



August 27, 2018

Call for Research Proposals

The National PKU Alliance (NPKUA) works to improve the lives of individuals with phenylketonuria (PKU) and pursue a cure. The NPKUA Fund is a campaign of the NPKUA to advance the science of PKU by funding the most promising research that will lead to new therapy discoveries and a cure. The goals of the Fund are to:

- Have at least one new treatment therapy in the development pipeline in the next five years.
- Make at least two substantial grants to projects each year that focus on new drug development, new treatments and/or a cure. A variety of treatment solutions need to exist for PKU patients because it is not a one-size-fits-all disease.
- Fund fellow placements in labs where additional support will speed up the drug development process.
- Fund the most critical projects that have the potential to raise the quality of life of a PKU patient on a day to day basis so they can live the best life possible.

The NPKUA is seeking proposals that will help us meet the above strategic goals as well as to close existing gaps in the knowledge and science of PKU, and to further support existing PKU-related projects.

Eligibility of Applicants

Eligible applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degrees and currently hold a full-time position at any level (post-doctoral, research scientist, assistant/associate/full professor, etc.) at an established academic/research institution. Applicants will be considered from both the United States and internationally. Investigators from centers with a history of research in metabolic diseases are strongly encouraged to apply. The average award is \$40,000; however exceptional applications may be funded at a higher amount if the budget request is justified. Initial grants are awarded for one year with potential of renewal based on progress made during the first year. In addition, the Alliance supports some strategic projects on an on-going basis.

Applicants are encouraged to use the funding to support innovative seed or pilot projects to produce preliminary data that would facilitate more substantial funding from federal agencies, foundations or corporations.

Application Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit a **full proposal** (single-spaced with 0.5" margins using no less than 11 point Arial fonts). Full proposals should include **the following in order** and be submitted in one electronic document in the order listed below and be no more than 15 pages in total:

- Project Title
- PI Name
- Abstract/Summary of Project – no more than 350 words
- Introduction
- Hypothesis to be tested
- Significance of proposed research
- Specific aims
- Methods and Procedures
 - Cells, animals, or patients selection/handling

- Research methods/tools
- Materials used
- Data collection methods and analyses
- Proposed results & potential pitfalls with some solutions
- Project timeline
- Project Budget to include an institutional fiscal officer's signature and itemized justification (no more than one page)
- Project Personnel (no more than 3-page NIH type short bio sketch).

Applicants without a faculty appointment (e.g., post-doctoral level) must also submit a letter of support from their project mentor.

The award requires that funds not be used for the support of institutional indirect or overhead costs.

Timeline:

Full proposals should be received no later than November 1, 2018. Award notices will be given by January 31, 2019 with funding to begin on March 1, 2019.

Proposals will be funded by NPKUA for one year and the submission of a progress report will be required by November 1, 2019 along with goals for renewal funding consideration. A final report will be due 90 days after the end of the funding period.

Please submit proposal and all materials in the order listed and in one document electronically to:

Lex M. Cowsert, Ph.D.
Director of Research Development
National PKU Alliance
Lex.Cowsert@npkua.org