

Robert E. Leet and Clara  
Guthrie Patterson Trust

*Mentored Research Award*

Office Hours

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 2-3PM ET

Lindsay Redman Rivera, PhD,  
Grants Officer

Kim Lezak, PhD,  
Managing Director



Health Resources in Action®  
*Advancing Public Health and Medical Research*

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

# Agenda

---

- Program Overview and Application Requirements
  - Program Mission & Research Focus
  - Program Overview
  - Eligibility
  - New Requirements
  - Review Criteria
- Lessons Learned and Helpful Tips
  - Budget Guidance
  - Pitfalls to Avoid
  - Application Tips
- Q & A

# Program Mission and Research Focus

---

## Mission

The Robert E. Leet and Clara Guthrie Patterson Trust was established in 1980 to support “**research relating to human diseases, their causes and relief thereof**”. The goal of the program is to support pilot studies and innovative research conducted by early stage mentored investigators and promote their transition towards independence.

## Research Focus

Clinical research that focus on the causes of human disease and/or improving treatment.

The program follows the NIH definition of the clinical research which includes:

1. Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) on the proposed study directly interacts with human subjects. It includes: (a) patient-based studies of mechanisms of human disease, (b) therapeutic interventions, (c) clinical trials, or (d) development of new technologies. Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual.
2. Epidemiological and behavioral studies.
3. Outcomes research and health services research.

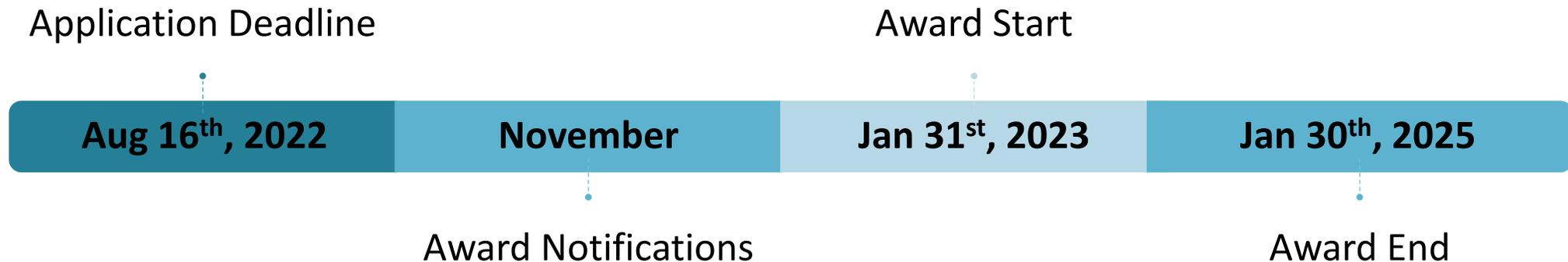
**Exclusions:** Proposals utilizing animal studies or those with a predominant focus on fundamental aspects of phenomena without direct clinical application are ineligible.

# Program Overview

---

Amount & Duration: \$200,000 for 2 years  
(\$100,000 per year, indirect costs not allowed)

Award Dates: Jan 31, 2023 – Jan 30, 2025



# Eligibility

- Conducting research in the states of **Connecticut, New Jersey or Rhode Island.**
- Doctoral degree (MD, MD/PhD, PhD, DO, DMD, PharmD, DPT...)
- Postdoc or clinician scientist
  - Without clinical responsibilities
    - 3-6 years full-time postdoctoral research experience
    - Commit 90% effort to research
  - With clinical responsibilities
    - No more than 3 years full-time postdoctoral (or equivalent) research experience
    - Commit 70% effort to research
  - Must have completed residency and clinical training by funding start date
- Must not hold tenure-track faculty position or equivalent (no start up package or lab space)
- Must apply under guidance of a Mentor
- Cannot hold concurrent Career Development Award, R01 or other major source of funding that covers more than half their salary

# New Requirements

---

## **Research Focus**

- Proposals with a predominant focus on fundamental aspects of phenomena without direct clinical application are ineligible

## **Eligibility**

- Clinician Scientist eligibility (no more than 3 years full-time postdoctoral research experience)
- Tenure-track faculty are no longer eligible.
- Applicants may not hold concurrent award (K, R01 or other) that covers more than half of their salary

## **Application Documents:**

- Applicant Eligibility, Research Experience, and Career Trajectory sections
- Contributions to Research Community and Promotion of Positive Research Culture
- Project Ownership Plan (Including a statement in the mentor's letter)

# Review Criteria

## Significance and Impact

- Advance knowledge relating to human diseases, their causes and relief
- Hypothesis is novel, innovative and important
- Proposal describes intended impact and benefit to the identified problem
- Work demonstrates transparency in sharing of research findings/project outcomes
- Project will contribute to training and growth of applicant
- Career development plan activities support the Applicant's advancement and goals

## Investigator

- Applicant's background and experience is well-suited for project completion
- Project and career development plan activities enhance Applicant's future work and goals
- Mentorship team is appropriate, well-defined and aligns with research aims and career goals
- Applicant has meaningfully contributed/engaged in activities that benefit the wider research community and shows a strong commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable and inclusive research environment
- Strength of the Mentor's LOS, degree of current and future commitment to the applicant including project ownership
- Strength of additional LORs

## Project and Related Activities

- Proposed scope is a logical extension of literature review
- Objectives are well conceived and realistic
- Research methodology, data collection and analytical plan are feasible and appropriate
- Recruitment plan for the study is appropriate and feasible and shows sensitivity towards the target population. Human subject's protections and study participant inclusion are clear and justified
- Proposal suggests next steps in terms of positive, negative, or null results
- Career development plan activities are directly related to project completion and enhance project effectiveness
- Timeline and budget are realistic and appropriate
- Scientific and budgetary overlap with other support is clearly described with a plan to avoid duplication of funding.

# Budget Guidance

- \$200,000 over 2 years
- Funds need to be equally distributed across each year of funding
- Indirect costs are not allowed (Rent, Telephone/Fax/Internet, etc...)

Patterson Mentored Research Award Program							YEAR 1 BUDGET DETAIL			
PI Name:				Year 1 End Date:						
Year 1 Start Date:		XX/XX/XXXX		Year 1 End Date:		XX/XX/XXXX				
Awarded Amount Year 1:		\$ -		Maximum Indirect Allowable:		0.00%				
LIST PERSONNEL (Grantee Organization Only)							Autopopulated (do not overwrite formulas)			
NAME	ROLE ON PROJECT	PERCENT EFFORT	INST BASE SALARY (without NIH salary cap)	SALARY REQUESTED (including NIH salary cap)	FRINGE BENEFITS %	PROJECT SALARY	FRINGE BENEFITS	TOTAL		
	PI	0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
		0%	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>CONSULTANT COSTS</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization, e.g., translator 40 hours at \$80/hour):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL CONSULTANT COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SMALL EQUIPMENT</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization, e.g., Computers \$2,000 etc):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL SMALL EQUIPMENT COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUPPLIES</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization e.g., Chemicals \$2,000; Glassware \$1,000 etc):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL SUPPLIES COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TRAVEL</b> (Provide Details e.g., Who traveled where and for how much):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SERVICES &amp; MAINTENANCE</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL SERVICES &amp; MAINTENANCE COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL PUBLICATIONS COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL AND NON-PERSONNEL COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>INDIRECT COSTS (AWARD RECIPIENT INSTITUTION)</b>							0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>EQUIPMENT</b> (Provide Detailed Cost Itemization):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL EQUIPMENT COSTS (NO INDIRECT COSTS)</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>CONSORTIUM / CONTRACTUAL DIRECT</b> (Use Subcontract Tab):										
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>SUBTOTAL CONSORTIUM/CONTRACTUAL DIRECT COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>CONSORTIUM / CONTRACTUAL INDIRECT COST LESS AWARD RECIPIENT INSTITUTION</b>							0.00%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>							\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

# Common Pitfalls to Avoid

---

- Approach
- Sample size and statistics
- Budget and feasibility
- Career development and independence
- Publication record
- Research plan and training plan does not compliment the applicant's background
- Mentorship team – does not reflect the needs for the applicant to be successful in completing the work
- Poor grantsmanship: jargon, abbreviations, no clear hypothesis
- Overlap in funding

# Specific Quotes

---

- **Approach:** “Lack of alternative approaches.”; “Research aims lack sufficient detail in numerous areas including details of datasets including number of patients included, inclusion/exclusion criteria, variables available in datasets, definitions of outcomes, and follow up periods.”; “Sex as a biological variable is not addressed; this is important since sex has a significant impact on XXX.” “A significant weakness is the absence of clear hypotheses.”; “No information is presented as to how the experimental results will be analyzed and interpreted.”
- **Sample Size & Statistics:** “Sample size may be too small to yield actionable results”; “No discussion of sample size is offered “; “No power analysis is offered indicating that the samples to be recruited will be sufficient to detect the effects proposed”; “Statistical analyses are limited”.
- **Budget & Feasibility:** “The budget accounts for \$XX,XXX for *newest technique*-sequencing. With a n=XX/group, it seems unlikely that the sequencing can be performed for that price.”; the investigator states that they will send out samples for *amazing* profiling, but this is not listed in the budget”; “The feasibility of the study is not clear.”
- **Career Development & Independence:** “Career goals are not specified”; “Additional career development goals are not discussed; the applicant should speak to their future plans conducting research as an independent investigator”; “The application would be strengthened by evidence of applicant conducting independent research.”
- **Publication Record:** “Applicant has modest publication record, some additional insight regarding the ongoing research efforts and potential future publications is desired”; “The applicant has a limited publication record and this should be addressed through inclusion of research in progress and potential future publications.”
- **Mentorship:** “All the burden is being placed on 2 mentors. A third mentor (possibly in data analysis) might be a good idea.”; “The mentoring team should include individuals with expertise in data analysis and interpretation”; “The applicant should seek additional mentorship to help provide further guidance and skill building”; “There does not seem to be anyone with experience with bioinformatics analyses that would be necessary to analyze the data, as well as to integrate any of these analyses.”

# Application Tips

---

- Make sure your proposal reflects the review criteria and program goals
- Tell the story and provide explicit reasons and statements regarding why your approach is promising. Recruit the right team: Include appropriate collaborations and/or shared leadership if it benefits the project
- Be realistic (in timeline, budgets, etc.)
- Avoid jargon and abbreviations; should be understandable to scientific generalists such as venture capital investors
- Be concise and clear (make it easy to read!)
- Point out pitfalls and include contingencies
- Seek feedback (internally, externally, and across disciplines)

# Questions?

**Program Website:**

<https://hria.org/tmf/patterson/>

**Contact Us:**

[PattersonAwards@hria.org](mailto:PattersonAwards@hria.org)