



2017-18 Research Grant Award

Program Guidelines

Program Description

Global Lyme Alliance (GLA) seeks proposals for the GLA 2017-18 Research Grant Award Program, an initiative supporting researchers who are academic faculty working in the tick-borne diseases field. This application for the GLA 2017-18 Research Award Program is due September 15, 2017 at midnight, eastern standard time. The goal of this initiative is to help support studies in the subject of Lyme and tick-borne diseases, and to advance the understanding of tick-borne illness biology, diagnostics, and treatment. Small-scale grants for proof-of-concept studies lasting for six months, can be requested for up to \$50,000. Full-scale grants may request larger amounts to be spent over the course of one year of funding.

Key Dates

- September 15, 2017: Applications due
- December 2017: Awards announced
- January 2018: Anticipated award start date

Background

Lyme disease, first identified in Connecticut in the 1970s, now afflicts at least 329,000 people in the United States annually. Caused by a bacterium spread by tick bites, Lyme disease is treatable by antibiotics in most people with early diagnosis. However, the diagnostic test for Lyme disease is highly inaccurate and is one reason for delays in treatment. About 10-20% of those treated for Lyme disease continue to suffer persisting and debilitating illness that derails normal life. Additionally, ticks can transmit other bacterial and viral pathogens that can have severe sequelae, and in some cases are fatal.

Global Lyme Alliance was formed by the merger of Lyme Research Alliance and Tick-borne Disease Alliance, with the common goals of increasing awareness of tick-borne illness and supporting evidence-based, peer-reviewed scientific research on Lyme and tick-borne diseases. Our objective is to further the understanding of such illnesses and to ultimately lead to more effective diagnostics and treatment. To date, GLA has funded over \$9 million in basic science research carried out in academic institutions, and among other discoveries, has led to findings of antibiotic-tolerant persister bacteria, immune cell dysfunction, and chronic inflammation in patients experiencing persisting symptoms.

Eligibility

Applications for the GLA 2017-18 Research Grant Award Program are accepted from investigators at academic, not-for-profit institutions in the United States and abroad. Researchers who hold a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree are encouraged to apply.

Process

All applications are due on Friday, September 15, 2017 at midnight, EST and must be submitted online via the GrantMaker portal available on the GLA website (GLA.org). No paper applications will be accepted.

The proposal will be reviewed using the following criteria: whether the proposed work is promising and in line with previous accomplishments of the applicant, the probability of meaningful results from the proposed research and likely contributions of the research to the advancement of knowledge of tick-borne disease biology, diagnosis, and treatment. The objectives of the proposal must be reasonably expected to be achieved in the course of the year-long grant period. All candidates will receive notification of the final outcome of their application by GLA staff. Written critiques of the application are not provided to the applicant.

Funds Available

Proposals may request up to \$50,000 (USD) costs for small-scale grants, and larger amounts for full-scale grants. GLA will fund up to 10% indirect costs. The duration of each grant is for one year.

Permissible direct costs include:

- Personnel expenses of the Principal Investigator and non-administrative staff including salary, wage, or stipend with fringe benefits
- Supplies and materials as itemized in the budget
- Annual travel expenses of no more than \$1500 for one researcher, for attendance at a nationally-recognized scientific/medical conference

Permissible indirect (also referred to as institutional) costs:

- May not exceed 10% of direct costs

Impermissible Costs:

- Membership dues, books, journals, and tuition

The funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes specified in the application submitted to GLA and executed by the Principal Investigator, collaborating staff and institution in compliance with the budget appended to the application.

Application Information

Specific instructions for this application are provided below.

For scientific and administrative inquiries contact:

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Application Instructions

A. General Requirements

- a. **Relevance:** Proposed preclinical research in Lyme and tick-borne disease, which is intended to develop understanding and lead to innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.
- b. **Required Format:** Applications must be in English, with single-spaced text, half-inch margins, using Arial 11 or 12 pt font. Page limitations must be observed for each section as described below.
- c. **Good Standing:** Applications will only be accepted from research investigators who are currently in good standing with GLA. An applicant will automatically be considered to be in good standing unless he or she has failed to provide acceptable progress reports and accurate accounting on previous GLA-funded grants.

B. Abstracts

This section should contain the following:

- 1) A lay-language abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 200 words or less using non-technical language (i.e. at a level that a ninth-grader would understand).
- 2) A technical abstract: briefly describe your proposed project in 200 words or less using language similar to that used in peer-reviewed publications.

C. Biographical Sketch

This section should contain the biographical sketches of the Principal Investigator and all key personnel. This includes any personnel who are referenced in the budget. Do not exceed three pages per biographical sketch. A biosketch modeled on the NIH format is acceptable.

D. Other Research Support

Other support is defined as any specific funds or resources, whether governmental, non-governmental, industrial, or institutional, available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application) in direct support of their research endeavors. This should include active support and pending support.

Information regarding active or pending sources of support available to the Principal Investigator (and other key personnel named in the application), whether related to this application or not, is an important part of the review and award process and must be included.

E. Project Description

Limited to **6 pages, excluding** abstracts and supporting materials such as references, figures, and tables. Any application in which the project description exceeds this limit may be rejected from consideration for an award. Writing should be concise and to the point. The project description should be presented in the following sequence:

- a) Title, Scientific Background and Clinical Significance of Proposed Studies (approximately 1.0 page)
- b) Specific Aims (approximately 0.5 page)
- c) Rationale (approximately 0.5 page)
- d) Previous Work/Preliminary Data (approximately 1.5 pages)
- e) Methods, Model Systems and Assays Proposed (approximately 1.0-1.5 page)
- f) Plans for Clinical Application of the Data, if applicable (approximately 0.5 page)
- g) Resources and Environment including support, if applicable, from research mentor/sponsor (approximately 0.5 page)

Clinical research protocols, if part of the application, should be submitted as Appendix material. Include Institutional Review Board or Ethical Committee approval/compliance number, or indicate pending and an anticipated approval date.

F. Supporting Materials (References, Figures and Tables)

The list of references cited in the Project Description, Figures, and Tables should be submitted but do not count against the six (6) page limit in Section E of the Project Description. Illustrations should be of number and size that is reasonably appropriate to the scope of the project description.

G. Letter(s) of Collaborating Researchers and Institutions

If the proposal includes collaborations and participation with researchers at non-home institutions, a letter from collaborators is needed to show that they are willing and able to commit to participation in the study.

H. Laboratory Animals Statement

For projects which involve laboratory animals, the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Approval Date and Animal Welfare Assurance number must be given. Non-US applicants should submit approval documentation from the equivalent of their host institute's Animal Ethics Committee.

I. Biohazards Statement

An institutional statement and assurances regarding potential biohazards and safeguards must be included. This may not be applicable to applicants from countries outside the US.

Note: The Department of Environmental Health and Safety (or equivalent office) at most institutes and universities can provide the applicant with a letter stating that the laboratory and/or the applicant is in compliance with applicable laws. This is the document that should be submitted.

J. Authentication of key biological and chemical reagents

If applicable to the proposed project, briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources to be used (maximum one page). Key biological and/or chemical reagents can be described as:

1) reagents or samples that may differ between laboratories or over time; 2) may have qualities and/or qualifications that could influence the research data; and 3) are integral to the proposed research. These include, but are not limited to, cell lines, specialty chemicals, antibodies, patient samples, and other biologics.

Commonly used standard laboratory reagents, such as buffers, commercial growth media, and other reagents that are not expected to vary need not be included.

K. Relevant Publications

A set of the applicant's publication reprints which are relevant to the proposed project may be included as PDF documents. Limit: applicants will be limited to two (2) publication reprints. Applications with more than two (2) publications appended will not be accepted.

L. Budget

Please provide a detailed budget and budget justification fully outlining specific needs for professional and technical staff and itemized supplies by category. The definition of permissible and impermissible charges is in the above section on Funds Available. This document is to be uploaded into GrantMaker as a "supporting document".

M. Signatures

The signature page is provided at the end of this document, and is the last step before submitting the application. Applicants should print the signature page. The signatures of the applicant (principal investigator) and an appropriate institutional representative, such as the Institute Grants Officer, are required. Once signed, the document should be scanned, converted to a PDF and submitted along with the grant application.

N. Complete submission package checklist

Please assemble the following sections (excluding appended publications and budget) into one PDF document, and upload into GrantMaker.

1. Abstracts (lay language and technical)
2. Biographical sketch(es)
3. Other research support
4. Project description (6-page maximum)
5. Supporting materials
6. Collaborator's letter(s) of support
7. Laboratory animals statement and IACUC approval date
8. Biohazards statement
9. Authentication of key biological/chemical reagents
10. Relevant publications attached as PDFs
11. Budget
12. Signature page

**2017-18 GLA Research Grant Application
Signatures Page**

This page acknowledges that the investigator named below is applying for a research grant from Global Lyme Alliance and agrees to comply with the conditions stated in the program guidelines supplied by GLA.

Printed name, Principal Investigator

Signature, Principal Investigator

Date

Printed name, Institutional Signing Authority

Title, Institutional Signing Authority and Name of Institute

Date