

# Caltech | Funding Memo

**Title:** Taking Flight Award - LOI

**Funding Agency:** Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy

**External Deadline(s):**

01/10/2023 06:00 PM PST (LOI)

03/28/2023 06:00 PM PDT (Full Proposal)

**Cognizant Office:** Office of Sponsored Research/Office of Foundation Relations

**Description:**

The Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE) Taking Flight Award seeks to promote the careers of young epilepsy investigators to allow them to develop a research focus independent of their mentor(s). Researchers may propose basic or clinical studies, but this award mechanism is not intended to support clinical trials. Research that involves collaboration and a multidisciplinary approach is desirable. Applicant will be required to discuss how this avenue of research is independent from his or her mentor's research and will lead him or her to a path of independent epilepsy research. Studies are encouraged that will provide new directions for epilepsy therapy, prevention, and ultimately, a cure and that will allow applicants to collect the data necessary to support grant application to the NIH or similar granting agency.

**Frequency:** Typically annual

**Total Award:** \$100,000

- Requests may be made for up to \$100,000 for one year.
  - Funding requests may include salary support for the PI, technical staff, supplies necessary to perform the work, animal costs, publication fees, and travel to an epilepsy-related conference if the PI is presenting his/her CURE Epilepsy-funded research.
  - Funds are not to be used to purchase equipment.
  - Funds cannot be used to cover institutional expenses such as network charges, computer maintenance and services, insurance dues or other miscellaneous expenses not directly related to performing the project.

**Indirect Costs:** Not Allowed

- **Caltech's minimum overhead rate is based on the award's annual gross funding. Please refer to the [FY23 Annual Rate Memo](#) for applicable minimum overhead requirements. Applicants must work within their division to account for the required overhead via an approved MORA form.**

**Duration:** 1 year

- Anticipated project start date: Fall 2023.

**Discipline(s):** Biology and Biological Engineering; Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; Engineering and Applied Science

**Eligibility:** Postdoc, Research Faculty, Tenure-Track Faculty

- Applicants must generally fall into one of the following categories to be eligible for the Taking Flight Award:
  - A senior postdoctoral fellow who has a minimum of 3 years postdoctoral experience.
  - A researcher with an appointment as an Instructor or Research Assistant Professor who has yet to obtain significant funding (e.g., RO1 grant or equivalent) and has an on-site mentor committed to advising the applicant.
  - A faculty member at the assistant professor level who is within one year of having been appointed.
  - A clinical fellow who is pursuing a residency in the following areas: neurology, neurosurgery or neurocritical care, and considering an epilepsy focused fellowship.
- Caltech researchers other than tenure-track faculty will need to obtain approval from the Division Chair and Vice Provost for Research prior to submitting an application.
- Researchers who have already received significant funding (e.g., NIH K99 award or equivalent) are not eligible for CURE funding.

**Research Areas of Interest:**

- Transformative research to enhance our understanding of the cellular, molecular, genetic, and systems-level mechanisms that lead to any of the epilepsies, facilitating the continued investigation of disease-modifying or preventative strategies.
- Innovative approaches that can prevent, modify and/or arrest the development of acquired epilepsy. Examples include epilepsy that develops after stroke, tumor, traumatic brain injury or infection, including febrile infection-related epilepsy syndrome (FIRES) as well as new-onset refractory status-epilepticus (NORSE).
- Research that will inform the development of novel therapies to prevent onset or halt the progression of severe pediatric epilepsies.
- Research focused on new, effective treatments for the >30% of the epilepsy population who are pharmacoresistant.
- Novel research that furthers our understanding of the causes and ultimate elimination of SUDEP.
- Translational, clinical, and clinically informed basic research that will facilitate understanding of the cellular-, molecular-, and systems-level mechanisms that underlie the relationships between sleep and epilepsy.

**Research Exclusions:**

- Based on CURE Epilepsy's current research objectives, lower priority will be given for research in the following areas:
  - Research that focuses solely on a comorbid condition without also seeking to understand the accompanying epilepsy.
  - Research that focuses solely on improving localization of the epileptic seizure focus.

**Post-Award Obligations:**

- Semi-annual and final scientific and financial reports.
- Investigators may be asked to present their CURE-funded results at an annual meeting.

## Recent Caltech Recipients:

- None

## Guidelines & Other Information:

Overview: [https://www.cureepilepsy.org/grants-program/#grant\\_opportunities](https://www.cureepilepsy.org/grants-program/#grant_opportunities)

RFP: <https://www.cureepilepsy.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-Taking-Flight-Award-LOI-Full-Proposal-Guidelines-UPDATED1.4.22.pdf>

Grant Policies: [https://www.cureepilepsy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CURE-Epilepsy\\_Grants-Policy\\_Updated\\_10.15.20.pdf](https://www.cureepilepsy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/CURE-Epilepsy_Grants-Policy_Updated_10.15.20.pdf)

Past Recipients: <https://www.cureepilepsy.org/our-research/grants-awarded/>

Scientific Advisory Council: <https://www.cureepilepsy.org/about-cure-epilepsy/our-team/?scientific-advisory-council>

Please notify the Foundation Relations team if you anticipate making a submission or if you have any questions regarding this opportunity. We are here to help ensure that Caltech's proposals are competitive. We can assist with proposal development and advise you on the routing of your paperwork. Interested researchers should work with their division grant manager to prepare the budget, the MORA form, and the Division Approval Form (DAF). Submissions and awards for this grant program will be processed through the Office of Sponsored Research.

Opportunity ID: 1325