

**Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation
Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research
Bank of America, N.A. Trustee**



Initial Proposal Application Guidelines

2018 Grant Cycle

Initial Proposal Online Submission Deadline:
Friday, May 25, 2018
12:00 PM, Eastern Time

The Thome Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research is a two-stage proposal process. Applicants will submit an Initial Proposal as the first step. The Initial Proposal consists of an Online Application, Application Face Sheet, two-page Research Proposal, Applicant Biosketch, and Co-Investigator Biosketch(es) (if applicable). Initial Proposals will be reviewed by a Scientific Committee.

Invited Full Proposal Deadline:

TBD: August 2018

Applicants invited to submit full proposals will be emailed detailed application instructions. In brief, the Full Proposal Application includes the Online Application, Application Face Sheet, Project and Non-Technical Summaries, ten-page Research Proposal, Applicant Biosketch, Co-Investigator Biosketch(es) (if applicable), Budget and Justification Forms, Department or Division Head Letter, and Letter(s) of Collaboration (if applicable).

Applicants will be notified of the final funding decisions in January 2019.

Award Period:

February 1, 2019 – January 31, 2021

Size of the Award

Up to six \$500,000 two-year grants (\$250,000 per year) will be made to independent investigators working in non-profit academic, medical or research institutions within the United States. Awards do not cover indirect costs.

Program Overview and Statement of Purpose

The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation was created in 2002 to advance the health of older adults through the support of direct service projects and medical research on diseases and disorders affecting older adults. In keeping with the Foundation's mission, the goal of the Awards Program is to support translational research that will lead to improved therapies for individuals suffering from age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

As steward of the Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. works with The Medical Foundation's Scientific Review Committee to select the most qualified candidates. The Medical Foundation at Health Resources in Action (HRiA) is a non-profit organization in Boston that advances public health and medical research.

Research Focus

Successful research proposals will extend recent basic research findings regarding the underlying mechanisms of AMD. Examples of funding areas include, but are not limited to, genetically engineered animal models, the discovery and testing of small molecule therapies directed at promising targets including immune-, inflammation-, or lipid-related pathways associated with AMD, local drug delivery systems, and neuroprotective strategies.

Basic research and clinical trials are outside the scope of this Program. However, clinical studies that involve the evaluation of new imaging modalities with no potential risks to human subjects are eligible.

Applicant and Research Project Eligibility

1. All applicants must hold a faculty appointment at a non-profit academic, medical, or research institution in the United States.
2. Individuals who are current Thome Foundation Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research awardees at the time of Initial Proposal deadline are not eligible to apply for the 2018 grant cycle.
3. Only one application may be submitted per applicant.
4. Applicants do not need to be nominated by their institutions.
5. United States citizenship is not required; visa documentation is not required.

Eligibility is not limited to those investigators currently working in age-related macular degeneration research; scientists who have conducted research exploring the biologic causes of related disorders and/or similar translational research programs are encouraged to apply.

The sponsoring institution must accept responsibility for the scientific, administrative and financial management of the overall project including any subcontracts involved in the project.

Award Selection Criteria

The Scientific Review Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate applications:

- Qualifications of the applicant and prior experience in conducting innovative research;
- Hypothesis that is clearly stated, based on sound precedents and supported by relevant literature;
- Objectives that are well thought out, realistic, and technically feasible;
- Research methodology, data collection, and data analyses that are feasible and appropriate to the proposal's aims;
- Quality and originality of the research project; and
- Potential of the research project to lead to effective treatment of AMD.
- Preference will be given to originality of ideas, regardless of faculty seniority.

Terms of the Awards

Please download the Terms of the Award from www.tmfgrants.org/ThomeAMD for information on use of the grant funds, indirect costs, payment schedule, reporting schedule, and other Awardee and Institutional requirements.

Frequently Asked Questions may also be found on this site.

Please continue to the next page for Application Instructions.

Application Instructions for Initial Proposal

Online Submission Deadline:

Friday, May 25, 2018

12:00 PM, Eastern Time

Use this link to start a NEW application:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35077

Go to your account page to return to a SAVED application:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM

The following sections must be completed within the online application form:

- Institution's Tax ID Number
- Eligibility Quiz
- Applicant Data: Institutional information, Applicant contact and educational background
- Key Personnel: Co-Investigator information, *if applicable*
- Research Project: Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary, Non-technical Summary
- Research Classification*
- Research Area*
- Attachment: A PDF document must be uploaded. See further instructions below.

**Research Classification and Research Area are used for administrative tracking purposes only and not used in the scientific review.*

Attachment Instructions for PDF: The documents listed below must be combined and converted into **ONE PDF** file for upload to the Online Application. This document must be named LastName, FirstName.pdf (for example: Smith, Jane.pdf).

A. Application Face Sheet: The Face Sheet must be completed and signed by the Applicant and the Authorized Institutional Representative administratively responsible for the oversight of the project. Once all signatures have been obtained, the Face Sheet should be scanned and used as page 1 of the uploaded document.

B. Initial Research Proposal (Maximum of two pages, excluding references cited):

Outline succinctly:

- Background and Significance;
- Specific Aims;
- Research Design and Methods;
- How the project directly contributes to improved therapies for individuals suffering from AMD.

The research proposal must clarify how the study may improve current therapeutic strategies or reveal new therapeutic approaches.

Initial Proposal Format:

- Include at the top of each page the Principal Investigator's full name, degree(s) and Institution.
- Arial size 11 font must be used in the text of the research proposal section.
- Use single spacing within paragraphs, double spacing between paragraphs and one-inch or larger margins on all four sides.
- Any figures, graphs, tables or pictures must be included within the two pages. For these visuals, the minimum is an 8 point-font size.
- Appendices are not permitted.

C. Biographical Sketch of Principal Investigator (maximum of five pages): The most current NIH Biographical Sketch Form must be used.

- If applicable, Co-Investigator Biographical Sketch(es) should be included.

Out of fairness to applicants who adhere to the guidelines, applications that do not conform to the stated application procedures or that contain more than the specified number of pages or letters will be rejected. Applications that are not properly organized will be rejected.

Contact Information:

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The Medical Foundation
A division of Health Resources in Action