



2013 Senior Scholar Awards in Aging

The Ellison Medical Foundation was established by Lawrence J. Ellison to support biomedical research on aging. The Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar in Aging Awards are designed to support established investigators, working at institutions in the U.S., to conduct research in the basic biological sciences relevant to understanding lifespan development processes and age-related diseases and disabilities. The award is intended to provide significant support to established investigators in order to allow the development of new, creative research programs by investigators who may not currently be conducting aging research or who may wish to develop new research programs in aging.

The Foundation particularly wishes to stimulate innovative research that has rigorous scientific foundations, but which may not receive adequate funding because of its perceived novelty, its high risk, or because it is from an area where traditional research interests absorb most funding. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Structural biology, molecular genetics, studies with model systems ranging from lower eukaryotes to humans, inquiries testing the relevance of simpler models to human aging, genetic epidemiology of aging; candidate longevity genes, aging in the immune system, host defense molecules in aging systems, mechanisms of free radical-induced cell aging, mechanisms of aging in various differentiated cell populations, integrative physiology, gene/environment and gene/gene interactions, and new approaches to age-modulated disease mechanisms.

Eligibility

Established investigators employed by U.S. 501(c)(3) institutions, or U.S. colleges or universities, are eligible to apply. There is no limit on the number of Senior Scholar letters of intent submitted from any one institution. Current or past Senior Scholar Awardees are not eligible to apply.

Evaluation

Applicants for the Senior Scholar Award are expected to furnish evidence of substantial prior scientific creativity and productivity, not necessarily targeted to aging heretofore. Evaluation by the Aging Initial Review Group and the Scientific Advisory Board will be based upon the applicant's submission re: Scientific contributions to date, the quality of publications, and the importance to aging of the proposed new research. The Aging Initial Review Group and the Scientific Advisory Board will pay close attention to arguments as to why the work does not or would not qualify for support from established sources such as the NIA. Except for compelling circumstances, the awards are not intended to supplement ongoing, already funded programs but, instead, to inspire new directions, which may entail substantial risk. Up to 25 Senior Scholar Awards will be made in the fall of 2013.

Terms of the Award

Each award will be made for up to \$150,000 per year direct cost, with full indirect cost at the institution's NIH negotiated rate added to that, for up to four years. Funding for years two, three and four is contingent upon submission of an acceptable progress report.

Acceptable uses for award funds include project-related: salaries, other personnel costs, equipment, supplies, resource acquisition, and travel. Carry-overs in excess of \$25,000 must be approved by The Ellison Medical Foundation Scholars Program Office. Full indirect costs at the NIH Facilities and Administration (F & A) negotiated rate will be provided. The Ellison Medical Foundation does not permit indirect costs on equipment, even for purchases less than \$5,000.

For all (new and non-competing renewal) awards supporting research involving human subjects, animal subjects, research collaborations with foreign institutions, biosafety issues, or human embryonic stem cells the Foundation will require the following documentation before an award can be made:

1. Human subjects:
 1. Copies of the protocol submitted to the Institutional Review Board(s) for this project* and the notification of protocol approval from all relevant IRBs (for funded awards an annual update will be required at the time of the progress report).
 2. Documentation from the applicant institution that the principal investigator has completed training on the protection of human research participants.
2. Animal subjects:
 1. A copy of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval for this project* (an annual update will be required at the time of each progress report).
3. Foreign component:
 1. A letter of support from the collaborating in-country institution.
4. Biosafety:
 1. Research supported by The Ellison Medical Foundation is expected to conform to the relevant NIH Guidelines for biosafety, including those for handling of hazardous reagents and those for research involving recombinant DNA and gene transfer (see web site http://oba.od.nih.gov/rdna/nih_guidelines_oba.html for these guidelines).
 2. A copy of Institutional Biosafety Committee approval for this project*.
5. Human Embryonic Stem Cells:
 1. Embryonic Stem Cell Research Committee approval of the protocol for this project* if it involves the use of human embryonic stem cells.

***Approval for this project means the EMF funded project, not a similar protocol funded by some other entity.**

Instructions for the Senior Scholar Letter of Intent

You **must** complete your Senior Scholar Letter of Intent ONLINE at:

http://www.cybergrants.com/emf/senior_scholar_loi

The Senior Scholar Letter of Intent includes the following requirements:

PI Contact Information: Provide your full contact information. Include your degree(s) (e.g. M.D., Ph.D.) following Degree(s). Note: If you have a co-PI, add co-PI contact information and select co-PI as the contact type. (A co-PI would be another senior investigator with overall scientific authority for the project.)

Project Title: Not to exceed 20 words. Spell out scientific notation, Greek letters or symbols in this location.

Abstract: The abstract should provide a succinct summary of the project rationale and objectives. Specific aims will be listed in the next section. This section has a 250 word limit. Spell out scientific notation, Greek letters or symbols in this location.

Specific Aims: Please list the project's specific aims. Wherever possible, phrase these in the following format: "In order to ..., we will ..." Size limit 250 words / 2000 characters.

Other Institutions: Indicate whether the project will involve substantive interactions with institutions other than your own or that of a Co-PI. Such interactions might include scientific collaboration, sharing of research facilities or equipment, or other activities that would be supported through a subcontract mechanism from your institution and/or that would require project approval (e.g. research involving human subjects, animal subjects, research collaborations with foreign institutions, biosafety issues, or human embryonic stem cells) at the other institution.

Senior Scholar Letter of Intent File: The following THREE application components must be assembled into a single application file (in PDF format) and uploaded using the online application website. THIS FILE MUST BE NAMED USING THE FOLLOWING FORMAT using the PI name; "YearSSLOI_LastName_FirstName" (for example: "2013SSLOI_Smith_Jane). Maximum file size: 2MB.

1. Initial Research Concept: Not to exceed 2 pages using 11 point font – **including** any figures or citations, as needed. This should incorporate the following components:

- A **succinct** description of the proposed research, in sufficient detail to allow evaluation of the concept by a group of experts in aging research.
- A short statement explaining the relevance of the proposed research to aging.
- A brief explanation of why you believe this project is more relevant to The Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar awards than to traditional funding sources. This should include a description of what this funding will allow you to do that you could not accomplish otherwise.
- A brief description of your current research.

2. Curriculum Vitae and Other Support: Not to exceed 1 page using 11 point font. This should include education/training, positions/employment, awards/honors, and other support (including title, source, duration, and level of funding). If the project involves a co-PI, 1 additional page may be added for the co-PI Curriculum Vitae and Other Support.

3. Publication List: Not to exceed 1 page using 11 point font. This should list selected prior publications reflecting your relevant expertise and accomplishments. [Optional: Indicate up to three of your most significant or relevant publications, including URL so that it may be opened by reviewers].

Keywords: Select the *Keywords* most relevant to the project. Multiple keywords may be chosen for each category. If none of the keywords specified are appropriate, use the text box “Other” to type in a more relevant keyword. You must specify at least one keyword under each section.

Assurances: Answer Yes or No to indicate whether the project will involve human or animal subjects, biosafety concerns, foreign components, or human embryonic stem cells. **This is all the information that is required at the application stage.** Please note, however, that if you are ultimately offered an award, required documentation as specified under Terms of the Award (above) must be received before an award can be made.

Submission and Deadline: Applications must be completed online by
11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time March 7, 2013.

Timeline: Those invited to submit a full application, on the basis of their Letter of Intent, will be notified of their selection and provided with application instructions by **June, 2013.**

The full application will be due in July, 2013. Note that this full application is not significantly longer than the letter of intent, although it will require a one-page budget proposal and a one-page description of the first year’s research plan.

Senior Scholar awardees will be notified in mid-August, 2013.

The earliest possible start date of the award is dependent on completion of the award agreement with the grantee institution.

Address any questions to: Kevin J. Lee, Ph.D., Executive Director
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