

The Myositis Association

2023 Mentored Research Fellowship Application

(For Initial funding in 2024)

Information and Instructions

Mentored Research Fellowships are designed to help promising junior investigators (MDs and PhDs) for a maximum period of two years, at the salary level approved by the participating institution. The maximum amount that can be received annually is \$50,000 and funding for the second year is contingent on demonstrated progress in the first. Candidates should have completed residency or fellowship training or have received a PhD within the three years prior to commencing the Fellowship and be performing research under the supervision of an established mentor. Recipients must devote at least 50% of their time to research but may include some study and clinical experience in allied fields. There should be limited supplementation of salary from outside sources.

A competitive candidate will be an early stage clinical or basic investigator who has demonstrated commitment to the field of myositis or related fields. The research environment, quality of research project, career development plan, and mentor are all weighted in the funding decision. Applicants must also convey a clear path to research independence.

Examples of acceptable models are listed below. These are not exclusive and other approaches can be considered.

1. Clinical/research fellow (post-residency training) with the award allowing an opportunity to perform myositis research prior to an independent faculty position,
2. Post-doctoral fellow with a clear commitment to myositis research and path to an independent position,
3. Junior faculty within three years of their independent position to allow protected time to perform myositis research under the guidance of a mentor.

Application for a fellowship should be made through an accredited medical school, university, or research institute, which must agree to supply the clinical and/or laboratory facilities.

Please refer to the TMA research guidelines for complete information about the TMA research program. ([Link here](#))

Inquiries concerning the application should be directed to Rhonda Buckley-Bishop, TMA Interim Executive Director, who can be reached at rhonda@myositis.org.

The application procedure proceeds in two steps:

A **Letter of Intent** (LOI) is required and must contain the following:

1. One-page cover letter providing the title of the project and describing how this application meets the criteria for the level of funding requested. Identify the mentor and describe how the project provides a path to research independence
2. One-page description of the specific aims of the project
3. Biosketch in NIH format
4. Identification of any persons who might have a conflict of interest in reviewing the application (e.g. former and present collaborators, mentors, and/or competitors)

Letters of Intent must be submitted in one PDF document and be received by midnight Eastern Time on **May 15, 2023**.

Applicants submitting LOIs will be informed by **May 22, 2023** whether they will be invited to submit a complete application.

A **complete application** will include, in order, the following sections in a single .pdf document, submitted by **June 30, 2022**. The required template can be found on the following pages.

- I. Administrative Information
- II. Mentor Information
- III. Research Plan Summary
- IV. Biographical Sketches (applicant and mentor in NIH format)
- V. Research Plan (includes Letter from Mentor and Applicant Personal Statement/Career Development Plan – see Notes 1 and 2 below for details.)
- VI. Conflicts of Interest

Only TMA application forms or computer-generated facsimiles of TMA forms containing the same information may be used.

Type size must be at least 12-point. Margins must be at least 1/2 inch. Single-spacing is preferred. Applications not conforming to these guidelines will be returned without review. Use of type larger than the minimum is strongly encouraged. Scanned documents may not be reviewed if they are illegible.

The review committee should be considered to be familiar with standard methodologies but critical or novel experimental details must be provided. Applications should be concise and complete.

For proposals involving participation of human subjects, the applicant must provide the Institutional Review Board approved consent form. If the IRB has not yet approved the study, a letter from the IRB acknowledging receipt of the consent request must be included, and TMA must receive confirmation of the approval from the IRB prior to funding. Proposals involving participation of animal subjects must follow the process described above for human subjects, with references to “Institutional Review Board” replaced by “the institution’s animal care and use committee.” For proposals involving the use of drugs not approved by the FDA, evidence of an IND is also required prior to funding.

Note (1) The mentor’s letter should not exceed two single spaced pages. Specifically, the mentor should briefly describe the research project and why the applicant is qualified and appropriate to conduct it. A description of the mentor’s previous trainees and ability to mentor is important. In addition, a description of how this fellowship will lead to career independence is essential.

Note (2) The personal statement with career development plan should not exceed two single spaced pages. How this fellowship will lead to career independence and what skills will be learned during the fellowship should be detailed.

Submit completed application by June 30, 2023 to:

Rhonda Buckley-Bishop

rhonda@myositis.org

Interim Executive Director

The Myositis Association

6950 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 370

Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: (800) 821-7356

The Myositis Association

Mentored Research Fellowship Application

Applicant Name:

Institution: _____

Sponsor: _____

Form of myositis to be studied (check all that apply):

- Juvenile myositis
- Dermatomyositis
- Inclusion-body myositis
- Polymyositis

Section I - Administrative Information

Applicant:	
Date of Birth:	SS#:
Current Title or Position:	
Department:	
Institution Address:	Phone:
	Fax:
	E-mail:
	Tax-exempt ID or Equivalency:
Type of Institution: <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/> Private Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Other If other, please specify:	
Full title of Research Proposal:	
Abbreviated title of Research Proposal:	
Dates of Fellowship Period:	
Total Amount Requested: (Fellows are eligible for up to \$50,000 annually)	
Name/Title/Address of Person to Whom Checks Should be Mailed: (person indicated is official signing for the applicant organization)	

Section II - Mentor Information

Mentor:	
Current Title or Position:	
Department or Division:	
Institution:	
Institution Address:	Phone:
	Fax:
	E-mail:

Signature of Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

Section III - Research Plan Summary

Full Title of Application:

Abstract of Research Plan (do not exceed the space provided):

Lay Summary

Section IV - Biographical Sketches
For Applicant and Mentor in NIH Format

(Please see [NIH Biosketch](#) format on TMA website.)

Section V - Research Plan

Please limit items 1-4 to no more than ten pages combined

1. Specific aims
2. Background and significance
3. Preliminary data
4. Research strategy
5. Literature cited
6. Consultant and collaborative arrangements (if applicable)
7. Human subjects information (if applicable)
8. Laboratory animals (if applicable)
9. Mentor Letter (maximum of 2 pages – see Note 1 below)
10. Personal Statement and Career Development Plan (maximum of 2 pages – see Note 2 below)

Note 1: The mentor's letter should not exceed two single spaced pages. Specifically, the mentor should briefly describe the research project and why the applicant is qualified and appropriate to conduct it. A description of the mentor's previous trainees and ability to mentor is important. In addition, a description of how this fellowship will lead to career independence is essential.

Note 2: The personal statement with career development plan should not exceed two single spaced pages. How this fellowship will lead to career independence and what skills will be learned during the fellowship should be detailed.

Section VI - Conflicts of Interest

Please identify any researchers who should not review this application because of a conflict of interest or other reason. Provide reason for conflict.

Reviewer:
Institution:
Reason for conflict:

Reviewer:
Institution:
Reason for conflict:

Reviewer:
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Reason for conflict:

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