

*Many Hearts,
One Hope*



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

MSA United Research Consortium (501c3 - US) is pleased to announce the first round of our 2025 seed grant program to foster the development of new research on Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), with particular emphasis on collaborative projects. Funding for seed grants will prioritize research that:

1. Contribute to our collective mission of cultivating promising research into the underlying causes, biomarkers and translational science directed toward slowing disease progression
2. Explores repurposing drugs for use in MSA
3. Provide data that may be beneficial to other disorders (such as Parkinson's disease)
4. Demonstrates innovative and novel methods and ideas born from collaborative research

Qualified researchers may begin their grant application with a Letter of Intent (LOI) through our research platform: research.msaunited.org (or via the QR code above).

Please also submit an extra copy of your contact information and BioSketch/Curriculum Vitae (CV) to our **Researcher Contact Form** located here: <https://msaunited.org/researcher-contact-form/>



Letters of Intent will be peer-reviewed in a blinded fashion by our Scientific and Medical Advisory Board (SMAB), which is composed of external subject matter experts, and selected researchers will be invited via email to submit a full research proposal.

Funded proposals will receive a one-year grant of up to \$50,000 USD (or equivalent in local currency).

Terms

Each applicant must be affiliated with an established research or academic institution. Confidentiality regarding the grant review process, the research platform, proposal requirements, awarded funds and personnel associated with grant management is expected. Prior to funding disbursement, selected awardees will be required to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement. All grant applications must use the platform above. No applications for funding will be considered any other way, through personal appeals to individual board members or to members of the SMAB.

Eligibility

Applicants should be affiliated with a accredited research organization or academic institution and qualified to conduct research in their country of work. Applicants will be asked to disclose whether they have applied for or received funding from other MSA funding bodies or organizations for the same research proposal during the current cycle. Also, while the call for funding proposals is being disseminated worldwide, no proposals from researchers in any countries that are currently subject to trade sanctions or embargoes by the US, Canadian or Australian governments will be accepted. Only one proposal per laboratory should be submitted for consideration.

Criteria for Awarding Funds

Proposals will be peer-evaluated for scientific merit, demonstration of collaboration between new researchers in the field or collaborative partnerships, and studies that demonstrate the potential for external funding beyond this initial seed funding. If funded, the first half of the award will be provided at the outset with the remaining after receiving the sixth month report (as described below).

Letter of Intent for Proposal

The Letter of Intent should include a project or proposal title, an abstract, names of the team members (with institutional affiliations and position or rank), requested amount for funding and at least three research references. Applicants are required to respond to the LOI relevant questions on the MSA United Research platform and submit all parts of the LOI in one complete PDF file.

LOI Content

Cover Sheet

The LOI cover sheet should include the title of the proposed project and the names, affiliations, and contact information for all project participants. A project contact must be identified and should be the principal investigator. The project contact provides the communication link between the SMAB and the project team on all matters.

On the cover page, provide a 200-word abstract in non-technical language (strict 200 words maximum) of the proposed activity.

Proposal Narrative with Supporting Information

The proposal narrative with supporting information must be written using 12-point font, single spaced, with at least one-inch margins. Begin each section listed below on a new page. The narrative with supporting information must include the following sections:

A proposal summary that explains the motivation for and risks associated with the project, what is novel about the proposed research, and what research methods and instrumentation will be used. This section must articulate a clear set of objectives, a compelling vision of what the project might achieve, and what differentiates it from previous research. Further, please provide an explanation of how the study will demonstrate the potential for external funding beyond this initial seed funding. In this regard, please include information on potential source(s) of funding and timing of the continuation of this research initiated by the seed grant (3-page maximum). Also, please indicate information about any additional investigators.

1. NIH style biographical sketch (no more than 5 pages); for information on the bio sketch format, instructions and samples, visit: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>
2. All disclosures and funding sources with dates of funding for the past 5 years.

For questions, please contact the research coordinator at: MSAresearch@defeatmsa.org

Requirements of Funding

1. Report on Awards

Investigators will be required to report on project progress at the sixth month mark and a timeline for submitting applications for external funding outside of MSA United. A final report will be presented at a public panel event (to be determined).

2. Funding Source Disclosure

Investigators will be required to disclose funding from Consortium funding organizations on all abstracts, presentations, and publications resulting from the research.