



## NOVEL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

**Deadline for Applications: July 10, 2017**

**Projected Funding Start Date: March 2018**

**Administered by: Lupus Research Alliance, 275 Madison Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10016; [lupusresearch.org](http://lupusresearch.org).**

**Program Goals:** Grants are made to support **Novel Research Projects** that evidence high promise for advancing the understanding of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. Novel Research Grants provide early stage support for exceptionally creative and innovative approaches to major challenges in lupus research. Successful proposals will advance novel hypotheses and/or technologies that have the potential to stimulate new research directions and propel the field forward. Applications will be judged principally on novelty of the hypotheses, scientific quality, strength of approach, relevance to lupus, likelihood of success, and potential impact for those living with lupus. Rationale for the hypotheses proposed rather than amount of preliminary data will be emphasized. **Continuations of long-term research projects are not appropriate for this submission.**

The program goals are to stimulate investigation of underexplored pathways and initiate transformative discoveries in lupus that can drive the development of safer and more effective treatments. Investigations into the **fundamental mechanisms** of lupus and its complications, explorations of **novel targets and pathways**, and applications involving **novel technologies** and **interdisciplinary approaches** are particularly encouraged. Investigations should be relevant to basic, translational, or clinical research on lupus.

The Lupus Research Alliance also encourages projects based on novel explorations of lupus biology—including innovative studies that use human material to address the physiological, cellular, molecular and/or genetic basis of human lupus.

1. **Authority:** Grants are awarded by the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., upon recommendation of the Scientific Task Force on Novel Research and approval of the Lupus Research Alliance's Board of Directors.
2. **Eligibility:** Individuals affiliated with academic institutions or research in the

United States and holding doctoral degrees at the assistant professor level or higher are eligible. Federal Government Research Laboratories are not eligible for this award. There are no citizenship requirements. Investigators currently holding funding from the Lupus Research Alliance are not eligible to apply for additional funding, even for distinct projects.

3. **Selection:** Research Grant applications will be judged on the following priority scoring criteria:
  - a) Novelty of hypothesis
  - b) Relevance to Lupus
  - c) Scientific merit
  - d) Strength of approach
  - e) Likelihood of success
  - f) Qualifications of the investigator
  - g) Appropriateness of the proposed budget

When two or more proposals of equal merit are received, it will be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors to determine the recipient(s) of the grant.

Reviewer comments will not be provided to applicants.

4. **Administration:** Administration of grants is a joint responsibility of the Lupus Research Alliance's Board of Directors and its Task Force on Novel Research.
5. **Terms of the Award:** The total amount of the Novel Research Grant is up to \$100,000 per year for up to three years. Funds may be used for any appropriate research costs. The grant will pay PI's salary up to 10% or \$10,000 each year which includes fringes. If there are two PIs, the \$10,000 is the limit for both, not each. There is no limitation on the amount for technical assistant's salary. The award cannot be used for graduate student's tuition and/or stipend.
6. No portion of the research grant may be used to pay institutional overhead or other indirect costs. A progress report is required at the end of the first year. A second progress report is due at the end of the second year to determine if the applicant should receive the third year of grant funding. **A final progress report is due at the end of the three years.**

**The grant recipient is required to attend the Lupus Research Alliance's Annual Scientific Conference each year.**

6. **Payment:** Grants are paid in six installments.
7. **Reviewer Comments:** Reviewer comments will not be provided to applicants.

## RULES GOVERNING GRANTS

1. **Applications:** Grant applications are evaluated by the Lupus Research Alliance's Scientific Task Force on Novel Research, which makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Lupus Research Alliance reserves the right to consult qualified third parties in particular cases. All applications awaiting action will be held in confidence.
2. **Terms of a Grant:** Unless otherwise specified in writing, Research Grants are given for terms of up to three years.
3. **Purpose of Funds:** Grants are not made to individuals, but to institutions for the support of specific projects. They are not intended to subsidize normal institutional budgets or staff, nor to pay institutional overhead charges. **Funds from Research Grants may be used to pay salaries of principal investigators (including co-PIs if applicable) up to 10% of budget (not to exceed \$10,000 including fringe benefits).** Grant funds may be used to pay the salaries of technical assistants and the cost of equipment, supplies and materials necessary for carrying out the purpose of the grant. Funds are not available for transportation to meetings, tuition/stipends, journal subscriptions, construction or renovation of buildings, nor for the purchase of office equipment and furniture. Similarly, dues and membership in scientific societies will not be underwritten.
4. **Expenditures:** All charges must conform to the budget submitted by the grantee. The Lupus Research Alliance reserves the right to a refund on demand of all grant funds expended in an unauthorized manner.
5. **Accounting:** Financial commitments against all grants must be liquidated as soon as possible after the grant period has ended, and the grantee must submit a final accounting of all expenses and return all unexpended funds. The Lupus Research Alliance will not be responsible for any financial commitment against the grant. The grantee shall be responsible for any unauthorized expenditure or over expenditures. You will need approval to carry over funds that are over 20% of your yearly budget, unless another amount is required by your institution.
6. **Annual Meeting:** The Lupus Research Alliance is keenly committed to furthering research into the cause, cure, treatment and prevention of lupus and its complications. We know that you share our aspirations in this area. Forming partnerships with our grant recipients is one of the cornerstones of our funding philosophy. Towards this end, we ask our grant recipients to participate in an annual collaborative meeting to share the concept and progress of their research. ***You will be notified of the logistics of this meeting once the dates have been finalized. Funds provided through this grant should be used to pay for your attendance at this meeting***
7. **Materials:** All equipment or instruments purchased, prepared, manufactured,

and paid for with funds from the grant for specific items named in the application shall, unless otherwise specified, become the property of the grantee's institution.

8. **Salaries:** Personnel compensated under a Lupus Research Alliance grant shall not be considered employees of the Lupus Research Alliance, but as employees of the grantee institution.
9. **Other Financial Support:** If the applicant is awarded additional support during the term of a Lupus Research Alliance grant, the Lupus Research Alliance must be notified. Additional support must not duplicate grant support from the Lupus Research Alliance for the same project.
10. **Program Changes:** Change of the purpose or personnel for which a current grant was made, without the prior written approval of the Lupus Research Alliance, will automatically terminate the grant; return of funds on a pro-rated basis will be required.
11. **Reports:** A progress report is required at the end of the first year. A second progress report is due at the end of the second year to determine if the applicant should receive the third year of grant funding. A detailed written progress report is required at the termination of the grant period.
12. **Discoveries:** Any discovery made under a program supported by the Lupus Research Alliance must be reported promptly to the Lupus Research Alliance, and application for patent may not be made without the prior written consent of the Lupus Research Alliance. (See Patent and Intellectual Property Policy attached herewith.)
13. **Publicity:** The Lupus Research Alliance has a strong interest in tracking the discoveries that result from its grant funding. Therefore, the grantee must advise the Lupus Research Alliance in writing prior to publishing/publicizing, in any manner, discoveries made or developed under a grant. The communication should explain fully the nature of the information to be divulged, the time, the place, and the manner of its presentation. From time to time, grantees may be asked to give brief presentations of their research to professional and lay audiences.
14. **Publication and Exhibits:** **The Lupus Research Alliance should be notified immediately upon acceptance for publication of any article resulting from Lupus Research Alliance-funded research.** Any article or exhibit prepared by anyone associated with the work covered by a grant and dealing with the project should bear the credit line: "Supported in part/in entirety by a grant from the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc." An electronic copy of any publication bearing this credit line should be sent to the Lupus Research Alliance for their files and uploaded into the award management record for the project in proposalCENTRAL.

15. **Transfer of Grant:** Grants may not be transferred from one individual or institution to another individual or institution without the prior written approval of the Lupus Research Alliance.
16. **Deviation From Rules:** Failure to abide by any rule governing grants will be considered sufficient reason to cancel the grant or refuse to consider any application a grantee has pending.
17. **Change of Rules:** The Lupus Research Alliance reserves the right to change or amend its rules governing grants at any time. Unless implementation of the project for which the grant was given has already commenced, the grantee agrees to abide by such changes or terminate the grant at the time it goes into effect.
18. **Human Subjects:** If human subjects are to be used in the research, written, informed consent must be obtained, and the research protocol must be approved by the appropriate committee of the grantee institution concerned with human safeguards. The investigator bears full responsibility for obtaining such approval and, further, certifies by agreeing to these rules that the investigator and/or the institution will be fully responsible for any financial liability and legal expenses resulting from research supported by the Lupus Research Alliance. This ruling will also pertain to animal research and the use of radioisotopes and biohazardous materials.
19. **Animal Welfare:** It is the responsibility of the applicant to assure proper care and treatment of all laboratory animals used in any Lupus Research Alliance sponsored research. Any application involving laboratory animals must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate institutional review committee.
20. **Cancellation:** The Board of Directors, in consultation with the Scientific Task Forces of the Lupus Research Alliance, may, for cause, cancel a grant at any time upon 90 days' notice, and require the return of any unused funds.
21. **Governing Rules:** By the act of applying for a grant, the applicant certifies that he/she has read and will abide by the accompanying rules governing Research Grants.

**GENERAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR NOVEL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

**DEADLINE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS: July 10, 2017**  
**FUNDING TO BEGIN: March 2018**

**Application Details:** Applications must be submitted electronically by July 10, 2017, 5:00 PM US Eastern time to <http://proposalcentral.altum.com/>. Only electronic applications submitted through proposalCENTRAL will be accepted. No paper applications will be accepted.

**The information below is required. Each section must be completed. If not applicable, please indicate this. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Review of applications is facilitated if the outline given below is followed as closely as possible. Supplementary material will not be accepted after the submission deadline. Font/margin requirement: font equivalent to Times New Roman 12.**

1. Name and address of institution, including department, phone number, email address, division, if any, and location of the laboratory where research is to be conducted.
2. Names and titles of principal and co-investigator(s). A curriculum vitae and selective bibliography for each should be appended to the application, and should, as a minimum, include: degrees held (with dates and schools), daytime telephone number, awards and honors, membership in professional organizations, board eligibility or certification, and positions held, including, in addition, any relevant research experience not otherwise listed. National Institutes of Health biosketches are acceptable.
3. Brief title of proposed research project.
4. Proposed period of award (beginning and termination dates). Note: all awards are scheduled to begin in March 2018.
5. Lay Abstract: Brief summary of the proposed research and its potential significance for the fundamental causes of lupus, written in lay language geared to a twelfth grade reading level and suitable for use in publications (not to exceed 3000 characters).
6. Scientific Abstract: Technical summary of the proposed research, written in scientific terms (not to exceed 3000 characters).
7. Brief summary of the proposed research and its potential significance for the fundamental causes of lupus, written in lay language geared to a twelfth grade

reading level and suitable for use in publications (50-100 words).

8. Technical summary of the proposed research, written in scientific terms (up to 200 words).
9. Proposed budget: Proposed budget in US \$ for each year, listed as follows:
  - Each item of equipment costing more than \$1000.00 should be listed separately.
  - Supplies should be listed by major types, such as glassware, chemicals, animals, etc.
  - The Lupus Research Alliance policy does not provide funds for institutional overhead, or for major pieces of laboratory equipment.
10. Other support must indicate **current and pending grant applications**, their specific aims, amounts and **extent of overlap**, if any. If overlap does exist, a statement regarding intended disposition of funds in the event of dual granting is required, signed by an official of the applicant's institution. Ordinarily this would constitute return of funds to all but one granting agency, however, monies granted could be appropriately modified.
11. Research Plan: A description of the proposed research should include the following: (Note: Research Plan, parts a-c, **may not exceed six pages**. Charts, figures, etc. must be part of the 6 page research plan. No appendix is allowed
  - a) Background and specific goals of proposal being submitted.
  - b) Experimental design and methods.
  - c) Significance of the proposed work, explanation of the novel nature of the work, and its relevance to lupus. Please include answers to the following:
    1. How is this novel
    2. How will this project advance the science
    3. Is there a preference for human tissue
  - d) Estimated time required for the proposed studies, giving the approximate sequence of experiments.
  - e) Facilities available for this project, including laboratory space and major equipment
  - f) Literature citations should be listed and are **not** included in page limits for the Research Plan.
2. Include at the end of the application the following statement:  
**"I have read and accept the current rules governing grants of the Lupus**

**Research Alliance, Inc.”**

followed by the signature of the principal investigator, along with name, title and date. For **ALL** applications, the name and signature of the Dean of the Institution or equivalent is required on this statement. A letter of agreement from Collaborator(s) or Consultant(s) must be submitted along with research applications

3. All applicants must complete waiver forms attached herewith pertaining to use of Human or Animal subjects, if applicable to the applicant's project. Modifications made to the animal and human subject forms and/or patent policies will be reviewed by the Lupus Research Alliance if the grant is awarded.

## **PATENT AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY**

- 1) All inventions or intellectual property made with support in whole or in part by research or training grants or awards from the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., must be reported at the earliest practical time to the Grants Division of the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc. The grantee institution or individual awardee agrees to notify the Lupus Research Alliance immediately of the decision to apply for letters patent or other legal protection for intellectual property, and to consider seriously and in good faith, any comments or objections the Lupus Research Alliance may have concerning such applications. The Lupus Research Alliance agrees to keep all information confidential and to not release any information relating to such inventions, intellectual property or applications. All patenting expenses shall be borne by the grantee institution or individual awardee.
- 2) Title to any invention or intellectual property shall reside in the grantee institution to the extent that such title is claimed by the institution under its patent policy or procedure and paragraphs 3 through 8 shall apply. If a grantee institution has no established patent policy or procedure for administering inventions or intellectual property, or if the institutional patent policy or procedure does not claim rights for the institution or individual inventor, then the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., shall have the right to determine the disposition of invention or intellectual property rights and paragraphs 3 through 6 shall not apply.
- 3) Distribution of income derived from an invention or intellectual property which might include equity disposition shall be according to the policies of the grantee institution, although the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., would expect to participate in income derived from the invention or intellectual property to the extent and at a rate of remuneration determined by mutual agreement between the grantee institution and the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., no later than six months after first receipt of income. Such agreement shall be guided by the principle that the Alliance's proportion of sharing in the income shall be reasonably related to the Lupus Research Alliance's proportion of support for the invention or intellectual property. If any invention or intellectual property is made with the joint support of the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., and other organizations, it is expected that income distribution shall be in accordance with the provisions of this policy. Should an exception be taken to this provision, the grantee institution, The Lupus Research Alliance, and other sponsoring agencies will confer to reach a mutually satisfactory disposition of invention or intellectual property rights.
- 4) No patent, patent application or other type of protection shall be abandoned without first notifying the Grants Division of the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc. At such time, the grantee institution and individual awardee shall give the Lupus Research Alliance the opportunity to take title to the invention or other intellectual property.

- 5) The grantee institution shall agree that when it licenses any invention or intellectual property it will obligate the licensee as follows: The licensee agrees to exert its best efforts to commercialize or cause to be commercialized the invention or intellectual property as rapidly as practical, consistent with sound and reasonable business practices and judgment. In the event that the licensee has failed to commercialize the invention or property, the grantee institution within a number of years determined to be reasonable for the invention or intellectual property, the grantee institution upon conferring with the Lupus Research Alliance shall have the right to convert an exclusive license to a non-exclusive license or to terminate a non-exclusive license. If the licensee or grantee institution has an ongoing and active research, development, manufacturing, marketing or licensing program as appropriately directed toward the production and sale of the invention or intellectual property, the same would be deemed to be sufficient evidence that the licensee or grantee institution has commercialized the invention or intellectual property.
- 6) The Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., reserves the right to public acknowledgment for inventions or intellectual property resulting from support by the Lupus Research Alliance; however, the Lupus Research Alliance, Inc., name and logo may not be used in association with an invention or intellectual property without prior approval of the Lupus Research Alliance.
- 7) The Lupus Research Alliance, Inc. may have use of inventions or intellectual properties without payment of royalties or fees, but solely for use with the Lupus Research Alliance for intramural purposes and not for any of its grantee institutions or individual awardees.

#### Lupus Research Alliance Novel Research Grant

The application form and guidelines are on proposalCentral,  
<http://proposalcentral.altum.com/>.

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Font/margin requirement: font equivalent to Times New Roman 12, no margin requirement. Single space.
2. The PI must be an assistant professor or higher and be affiliated with an institution of higher learning in the United States. Research institutes like Scripps and Salk are eligible. Federal Government Research Laboratories are not eligible for this award.
3. There are no citizenship or residency requirements.
4. The grant recipient is required to attend the Lupus Research Alliance's annual conference each year. Grant recipients will be notified of the meeting logistics well in advance of this meeting.

7. The grant will pay PI's salary up to 10% or \$10,000 each year which **includes fringes**. If there are two PIs, the \$10,000 is the limit for both, not each. There is no limitation on the amount for technical assistant's salary. The award cannot be used for graduate student's tuition and/or stipend.
8. A CV **or** NIH biosketch is required. You may upload the current NIH form.
9. Current and pending support for PI, and significant collaborator must be indicated and it must be stated whether or not there is **overlap** with the Lupus Research Alliance application.
10. Scanned signatures can be used on PC application.
11. Charts, figures, etc. must be part of the 6 page research plan. No appendices are allowed.