

2024 ALS Scholars in Therapeutics Application Instructions

Due date for submission: January 15, 2024

Submit Application as single PDF document to HealeyAMGCenterforALS@mgh.harvard.edu

I. Application Due Dates:

- Release of RFA: September 26, 2023
- Applications Due: January 15, 2024
- Notification of Award: March 2024
- Initiation of Award*: July 1, 2024 (flexible once contracts signed)

II. Guidelines for completing application:

A. Eligibility:

1. Applications from clinician scientists and postdoctoral fellows focused on translational research are eligible.
2. Candidates with Ph.D. or M.D. with a strong publication record. International applicants are encouraged to apply.
3. The ALS focused proposal must have a strong scientific rationale and should be largely developed by the candidate with guidance from his/her mentor.
4. Eligibility for this award is based on the date the candidate attained their degree/ qualification. For MDs, scholars will be considered if they have completed their specialist qualification (i.e., US Residency; Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, etc.) For PhDs they can be no more than 5 years post- degree.

B. Review Criteria:

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the following five criteria:

1. **Candidate:** Strong publication track record, evidence of independent thinking, and a creative approach to problem solving. *For clinicians, applicants should demonstrate capabilities as a clinician scientist based on prior achievements.*
2. **Mentor:** Ideally a principal investigator committed and actively working within ALS or an adjacent field.
3. **Project Feasibility:** While preliminary data is not essential for the application, sufficient supporting data for the proposed aims is required to ensure that the project is feasible and can be completed within the two-year time frame.
4. **Scientific Rigor and Reproducibility:** the research proposed must be well thought through, include details of experimental design, blinding, power calculations and approaches to promote reproducibility including validation of key reagents. In addition, the applicant should state how they will share their findings, data, reagents with the scientific community.
5. **Research Environment:** Quality and nature of training provided by mentor as well as institutional support.

C. Submission Details:

1. Application form:

- A. Administrative information:** signatures from the applicant and organization, acknowledging the terms and conditions of the award
- B. Scientific abstract:** (300-word maximum) and lay description (150-word maximum)
- C. Research Proposal:** focused on therapy development (5-page maximum not including references) must include specific aims, significance, innovation, experimental plan, and timeline.
- D. Career plan:** Outline of applicant's training plans and career goals (one page maximum)
- E. List of other funding support for the applicant**

2. Budget (Using Application Budget Template [HERE](#))

- A.** \$150,000 per year total (direct and maximum 15% indirect costs) for maximum 2 years. To include salary support (minimum 75% effort for applicant) and supplies relevant to the outlined project. This may include up to \$2,500 per year in travel costs to one relevant ALS meeting. The IDC for this award originates from MGH philanthropic funds and will be capped at 15% of total direct costs.

3. Supporting Documentation:

- A. Letters of Reference** (At least one required from applicant mentor)
- B. NIH-STYLE BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR THE APPLICANT AND MENTOR**
 - Please follow NIH guidelines, not to exceed 2 pages per person this includes:
 - Current Position and Title
 - Education and Training
 - Positions and Employment
 - Other Experience and Professional Memberships
 - Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications
 - Current/ On-going Research Support and Completed Research

D. Reporting:

The ALS Scholars will submit semi-annual financial and scientific progress reports to the Healey & AMG Center who will share with funding partners. The ALS Scholars will also attend and present their findings at least one of the semi-annual Healey & AMG Science Advisory Council and ALSFAC meetings during the funding period.

ALS SCHOLARS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

Project Title:
Grant Request Total:

Applicant Name:
Applicant E-Mail:
Applicant Phone:
Applicant Address:
Applicant Signature and Date:

Supervisor Name:
Supervisor E-Mail:
Supervisor Phone:
Supervisor Address:
Supervisor Signature and Date:

Institution Name:
Institution E-Mail:
Institution Phone:
Institution Address:
Institution Signature and Date:

ABSTRACT *Minimum font size: Arial 11. Maximum 5 pages*

Lay Summary: (150-word max) *Please note that this summary will be used in communications and materials if application is approved*

Scientific Abstract: (300-word max)
Descriptive overview of the project goals

PROPOSAL

Specific Aims:

Itemized list

Significance and Impact For ALS:

Briefly describe the background, critically evaluate existing knowledge on proposal topic, and specifically identify the gaps that this project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance of the research described in this application by relating the specific aims to the broad long-term objectives. Enter preliminary data below.

Experiment Design and Methods:

Outline the procedures to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project. Include the means by which the data will be collected, analyzed and interpreted. Describe new methodology and its advantage over existing methodologies. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims.

Timeline & Milestones:

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

CAREER PLAN (one page max)

Outline of applicant's training plans and career goals.

OPTIONAL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

If funded, the applicant has the opportunity to spend up to 6 months learning drug development with an industry partner. Please indicate how this experience would benefit the project and your personal development. Is there a specific aspect of the drug development process that is of specific interest?

OTHER FUNDING SUPPORT

List all ongoing and pending funding support for applicant pertaining to ALS research. If none, please indicate.

Current Grants:

Source, Title of Project, Grant ID (if available), Total funds in \$/year

Grants / Applications Pending:

Source, Title of Project, Grant ID (if available), Total funds in \$/year

Prior Grants:

Source, Title of Project, Grant ID (if available), Total funds in \$/year

BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING:
DATE FINAL VERSION SUBMITTED: