

# Caltech | Funding Memo

**Title:** MDA Research Grants - LOI

**Funding Agency:** Muscular Dystrophy Association

**External Deadline(s):**

01/20/2023 08:59 PM PST (LOI)

02/17/2023 08:59 PM PST (Full Proposal)

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

**Description:**

Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) is committed to transforming the lives of people affected by muscular dystrophy, ALS and related neuromuscular diseases. MDA Research Grants are awarded to independent, established investigators to accelerate progress toward understanding and treating neuromuscular disease.

**Frequency:** Typically annual

**Total Award:** \$100,000 to \$300,000

- Applications will be accepted for no more than \$100,000 per year for 3 years.
- Allowable costs include personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, and subcontracts.
  - The Principal Investigator's salary is permitted, equivalent to the ratio of effort up to 25% but not more than \$15,000, plus a proportionate ratio of fringe benefits. The Principal Investigator's specific role(s) in the proposed research must be described under "Proposed Budget Justification."
  - If salary is requested for Co-PI's in addition to the PI the total combined salary may not exceed \$15,000 plus a proportionate rate of fringe benefits for both.
  - The "Institutional Base Salary" should be the Principal Investigator's total base salary and "Fringe Benefits" listed should be the proportionate percentage of the Principal Investigator's benefit cost.
  - Computer equipment is limited to \$5,000 per grant. Laptop purchases are limited to 1 per grant and must be fully justified on the Budget Justification page.
  - "Other" supplies expenses such as shipping, printing, or office supplies should be limited to a maximum of \$600 per year.
  - All travel must be fully justified in the proposed budget justification; however, must not exceed \$1,500 in any given year and is restricted to personnel listed on the Budget in the Personnel Cost category.
  - The subcontract budgets may NOT include indirect costs as they are absorbed through the main budget "indirect costs" and will be disbursed by the lead institution.
- Other expenses may include items such as publication costs, computer use fees, and equipment maintenance. The need for each item must be justified in the budget justification section. If fees for consultants are requested, their names and institutional affiliations must also be given.

- The following expenses are not permitted:
  - Salaries, travel and/or housing related to sabbatical leaves;
  - Salaries for administrative, secretarial and/or clerical staff;
  - Life and Disability insurance fees;
  - Purchase or rental of office equipment; (i.e., furniture, filing cabinets, and copy machines);
  - Expenses normally covered by the indirect cost of the Principal Investigator's institution i.e. General Liability Insurance, General Auto Insurance;
  - Fees for tuition, registration or other fees relating to academic studies;
  - Fees for or related to obtaining visas or citizenship status;
  - Membership dues, subscriptions, books or journals;
  - Expenses for or related to moving from one institution to another.

**Indirect Costs:** 10% of Direct Costs

- **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:** Up to 3 years

- Start date is September 1, 2023.
  - The activation of a research grant may not be delayed.

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

**Eligibility:** Tenure-Track Faculty, Tenured Faculty

- To be eligible to apply for an MDA research grant, an applicant must:
  - Hold a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) or equivalent degree (i.e. D.O.);
  - Be a professional or faculty member (Professor, Associate Professor or Assistant Professor) at an appropriate educational, medical or research institution;
  - Be qualified to conduct and mentor a program of original research within his or her own laboratory;
  - Have an acceptable research plan for a specific disease in MDA's portfolio;
  - Assume both administrative and financial responsibility for the grant;
  - Have access to institutional resources necessary to conduct the proposed research project
  - By the application deadline, applicants must be in compliance with MDA's Good Standing policy and be up to date on any delinquent or incomplete grant deliverable from previously awarded grants.
- An application may have only one Principal Investigator.
- Applications must include one of the named diseases in MDA's portfolio or request an exception from MDA staff prior to application submission.
- A resubmission must be accompanied by a Resubmission Statement responding to the previous reviewers' concerns.

**Research Areas of Interest:**

- MDA provides support for research throughout the pipeline of drug development from discovery research through clinical trials to advance areas of scientific and medical knowledge that could improve understanding of the causes of neuromuscular diseases, assist in developing strategies for their diagnosis and treatment, or support promising clinical trials.

**Post-Award Obligations:**

- Annual reporting is required.

**Recent Caltech Recipients:**

- None

**Guidelines & Other Information:**

Research Grants Overview: <https://www.mda.org/science/research-grants>

Eligibility (See 'MDA Research Grants' Tab): <https://www.mda.org/science/funding-opportunities>

Policies and Application Instructions: See Attached Documents

Grants Review Process: <https://www.mda.org/science/mda-grants-review-process>

Prior Recipients (All Programs - Searchable Database): <https://www.mda.org/science/grants-at-a-glance>

**Documents:**

[Biosketch Template](#)

[Application Instructions](#)

[Application Policies](#)

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: 1367