AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Next Generation Research Grant in ALS and Related Disorders

FUNDED IN COLLABORATION WITH

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Next Generation Research Grant in ALS and Related Disorders

Funded by the CReATe Consortium and American Brain Foundation

At a Glance

Applications Due	October 8, 2026 by 5:00 PM CT
Award Announcement	March 2027 (anticipated)
Award and Funding Start	July 1, 2027
Award and Funding End	June 30, 2029
Award Amount	$150,000
Indirect Costs	Not supported
Protected Research Time	70%
Link to Application	https://proposalcentral.com/GrantOpportunities.asp?GMID=359

Program Description

The American Brain Foundation's Next Generation Research Grants (NGRGs) support early career investigators conducting high-quality research aimed at better understanding, treating, and curing brain diseases. These grants are offered in collaboration with disease-focused partner organizations and reflect ABF's Cure One, Cure Many research philosophy: the belief that breakthroughs in one area of research accelerate progress across many others.

About This Grant

This two-year award supports clinical or preclinical research in ALS and related disorders, including progressive muscular atrophy (PMA), primary lateral sclerosis (PLS), frontotemporal dementia (FTD), hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP), and multi-system proteinopathy (MSP). This grant targets early career researchers who are studying disease mechanisms, diagnosis, or treatment of ALS and related disorders and whose research has potential relevance beyond ALS and related disorders to other diseases.

This grant is funded by the CReATe Consortium and American Brain Foundation and administered by the American Brain Foundation.

Award Amount

This grant provides $75,000 per year for two years, for a total of $150,000. Funds support salary and research-related expenses. Of the annual award, $65,000 is designated for salary support and $10,000 for research-related expenses. The grant does not support indirect costs; all funds

must be used directly for the proposed project. Applicants may supplement this grant with other awards, however, the other grant(s) cannot exceed $75,000 annually.

Eligibility

Applications must meet all the following eligibility requirements:

- Applicants must be clinician-investigators with an MD, PhD, or equivalent terminal-level clinical or research degree.
- Applicants must have completed clinical residency or PhD on or after July 1, 2022.
- Applicants at accredited US and international institutions are eligible to apply. There is no citizenship requirement.

There is no limit on the number of applications submitted from a single institution. Applicants may apply for more than one NGRG in a single application cycle; a separate, complete application must be submitted for each grant.

The American Brain Foundation is committed to supporting research that incorporates a broad range of perspectives and includes study populations that reflect the full spectrum of individuals affected by ALS and related disorders. The ABF provides equal opportunities to all applicants without regard to race, religion, color, age, sex, pregnancy, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic disposition, neurodiversity, disability, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law.

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee of experts convened by the CReATe Consortium and American Brain Foundation. Proposals for all NGRGs are evaluated according to the following core review criteria:

- Scientific rationale, innovation, and methodological rigor, including a well-developed and testable hypothesis
- Potential clinical impact and translational value
- Alignment with the research priorities of the grant
- Investigator expertise and potential for an independent research career
- Feasibility of proposed aims, including identification of potential pitfalls and alternative approaches
- Quality and nature of mentorship, including demonstrated commitment to the applicant's training and career development

Application Instructions

All application materials must be submitted via ProposalCentral by 5:00 PM CT on October 8, 2026. Incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed. Please do not submit materials beyond those listed below; additional materials will not be considered.

Note that funding is contingent upon receipt of all necessary institutional, ethical, and regulatory approvals (including IRB approval where applicable) prior to the award start date.

Required Materials

1. **Lay Summary**

   In 250 words or fewer, describe the proposed project and its potential impact for patients and families. This summary should be written for a non-specialist audience—imagine explaining your project to a patient's family member who has no scientific training. It may be used publicly and should not contain any confidential information.

What makes a strong lay summary:

- Write in plain language. Avoid scientific jargon, acronyms, and technical terms.
- Lead with the problem, not the methods. Start with why this research matters to patients and families, then explain what you hope to learn or accomplish.
- Be specific about impact. Don't just say the research will "advance understanding"—explain what a successful outcome would mean for diagnosis, treatment, or quality of life.
- Avoid describing your methodology in detail. The lay summary is not a mini abstract; reviewers and donors want to understand the "why," not the "how."
- Write it last. The lay summary is often stronger when written after the research plan is complete.

2. **Alignment**

   In 500 words or fewer, describe how the proposed project aligns with the goals of this RFP to advance research in ALS and related disorders, which include progressive muscular atrophy (PMA), primary lateral sclerosis (PLS), frontotemporal dementia (FTD), hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP), and multi-system proteinopathy (MSP), and ABF's Cure One, Cure Many research philosophy.

3. **Research Plan**

   A PDF of up to three single-spaced pages. The research plan should include:

   a. A brief statement of aims summarizing the project's hypothesis, objectives, specific aims
   b. Background and significance
   c. Methodology, including potential pitfalls and alternative approaches
   d. Any supporting preliminary data/figures

   Applicants should include bibliographic references, which do not count toward the three-page limit.

   The research plan should be written by the applicant and represent their original work. Applicants are expected and encouraged to develop the research plan in discussion with the proposed mentor. It is appropriate, but not required, for the proposed work to be related to the mentor's ongoing research.

4. **NIH Biosketch**

   A PDF of the applicant's current NIH Biosketch. Access the template here: https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biographical-sketch-common-form

5. **Letter of Support**

   Applicants will provide the name and email address for their academic advisor, mentor, or lab head, who will receive an automated email with a link to submit a letter of support of 1,000 words or fewer. The letter should address:

   a. How the proposed research fits into the letter writer's research program
   b. The letter writer's expertise in the proposed area of research and their anticipated time commitment to supervising and training the applicant
   c. Prior experience supervising and mentoring early-career researchers
   d. The applicant's potential for an independent research career

   The letter writer will also be asked to upload their NIH Biosketch.

6. **Institutional Sign-Off**

   The applicant's department chair or equivalent institutional official will receive a link via email to confirm that the applicant has institutional support and adequate protected research time to carry out the proposed work. No letter is required.

Application Deadline: All materials must be submitted by October 8, 2026 at 5:00 PM CT.

This deadline applies to all required materials, including the mentor letter and department chair sign-off. These are submitted directly by your mentor and chair via an automated email link — it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure both are completed on time. Applications missing any required materials at the close of the submission period will not be reviewed.

What makes a strong application:

Reviewers have identified the following characteristics of competitive applications:

- Well-developed hypothesis: The hypothesis is testable and clearly stated.
- Detailed statistical plan: Statistical methods are well-designed and appropriate for the proposed aims.
- Strong mentorship: The application demonstrates committed mentorship with relevant expertise.
- Feasible aims: Each aim is focused, achievable within the award period, and logically structured.
- Innovation: The proposed work is original, has potential relevance for multiple diseases/conditions and will advance the applicant's long-term career goals.
- Well-defined training plan: There is a clear, gap-based career development plan.
- Clear articulation: The application is clearly written and the project is well communicated.

Questions?

For questions about this RFP or the application process, please contact the American Brain Foundation at grants@americanbrainfoundation.org.

For questions about the application platform, contact ProposalCentral support at pcsupport@altum.com.