation of the new payee and oversight contact as well as coordinating the fund transfer.

If the Award Recipient is not continuing the research in another nonprofit research setting, the Award will be cancelled and unused funds must be returned within sixty (60) days. If the project is terminated for any other reason by either party, any unused funds must be returned to The

Medical Foundation within sixty (60) days. Disposition of equipment purchased by the Award Recipient with Smith Family Award funds will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Transfer of the Smith Family Award to another PI is not permitted.

**Change in Award Recipient Status:** It is the responsibility of the Award Recipient as well as the Award Recipient Institution to notify The Medical Foundation of any change in employment status of the Award Recipient **at least thirty (30) days prior to such change.**

**Unused Funds and Reversion:** The Award Recipient Institution is also required to give written notice if there is a change in the Institution's status as noted below. Should any of the following occur, The Medical Foundation, on behalf of the Smith Family Foundation, may demand repayment of all unexpended Award funds; moreover, all unpaid installments may be cancelled.

- A determination, preliminary or otherwise, is made by the United States Internal Revenue Service that the grant does not constitute a qualifying distribution.
- The Award Recipient Institution fails to perform any of its duties, in the judgment of The Medical Foundation, required by the Terms of this Award. In such cases, The Medical Foundation shall provide no less than thirty (30) days termination notice in writing to the Institution, upon which the Institution shall have an additional thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice within which to cure any deemed failures.
- The Award Recipient Institution ceases to be exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Service Code or becomes a private foundation.
- There is a material change in the purpose, character, or method of operation of the Award Recipient Institution such as to jeopardize its tax status.

**Family and Medical Leave:** The Award Recipient may continue to expend any Smith Award funds allocated to salary during medical or parental leave consistent with the Institutional level of paid leave for such purposes. Similarly, budgeted costs for maintaining the research study may be expended during the leave, subject to institutional policies. Re-budgeting of these expenses during leave requires approval of The Medical Foundation.

**Patents, Copyright and Intellectual Property:** The Award Recipient should follow the Institution's policies regarding discoveries or any other intellectual property that results from research conducted under this Award. The Smith Family Foundation will not retain any rights to any intellectual property including patents, copyrights, trademarks, or other proprietary rights that result from the research.

**Confidentiality and Third Party Release:** Application materials, as well as Scientific Progress Reports and Final Reports, are considered confidential. The Medical Foundation engages third parties who have the necessary expertise to review these materials and evaluate each project. Although The Medical Foundation endeavors to protect the confidentiality of the reports by requiring reviewers to sign confidentiality agreements, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

The Medical Foundation or the Smith Family Foundation is not responsible for any consequences resulting from the disclosure of the content of these materials to such third parties.

The Medical Foundation and the Smith Family Foundation reserve the right to public acknowledgement of Award information (Award Recipient Name, Institution, Project Title and Research Project Summary). This information will be made available through the website of The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action (<https://hria.org/tmf/Smith>) and may be posted on other affiliated organization websites, included in publicly accessible databases of privately funded awards, or published in print form or other media.

**Scientific Meetings:** Award Recipients and/or their lab members will be expected to attend the Smith Family Foundation's Annual Scientific Poster Session (held each May) in Boston, MA.

**Acknowledgement of Support:** The Award Recipient and Institution are encouraged to announce receipt of this Award entitled, the **Smith Family Award for Excellence in Biomedical Research** and credit financial support to the **Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, Newton, MA.**

**Publications:** The Award Recipient is expected to share research findings in a timely manner through professional meetings and/or publications. Publications or presentations resulting from research supported by this Award must also acknowledge support from the **Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation, Newton, MA.** Upon publication, we ask that a link to the full text be sent to The Medical Foundation.

**Post Award Reporting:** Award Recipients agree to update The Medical Foundation about research progress following the Award Period as well as any new position, affiliation and contact information. Award Recipients may be requested to provide a current C.V. or update information in an online database. The Recipient understands that this obligation survives the Award Period.

**Contact information:**

Lindsey Phelan, Grants Officer

The Medical Foundation at HRiA

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6/2019