



2018 Discovery Science Award for Postinfectious Hydrocephalus

The Hydrocephalus Association is soliciting applications for research on pediatric and adult onset postinfectious hydrocephalus. The goals of this grant are to provide funding for bold and innovative research with the potential to transform the field of hydrocephalus through the understanding of disease mechanisms and the development of novel therapies.

Key Dates

Letter of Intent: September 5, 2018 by 5:00 pm ET

Full Application: October 30, 2018 by 5:00 pm ET

Award Details

This award is intended to provide funding for research in **postinfectious hydrocephalus**, including both pediatric and adult onset postinfectious hydrocephalus. Areas of interest include identification and/or improved understanding of the primary and secondary mechanisms leading to the development and progression of postinfectious hydrocephalus and identification and/or testing of new therapies for postinfectious hydrocephalus. **All applications must be responsive to postinfectious hydrocephalus.**

This award will prioritize research in the following areas:

- postinfectious hydrocephalus pathogenesis; (e.g. cellular, molecular, signaling, developmental, and genetic mechanisms)
- postinfectious hydrocephalus CSF dynamics;
- preclinical drug target identification;
- preclinical drug/cell therapy development and testing

This award may support research in the following areas:

- new animal, *in vivo*, or *in vitro* model development (as component of larger study); (also see NIH [PA-18-623](#) for other funding opportunities in this area)
- clinical drug/cell therapy development and testing;
- clinical studies;
- clinical trials (see: [NIH definition](#))

This award will not support:

- minor modifications to current clinical management;
- human subject shunt, ETV, or ETV-CPC outcome studies;
- preclinical/clinical medical device testing;
- intracranial pressure monitor development or testing;
- tools to advance hydrocephalus research development or modification; (See NIH [PA-18-623](#) for funding opportunities in this area)
- business plan development;
- studies that cannot be completed in the three-year timeline

Award Structure

- The award provides funding for up to three (3) years.
- Proposals must be submitted for actual, direct costs.
- Proposals may be submitted for direct costs between \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year.



- **Direct costs are capped at \$273,000 total** over the duration of the grant.
- The Facilities and Administrative (F&A) cost rate is capped at 10% of direct costs for this grant.
- **Direct and F&A costs combined are capped at \$300,000 total** over the duration of the grant.
- HA anticipates funding two (2) proposals during this award cycle.

The number of awards made will depend on the quality of the applications received and the research priorities determined by the Hydrocephalus Association.

Eligibility Criteria

The Hydrocephalus Association will accept applications from researchers based at accredited, non-profit research and academic institutions throughout the world. Institutions must comply with or exceed the United States federal guidelines for research on human subjects and animal care and use standards. All applications must be submitted in English.

To be eligible, principal investigators must:

- Be an expert in the area of hydrocephalus or other relevant field.
- Have an outstanding publication record.
- Have demonstrated the ability to independently supervise staff and research.
- Have completed one or more of the following degrees: MD, PhD, DSc, DO, Pharm.D, or equivalent.
- Hold an assistant professorship, associate professorship, professorship, or any equivalent academic or non-academic position.

Established Investigators and Early Established Investigators (see: [NIH definition](#)) are encouraged to involve young investigators through active mentorship (see: Review Process and Criteria).

Early Stage Investigators (see: [NIH definition](#)) are encouraged to involve an established investigator who can be an active mentor (see: Review Process and Criteria).

All applicants must be members of the Hydrocephalus Association's Network for Discovery Science (HANDS) to apply. To become a member, please visit: <http://hands.hydroassoc.org/>.

Application Details

The Letter of Intent (LOI) components include:

- A one-page summary of the project.
- Identification of the supporting institution.
- Identification of three potential reviewers.

[Click here to view and download the LOI](#)

The Full Application components include:

- Contact details and other relevant administrative information. (Face Page)
- Budget and budget justification for each year. (Budget)
- Biographical sketches are required for the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), as well as any other Key Personnel. (BioSketch)

- Research plan that contains a summary, specific aims and hypotheses, background and significance, research design and methods, statistical analysis, timeline, next steps, and literature cited. (Research Plan)
- Institutional facilities description and any consultations/collaborations. (Facilities and Collaborations)
- Mentorship plan. (Mentorship Plan – if applicable)
- Mentee commitment letter. (if applicable)
- Mentor commitment letter. (if applicable)
- Applications from all candidates should also include a letter from the appropriate administrative institutional official confirming the institutions commitment to the responsible conduct of research and the candidate’s eligibility and good standing.

[Click here to view and download the application components](#)

Review Process and Criteria

Full applications will be reviewed by an independent Scientific Review Committee. Each application will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Responsiveness to the RFA.
- Scientific merit of the proposal.
- Potential impact of study.
- Applicant qualifications.
- Research environment/Collaborations.
- Mentorship plan. (if applicable)*

**The mentorship score will not be included in the initial ranking of applications but could be used by the HA Research Committee to determine final funding recommendations.*

Once applications are reviewed and scored by the Scientific Review Committee, the de-identified scores will be presented to the HA Research Committee. The HA Research Committee gives a high weight to the rankings of the Scientific Review Committee, but also considers other factors consistent with the strategic priorities of the HA. These factors may include, but are not limited to, current funding status of the investigator by HA and factors related to the broadening of the hydrocephalus research ecosystem. The HA Research Committee will then provide funding recommendations to the HA CEO.

Post Award

Prior to the start of research activities, all awardees must provide assurance of compliance with local research regulatory bodies and with local laws. Additionally, for proposals using human embryonic stem cells or human tissue the awardee must obtain appropriate Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (ESCRO) and human subjects research approvals prior to the start of research activities.

Award Timeline

All applicants must submit an LOI. LOIs must be submitted to research-loi@hydroassoc.org before 5:00 PM (Eastern) on **September 5, 2018**. LOI decisions and invitations to submit full proposals will be made in late-March. Full applications are due before 5:00 PM (Eastern) on **October 30, 2018**. Grant finalists will be contacted in **December 2018** and announced in **December 2018**. For additional information, please contact the Director of Research Programs at research@hydroassoc.org or call 240.483.4540.