



February 6, 2024

Request for Proposals: The National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation

Introduction: The National Leiomyosarcoma Foundation (NLMSF) is dedicated to meeting the needs of leiomyosarcoma (LMS) patients, caregivers and families through education and research. In order to facilitate advances in the treatment of LMS through research, the NLMSF is accepting proposals for pilot studies that will launch "out of the box" ideas and new research trajectories to move the field forward.

Scope of the award/ areas of interest: All direct funds must be used to support LMS research. Proposals involving any scientific discipline are allowed including those related to biomarkers and imaging. This award was created to support basic translational research. Other highly translational projects that are not based in a traditional wet lab may be considered (for example: in silico computational biology, radiomics, etc.); however, investigators who are considering submitting this sort of non-traditional project are highly encouraged to discuss the appropriateness of their project ahead of time (email: Ken Cardona (ken.cardona@emory.edu) or Joseph Carlson (joseph.carlson@med.usc.edu)). Clinical research (interventional trials) will not be supported by this award; however, work studying human samples and annotated data sets obtained from clinical trials is allowed. Studies requiring human samples must show documentation of IRB approval prior to awarding of funds (or document waivers if applicable).

Award Details: Award will be \$50,000 per year x 2 years. No indirect costs may be supported by this award. A one year, no cost extension may be considered prior to the conclusion of the grant term. In lieu of a formal progress report, awardees will be required to present on their work at the NLMSF Roundtable Meeting the year following receipt of the award (2026).

Key Dates: Applications are due 8/5/2024 at Midnight EST. Award winners will be announced prior to the 2024 CTOS meeting. Funds will be available 1/01/2025.

Applicant Eligibility: Principal investigators (PI) must have an MD (or equivalent) or PhD and have completed all sub-specialty training before the start of the award. The PI should be a faculty member at a university or non-profit research institution. Only one grant may be submitted by a given PI. Investigators with a strong track record in the field of sarcoma research will be viewed favorably in the application process as will early-stage investigators who have demonstrated a commitment to sarcoma research. Basic scientists who are proposing the application of new scientific technique to the field of LMS research may also be viewed favorably so long as they partner with an established sarcoma expert who provides a biosketch and letter of support.

Application Overview:

Standard NIH formatting guidelines apply. The applications should include:

- 1) Title Page
- 2) Lay Summary
- 3) Specific Aims
- 4) Research Strategy
- 5) References
- 6) Biosketch
- 7) Budget
- 8) Budget Justification
- 9) Biosketches and letters of support from key collaborators

Title Page: This should include the title of the grant as well as relevant information about the principal investigator and key collaborators including address, email, phone number and the principal investigator's administrator who will be managing this grant, their address, email and phone number.

Lay Summary: A succinct summary of the grant in lay language should be provided. While this summary will not be widely distributed, it may be used to describe awarded projects to interested parties such as patients and family members. The summary may be 1 paragraph and should be less than 1 page.

Specific Aims: Specific Aims page should summarize the gap(s) in knowledge to be addressed, the key hypotheses, and the specific aims for the proposal. Specific Aims should be no more than 1 page.

Research Strategy: The research strategy should have no more than 4 pages total and should include introduction/background, preliminary data, the scientific approach, statistical considerations. A discussion of potential follow-up proposals is highly encouraged. No more than two pages should be spent on the introduction and preliminary data.

References: No page limit.

Biosketch: Use the current NIH format.

Budget: Provide an estimate of how much of the grant will be spent on personnel, supplies, shared resources and other significant expenses. No more than 50% of the award can be spent on salary support unless special permission for this is obtained ahead of the application submission. No funds may be used for direct clinical trial support, though analysis of patient samples and correlative work using samples readily available is allowed. No funds may be used for indirect costs.

Budget Justification and Timeline: Provide a 1 page, year 1 budget justification describing how the estimates provided in the budget were calculated along with a timeline for expected research milestones.

Biosketches and letters of support from key collaborators: This is optional and will be highly grant specific. There is no page limit.

Review Criteria:

A review committee will be established by the NLMSF in order to identify proposals with the potential to alter our understanding of LMS biology and ultimately impact the clinical care of LMS patients.

Reviewers will evaluate proposals based on the following criteria:

- 1) **Significance:** Is this work important to the field of LMS research?
- 2) **Innovation:** Does this work represent a new direction in LMS research?
- 3) **Approach and Feasibility:** Are the experiments described likely to answer the proposed hypotheses? Reviewers will be specifically asked to pay attention to the statistical analysis, timelines and feasibility.
- 4) **Investigator and Institution:** Does this individual/team, in this environment, have a skill set and track record that suggests they will be able to successfully complete the project. Sarcoma experience will be accounted for here.
- 5) **Budget:** Reviewers will be asked to review the appropriateness of the budget.

Submit Proposal to Ken Cardona (ken.cardona@emory.edu) or Joseph Carlson (joseph.carlson@med.usc.edu). Deadline: 8/5/2024 at Midnight EST.