Advancing Gene Editing Technologies and Tools for Cystic Fibrosis

Award Overview

Application Deadline: March 12, 2019, 5:00 PM Eastern
All applications must be submitted via https://proposalcentral.altum.com/
Please see Proposal Central for full application guidelines for each program

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) is aggressively pursuing genome editing as a therapeutic strategy to treat individuals with cystic fibrosis. To this end, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is announcing an upcoming new Request For Applications for “Advancing Gene Editing Technologies and Tools for Cystic Fibrosis.” This RFA will provide funding opportunities for up to 3 years of funding for Research Grants, Pilots and Feasibility studies, Postdoctoral Fellowships, and Collaborative Program Grants.

CFF encourages investigators involved in gene editing to apply and requires no previous experience in CF research. A goal of the program will be to connect experts in gene editing with experts in CF to create a collaborative network of investigators who can synergize to move the editing field forward.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:
Creating tools, including animal models, cell lines or organoids, that will be generally applicable and facilitate or accelerate development and assessment of various gene editing strategies.
Development and optimization of novel gene editing technology platforms.
Strategies to specifically target the CFTR gene locus.
Examine effects of CFTR gene editing on regulation of CFTR expression.
Develop and apply assays to assess off-target effects and adverse events of CFTR gene editing in vitro and/or in vivo.
Develop biological endpoints and assays for early in vivo efficacy signals of CFTR gene editing.
Studies to monitor potential immune responses to gene editing, including responses to delivery vehicles, cargo, or CFTR protein.
Utilize CF and/or non-CF animal models to address optimal delivery approaches, appropriate cell targets for long-term correction, dosing, safety, and phenotypic correction of CF pathology.
Identifying thresholds of CFTR gene editing for achieving therapeutic relevance.
Identify and overcome barriers for delivery of gene editing cargo into cells relevant to CF.
Proposals will be accepted in four categories:

**Collaborative Research Grant:**
The objective of the Collaborative Program is to support an integrated, multi-investigator collaborative research program project with a well-defined, central focus related to technology development for gene editing. Funding limits are up to US$750,000 per year for collaborative research efforts (maximum US$250,000 per project per year within the collaborative project) for up to three (3) years. Up to US$25,000 additional funds may be requested for administrative support of multi-project programs, with justification, plus eight percent (8%) indirect costs.

**Research Grants:**
Funding of up to US$200,000 per year, plus eight percent (8%) indirect costs may be requested for up to three (3) years. U.S. residents and applicants from outside the U.S. are welcome to apply.

**Pilot and Feasibility Studies:**
Funding of up to US$75,000 per year, plus eight percent (8%) indirect costs may be requested. Awards may be approved for up to a two-year period.

**Postdoctoral Fellowships:**
Awards may be approved for up to a two-year period. United States residents and applicants from outside the United States are welcome to apply. Funding of up to US$63,100 for year 1 and US$65,450 for year 2 may be requested. U.S. citizens and permanent residents only will qualify for postdoctoral fellowships.

**Contact:**
For programmatic questions, please contact CFF’s grants team at grants@cff.org. For scientific questions, please contact Mitch Drumm (mitchell.drumm@case.edu) or Elizabeth Joseloff (ejoseloff@cff.org).