



TARGETED RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON HEALTH OUTCOMES

For funding to begin July 1, 2008

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Epilepsy Foundation is pleased to announce its first annual Targeted Research Initiative for Health Outcomes grant program. Health Outcomes Research encompasses a wide range of activities. This initiative targets an important need for research to understand how different components of health care systems affect outcomes in people with epilepsy. The purpose of this initiative is to support research that generates initial data leading to more extensive projects that will generate knowledge that will ultimately improve the healthcare of persons with epilepsy. The broad focus of the proposal includes methodological aspects of health and outcome measurement, health care needs assessment, nature and determinants of disparities in healthcare and methods of health care delivery. Examples of topics of interest include, but are not limited to pilot studies in the following areas:

1. Elements of epilepsy care
 - a. Standards of epilepsy care at various health care levels (eg., primary, secondary, tertiary)
 - b. Necessary elements of epilepsy teams and centers
 - c. Role and impact of epilepsy teams and centers
 - d. Models of nursing care in epilepsy, eg., nurse practitioners
2. Management of patients with epilepsy outside tertiary care centers
 - a. Opportunities for improvement
 - b. Effect of interventions to improve care
3. Effect of targeted interventions aimed at educating patients and health care providers in epilepsy
4. Role and impact of Telemedicine in epilepsy
 - a. As a method of health care delivery
 - b. As an educational tool
5. Role of Stigma on seeking medical and psychological care, and on adherence to therapy.
6. Interventions to improve the effects of stigma in epilepsy
7. Interventions to decrease disparities in epilepsy care
8. Validation of methods to assess impact of interventions in populations, e.g., validation of ICD diagnostic and procedural codes in epilepsy

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a grant, an applicant must:

1. Hold a Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Science, or equivalent degree. The eligibility of people holding other doctoral level degrees (ex. PharmD) may be considered by the Foundation's Research Council based on the merit of the research proposal; and
2. Have an academic appointment that is at least at the level of Assistant Professor in a university or medical school, or equivalent standing at a research institution or medical center. Those with equivalent positions must demonstrate equivalence of appointment through a letter of explanation.

Applicants whose research will involve patient care or direct involvement with patients must have completed all residency training *and* be licensed to practice medicine at their institution.

US citizenship is not required, but the research must be conducted in the US. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is necessary. Only proposals for human research will be considered.

SELECTION

Applications are evaluated based upon peer review of the proposal's scientific validity, its relevance to the program's goals and its feasibility, as well as on the applicants' qualifications and the adequacy of the research setting.

SUPPORT

Applicants may request up to \$100,000 for one year. Grants awarded for higher than \$50,000 are based on funds available and may be offered if the applicant proposes particularly meritorious work and has provided clear justification based on need and timetable of the work proposed. Applicants may apply for only one year of funding and must re-apply in subsequent years for additional funding.

Grant funds may be used for salary support for personnel directly engaged in the project, consumable supplies and services, and travel essential to the conduct of the research. Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs or institutional overhead, and the purchase of permanent equipment that exceeds 10% of the budget without prior approval. Award funds are paid to the recipient's institution or company in quarterly payments over the term of the award. Continued funding is contingent upon submission of annual progress and financial reports, and confirmation that appropriate institutional approvals for human subjects and animal use are current and on file at the institution.

SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES

An applicant may not apply for, use or accept funds for a research project or part of a project already supported by funds from any public or private source. Accordingly, full disclosure of all available and pending funds for research support must be made in the grant application. If funds from other sources become available to the applicant during the review or tenure of a research

grant awarded through this program, the Principal Investigator must inform the Foundation in writing. An administrative decision will then be made about the continuation of the research award.

HUMAN AND/OR ANIMAL SUBJECTS/TISSUES

When human subjects or tissues are to be used in a research project, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the research protocol approved by the Institution's Human Subject Review Board, a copy of that Board's current approval notice, and a copy of the patient informed consent form(s). If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

When animal and/or animal tissues are used, it is the responsibility of the grantee and the institution to ensure that the institution has a complete copy of the institution's animal care and use committee approval. If available, a copy of these documents should be submitted with the application. If awarded a grant, these documents must be submitted before funding can begin.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION POLICY ON USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

All entities that receive funding from the Epilepsy Foundation must adhere to the following principles:

1. Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid, and useful results are available.
2. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used.
3. The acquisition, care, and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
4. Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research grant that the facility(ies), its researchers and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards.
5. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

1. In order to guarantee review, applications **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the deadline date.
2. All assurances regarding human subjects should be included with the completed application, if available. If awarded, failure to provide the required documentation in a timely fashion may result in the award being rescinded.
3. All original institutional signatures must be included at the time of submission for an application to be considered complete.
4. **NO** additional information for an application will be accepted after the due date including supplemental data to the research plan.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

All applications are due by February 29, 2008 for funding to begin July 1, 2008. **A complete application must be submitted via the proposalCentral system by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on February 29, 2008. The proposalCentral system can be accessed at <https://www.proposalcentral.altum.com>.**

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available for questions from applicants during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.), Monday-Friday, EST.

Phone: 1-800-875-2562 x227 (toll free) or 301-916-4557 x227

E-mail: pcsupport@altum.com

Applications will not be accepted, nor any parts of the application, if sent to the Foundation offices by U.S. mail.