



MOTOR NEURON CENTER

www.ColumbiaMNC.org

**Research Project Grants Available
\$65,000 per year for up to 3 years**

Applications are invited in the areas of:

Research of potential relevance to spinal muscular atrophy (SMA): basic research on motor neuron biology and related areas (e.g. RNA metabolism and splicing, axonal protein synthesis), basic and clinical research directly related to SMA (cell and animal models, patient-oriented research, pathology of muscle and spinal cord in SMA in human and mouse), technical development relevant to SMA therapeutics (e.g. stem cells, neuromuscular testing in mice).

Research of potential relevance to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS): basic research on motor neuron biology and related areas (e.g. cell death pathways, protein misfolding, development of descending circuitry underlying motor function), basic and clinical research directly related to ALS (cell and animal models, patient-oriented research, genetics of sALS and ALS-FTD), technical development relevant to ALS therapeutics (e.g. spinal cord imaging, new methods for analysis of patient-derived tissues/cells).

Equal funding will be available in each area

Funding

The aim is to stimulate new collaborations and research programs in all areas of Motor Neuron Center (MNC) research, with a particular emphasis on translational research and collaboration between clinical and basic scientists. Grants will provide seed funding for research projects, allowing them to develop to the stage where they qualify for funding from NIH or other external sources. Exploratory projects are encouraged. Proposals will be evaluated by an Internal and External Review Committee (IRC) for scientific quality, novelty, contribution to MNC overall research goals, potential relevance to SMA or ALS, and collaborative nature.

Eligibility, Terms and Conditions

- All faculty at assistant professor level (or equivalent) or above at Columbia are eligible, however at least one of the collaborators must be an MNC faculty member (see www.ColumbiaMNC.org).
- Collaborative applications are not required, but are strongly encouraged.
- Grantees must attend monthly MNC meetings; failure to do so will result in cessation of funding.
- Grantees receiving funds for SMA research will be required to agree to and observe the terms of an agreement in place that covers intellectual property (IP), research tool availability and revenue sharing. This document is available upon request. Other research in investigators' laboratories will not be subject to these requirements.
- Investigators may hold no more than two awards at any time.

Use of Grant Funds and reporting requirements

- Funds may be used for research supplies, equipment, investigator and/or postdoctoral and/or graduate student salary.
- Funds may not be used for indirect costs, travel, subscriptions, conference or meeting registration or publishing costs.
- Investigators will be required to submit a brief written scientific report and reconciled fiscal report every 6 months.

Application Procedure

Investigators should submit a proposal that describes the research, and provide a list of 6-month milestones with measurable scientific aims. Relevance to ALS and/or SMA should be specifically stated. The proposal (font Arial 11 pt) should be organized as follows:

1. Title page (Title of project, Names and contact details for P.I. and collaborators, Short project abstract <10 lines)
2. Background
3. Preliminary Data (where appropriate)
4. Specific Aims and Anticipated Outcomes (including Figures)
5. References cited
6. Proposed duration/Table of milestones
7. Budget justification (requests in excess of \$65,000 per year will be considered if the project is judged to be of exceptional interest to MNC)
8. Personnel involved

Sections 2 thru 4 should not exceed 5 pages total in length.

Dates

Applications due on **September 10th 2007**.

Applications must be submitted via email to rm2578@columbia.edu