



Alliance for Lupus Research  
PREVENT. TREAT. CURE.

## Target Identification in Lupus (TIL) Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: What is the Target Identification in Lupus (TIL) grant?**

A: The Target Identification in Lupus (TIL) grant is a grant focusing on the identification and scientific and/or clinical advancement of therapeutic targets that will lead to new therapies for the treatment of lupus. At present, therapy for lupus is empiric and involves a variety of non-specific anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive agents. While these agents are frequently beneficial, many patients do not respond adequately or experience significant side effects. This grant program has been established to develop new approaches to treat lupus more effectively and safely.

### **Q: How long is the award period?**

A: TIL Grants will be awarded for a two-year time frame. A grant renewal application and a second round of peer review will be required before the two-year point for continued funding of an additional two years for the project. Funding for the initial two-year period will be made for up to \$250,000 per year including indirect costs. If awarded, the second phase of a project may be funded for a maximum of two additional years for an amount determined during the peer review process. Indirect costs are not to exceed 8% of the total amount approved.

### **Q: Who can apply for this grant?**

A: Eligibility is open to individuals with doctoral degrees (MD, PhD, DO or equivalent). Scientific independence, as evidenced by direction of a research program or a publication record or other experience that establishes scientific leadership, is necessary to apply. The Alliance for Lupus Research does not impose geographic restrictions on its applicants. Investigators working anywhere in the world are eligible to apply. The ALR is willing to appropriately support research in industry or collaborations between academia and industry.

### **Q: What should be included in the application?**

A: At the outset investigators should detail a two year project which addresses one of the following goals; (1) to characterize key steps in the pathogenesis of the disease that will allow for the development of new therapeutic agents; (2) to promote basic and clinical research studies to identify and/or better characterize promising compounds for lupus treatment; or; (3) to support research that facilitates the clinical evaluation of innovative approaches to prevention or treatment of lupus and its complications. At the end of two years, ALR-funded investigators may elect to submit a competitive proposal to continue their work for an additional two years (four years in total), with funding for the additional two years to be determined by peer-review.

Projects should demonstrate at that time, the two year point, why continued funding by the ALR is justified, as opposed to support from some other mechanism.

Applications should also include a list of milestones (the expected status of the project at various points in time). These milestones will be used to evaluate progress and to facilitate communication between the principal investigators and the ALR Scientific Advisory Board. The list of milestones should reflect the specific aims of the proposal and be presented within the context of a pathway for determining or evaluating a potential target for lupus treatment. A suggested format for listing these milestones is a table, listing by priority the goals, along with their respective expected dates of completion and measures.

**Q: How are applications submitted?**

A: Applications are to be submitted electronically through Altum proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>). Instructions and applications forms should be downloaded from the Altum proposalCENTRAL website and the completed proposal submitted electronically. In addition, applicants are required to submit the original grant application, containing the signatures of both the applicant and the application's institution, and two copies to:

Alliance for Lupus Research  
Attention: Research Administration Department  
28 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 501  
New York, New York 10036  
Phone: (212) 218-2840

**Q: Does a paper copy need to be submitted?**

A: Yes, an "original" copy must be submitted along with two copies (3 paper copies of the application in all) to the above address by the application deadline. All signatures and attachments must be included in order for an application to be considered complete.

**Q: Is a letter of intent (LOI) required?**

A: Yes, we request that a non-binding letter of intent (LOI) be submitted by the investigator. This letter should provide the proposed title of the research project and a summary of the general theme. Submission of the LOI does not commit the investigator to submitting an application, and is not required for submitting a full application. This process is used primarily to assist the Study Section chair in identifying the expertise required for the peer-review. LOIs should be submitted electronically through the Altum proposalCENTRAL website no later than May 20, 2009. The submitted LOI must be approved by the ALR. The full application will be available once the LOI is approved.

**Q: Should letters from project collaborators be included with the grant application?**

A: Yes, signed letters from all project collaborators should be included in the application. They should be converted to PDF format and uploaded as part of the application.

**Q: How are applications reviewed?**

A: All applications are subject to peer review. The Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) will utilize an aggressive triage process to limit the number of proposals that will receive a detailed examination by the full review committee. Factors utilized during this triage process include the reviewers' initial assessment of the quality of the research plan, the relevance of the project to the goals of ALR and whether the experience of the

applicant provides a good chance of success for the project. Results from that peer review will be forwarded to the ALR Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB will consider the recommendations from the Study Section, as well as review the existing ALR portfolio to determine which applications would complement existing grants or address an unfilled area of research. The SAB will submit their recommendations to the ALR Board of Directors. The ALR Board of Directors will make all final funding decisions.

**Q: What is the grant timeline?**

A: The grant timeline is as follows:

March 30, 2009	TIL RFA Distributed
May 20, 2009	TIL Letter of Intent Due
July 30, 2009	TIL and TIL Renewal Grant Application Due
November 6, 2009	Peer Review Meeting
December 4, 2009	Scientific Advisory Board Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting – grant approval
January 2010	Funding notification to all applicants
February 1, 2010	Grant activation date

**Q: Can the grant submission deadline be extended?**

A: The deadline for grant submission will not be extended. All electronic applications must be submitted by July 30, 2009. All paper applications must be postmarked by July 30, 2009 and received in the ALR office within 7 business days after the electronic submission deadline.

**Q: Can materials be added to an application once it is submitted?**

A: Prior to the review period a request for supplemental information (limited to 2 pages) will be sent to all applicants.

**Q: Where can the ALR Intellectual Property and Patent Policy be found?**

A: The ALR’s policy on intellectual property and patent ownership will be shared upon request.

**Q: Who should I contact with questions about grant submission and administration?**

A: Questions concerning the paper submission or administration of the grant application should be directed to the ALR Research Administration Department at (212) 218-2840.

**Q: Who should I contact with technical questions about the Altum proposalCENTRAL site (i.e. unable to log in, trouble uploading files, etc)?**

A: For help with the electronic grant application process, please contact the help desk of Altum proposalCENTRAL by email at [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com). You may also contact them by phone at 1-800-875-2562, extension 227.