



Research Grant Program

The Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Inc. (SPF) was created in 2002 as a voluntary, non-profit health organization. Our mission is:

- 1) to fund research to discover the cures for primary lateral sclerosis (PLS) and hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP),
- 2) to provide educational materials, conferences and gatherings for people affected with and by these disorders, and
- 3) to foster support for those affected with and by these disorders, through both on-line and in-person contacts.

The SPF's ultimate goal is to see the day when all those with HSP and PLS are diagnosed accurately, treated, and cured. With our research grant program we strive to make that day a reality.

Research Grants

In 2003, The SPF is accepting applications for two \$40,000 grants for medical research. One grant will be awarded for research into the etiology or treatment of HSP, and the second for research into the etiology or treatment of PLS.

Research grants are offered primarily as "seed monies" to assist investigators with new ideas, those in the early or pilot phase of their studies, or as additional support for ongoing investigations with demonstration of need. We anticipate that studies funded by the SPF will develop into projects that can successfully attract future funding from other sources.

Grants are awarded for one year only. If funding is desired for a second year, then another grant application should be submitted for that funding period. Indirect costs may not be applied to SPF grant awards.

The title of each study funded by SPF, the name of the principal investigator, institution, city and state will be published on our web page, as well as in our newsletter, annual report and wherever else SPF feels is appropriate. Accordingly, each final grant application must include a lay summary that will be used as SPF wishes. It should not contain confidential information.

All other parts of the grant application are considered confidential and will only be released to members of the SPF Scientific Advisory Board, its consultants, and the Board of Directors.

Application Procedure

Letter of Intent Deadline: May 15, 2003

The grant application process is a two step process. First, a short, preliminary application is submitted. The SPF Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reviews and ranks the preliminary applications.

The authors of the top ranked proposals for each disorder are then invited to submit complete proposals. The SAB reviews the complete proposals and selects the top ranked one for each disorder for funding.

A preliminary application should contain the following:

- * An letter of intent indicating why SPF funding is essential
- * A one-page abstract of the proposal
- * A curriculum vitae and bibliography from the principal investigator
- * Brief budget outline

Send one (1) original and five (5) copies for preliminary review by **May 15, 2003** to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Research Grant Program, 11 Pepper Pond Road, Sherman, CT 06784-2417. Alternatively, documents can be sent to the SPF at mark@sp-foundation.org in the form of a PDF or Microsoft Word file.

Preliminary applications will be reviewed and ranked by the SPF Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal. The SPF will send a complete application form to those individuals.

Full proposals, by invitation only, are due August 1, 2003.

Awards will be announced September 30, 2003.

Funding for successful proposals will cover the period from October 2003 through September 2004. Researchers awarded a grant will sign a contract with the SPF, and will be asked to report every six months on the progress of the research.

Publications

When a paper or exhibit by an SPF grant recipient, based on work supported by an SPF grant, is published or presented before a scientific organization, 15 copies of the paper or a description of the exhibit should be sent to the SPF. (Alternatively, the document can be sent electronically in the form of a PDF or Microsoft Word file.) All papers or exhibits must carry a credit line to the Spastic Paraplegia Foundation.

A final report is to be submitted to the SPF within four months of completion of the research, or the anniversary date of funding. This report must be written so that the average lay person can understand it. It must not contain any confidential information.

The SPF takes seriously its responsibility to its contributors to report to them on the use of their donations. Accordingly, the SPF will publish each final report on its web site, in its annual report, and wherever else it deems appropriate.

Further Information

- * Funding can be used to cover expenses such as technical assistance, supplies, and small equipment.
- * Overhead and indirect costs are not awarded.
- * The SPF Scientific Advisory Board will review all applications for scientific merit.
- * Progress and financial reports will be required every six months, written in English.
- * Clinical drug trials must meet the requirements established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- * If a study involves humans, copies of the Informed Consent and the Institutional Review Board (Ethics Committee) approvals are required from each site involved in the study, before payment.
- * If a study involves human gene therapy, please submit a copy of the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee (RAC) review or waiver of review.
- * Questions or inquiries may be directed to mark@sp-foundation.org.