

EARLY INVESTIGATOR GRANT GUIDELINES

The Marfan Foundation is requesting proposals to the Foundation's Early Investigator Grant Program. Proposals are now being accepted for two-year grants in basic, translational or clinical research. Three two-year grants for \$37,500 per year for a total of \$75,000 per grant will be awarded. The Foundation's grant program is designed to provide financial support for early investigators studying any or all disciplines involved in Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions.

SCHEDULE

Application Deadline: February 1, 2019
Announcement of Awards: May 10, 2019
Funding Available: July 1, 2019

SPECIAL AREAS OF INTEREST

Basic research, translational studies and clinical studies in cardiovascular, orthopedic, pulmonary, pain, ophthalmologic and other pertinent disciplines utilizing synergistic collaborations; integration of novel theories from non-traditional researchers into established paradigms; novel animal model systems; innovation; and the distillation of knowledge into practical new therapies for Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions.

CONTACT

Please direct all questions and correspondence to:

Josephine Grima, PhD
Chief Science Officer

The Marfan Foundation
22 Manhasset Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

Tel: 800-8-MARFAN or 516-883-8712 ext. 117

Fax: 516-883-8040

Email: research@marfan.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	Introduction	3
B.	Types of Proposals Solicited	3
C.	Budget	3
D.	Qualifications of Principal Investigator	3
E.	Review Process	3
F.	Terms of the Award	4
G.	Contact Information	5
H.	Details of Proposal	5
	1. Title Page	6
	2. Table of Contents	6
	3. Project Abstract	6
	4. Research Plan	6
	5. Budget	6
	6. Other Support	7
	7. Biographical Sketches	7
	8. Facilities Description	7
	9. Appendix	7

Application Forms which need to be separately downloaded:

1. Title Page Form
2. Table of Contents Form
3. Biographical Sketch Form

PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION, REVIEW AND AWARD OF EARLY INVESTIGATOR RESEARCH GRANTS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Marfan Foundation awards grants to support research related to Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions. The goal of the Foundation's Research Program is to advance research in this area and to identify methods for earlier diagnosis, improved therapies and to find an eventual cure.

B. TYPES OF PROPOSALS SOLICITED

The Marfan Foundation is currently accepting proposals by early investigators for basic, translational, and clinical research related to Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions. Each application should have the quality of an NIH proposal. Special areas of interest are basic, translational and clinical studies in cardiovascular, orthopedic, pulmonary, pain, ophthalmologic and other pertinent areas utilizing synergistic collaborations; integration of novel theories from non-traditional researchers into established paradigms; novel animal model systems; innovation; and the distillation of knowledge into practical new therapies. Special consideration is given to proposals in non-cardiac disciplines and clinical research areas.

C. BUDGET

Budgets for up to \$37,500 per year for two years are acceptable.

D. QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI)

The principal investigator must hold an MD, DO, PhD, ScD, DDS, DVM, or equivalent degree. The investigator must have proven ability to pursue independent research as evidenced by original research publications in peer-reviewed journals. Applicants must have less than seven years experience in a faculty position at the time of application submission and have never received an NIH R-01 grant award or similar grant award. If the applicant has already received an R-01 grant, the applicant must apply to the Foundation's Faculty Grant Program even if they do not hold an Associate Professor position. Appointments associated with clinical housestaff/fellowship training positions will be excluded from the seven-year limit. Early Investigators cannot hold a NIH K grant, or other training grant simultaneously with The Marfan Foundation Early Investigator grant, however, they can receive more than one Early Investigator Grant during the seven year experience limit. Work can be performed in the U.S. or internationally and non-US appointments are acceptable.

E. REVIEW PROCESS

The Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board, a committee of experts in basic, translational and clinical research, will review each application. The NIH peer review study section model will be followed. Each proposal will receive a priority score based on the evaluation of the committee. Priority scores will be forwarded to The Marfan Foundation where award decisions will be made based upon relative scientific merit ranking of the submitted grants, and on priorities of The Marfan Foundation. All applications will be held in the strictest confidence and all decisions by The Marfan Foundation are final.

F. TERMS OF THE AWARD

1. Duration

Two-year funding period begins July 1, 2019 and ends June 30, 2021. Requests for change in funding dates will be considered.

2. Changes of Status of Principal Investigator

If the named Principal Investigator (PI) changes affiliations the award will follow only after approval of transfer from The Marfan Foundation. If the named PI ceases research in the field for which the award was made, the award will terminate and the remaining balance will be returned to The Marfan Foundation.

3. Site of Project

Awards are for studies at international or national universities, public or private universities, colleges, hospitals, and biomedical research institutions. The PI will make all arrangements for the execution of the proposed research projects.

4. Budget

Budgets for up to, but not exceeding, \$75,000 for two-years are acceptable. Payments will be made to the PI's institution which will be responsible for administering the funds. Salaries for PIs, support personnel or current research post doctoral fellows engaged in the project may be requested. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to The Marfan Foundation upon completion of the granting period unless extension is approved by The Marfan Foundation. The Marfan Foundation does not pay for institutional overhead, construction or renovation; purchase of major capital equipment; office equipment or furniture; travel (except as required to perform the project); tuition fees; journal subscriptions, dues or memberships; equipment service contracts; salaries for secretaries. Funds will be distributed semi-annually.

5. Indemnification of The Marfan Foundation

Principal Investigator, co-investigators and his/her Affiliated Institution (AI) will be obligated to indemnify The Marfan Foundation from any and all liability that may arise from the PI's/AI's conduct and The Marfan Foundation affiliation therewith due to the grant relationship.

6. Institutional Support

The PI assumes responsibility for conducting research projects and supervising the work of co-investigators. The PI must demonstrate that access to a suitable caseload or patient population will be available for study during the funding period for clinical studies.

7. Use of Animals and Humans in Biomedical Research

All PIs must certify that the research facilities, 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 or similar country standards. Institutional review board (IRB) or its equivalent must approve research involving animal and human subjects and a copy of the approval or pending approval must be sent with this application. Copies of annual renewal of IRB must be forwarded to The Marfan Foundation. IRB approval must be documented prior to dispensation of The Marfan Foundation's funds. The application must include letters of support if the proposed project uses facilities not routinely available to or directly under the supervision of the sponsoring program.

8. Publications

All discoveries resulting from work supported in part by The Marfan Foundation should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels such as national meetings and peer reviewed publications. Publications will acknowledge the support of The Marfan Foundation. Two reprints of each publication must be forwarded to The Marfan Foundation.

9. Publicity

The Marfan Foundation shall be permitted to use the Principal Investigator's name, image and likeness, as well as the name of the Affiliated Institution, in connection with all statements, printed materials, or electronic media related to the Grant Award or related to The Marfan Foundation's Research Program. At the Foundation's request, the Principal Investigator will provide The Marfan Foundation with appropriate photographs and biographical information to be used in connection with this grant.

10. Progress and Financial Reports

The Principal Investigator must provide a progress report and a financial report no later than 45 days after the completion of each 6-month period during the term of this grant. Failure to provide such reports will preclude the Principal Investigator from obtaining further funding from The Marfan Foundation. Consideration of future funding will be dependent upon completion of these progress reports.

G. CONTACT INFORMATION FOR CORRESPONDENCE

Josephine Grima, PhD
Chief Science Officer

The Marfan Foundation
22 Manhasset Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050

Tel: 800-8-MARFAN or 516-883-8712 ext. 117
Fax: 516-883-8040
Email: research@marfan.org

H. DETAILS OF PROPOSAL

The application must be submitted electronically, including the application forms, additional pages, and appendices, as a single PDF file, via The Marfan Foundation website, marfan.org.

Please name your application using the following format:

EarlyInvestigator_Lastname_FirstName.pdf
Example: EarlyInvestigator_Smith_Jane.pdf

The application forms may be completed by using the free Adobe Reader program. If you do not already have it, you can download it at <http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>. The Title Page form requires dated signatures; you may either insert a digital signature and date or print the form and then scan it to include in your application PDF.

Additional pages should be typed single-spaced using a font size of at least a 10 points and with one inch margins. Pages should be numbered at the bottom. Appendices should not be used to subvert the page limitation on the grant, however, figures, tables, diagrams and photographs can be placed in the appendices. Please present the proposal in the order that follows.

1. Title Page: 1 page

Application form provided

2. Table of Contents: 1 page

Application form provided

3. Project Abstract and Lay Person Summary: 1 page each

On a single separate page, describe precisely and clearly the nature, objective, methods of procedure, and significance of the proposed research project, and how it relates to the goal of providing a better understanding of Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions and/or improving the treatment or diagnosis of Marfan syndrome, VEDS, EDS, LDS and other related conditions (limit 300 words).

Rewrite the abstract in abbreviated form in terms suitable for presentation to lay persons (limit 500 words).

4. Research Plan: 3 pages

- a. Include Goals and Objectives; Rationale; Methodology; Evaluation. (Figures should be placed in appendix.)
- b. Please comment upon the importance of the Foundation's funding:
 - i. Will this funding allow you to pursue studies that would otherwise not be performed? Is funding meant to supplement other sources of support?
 - ii. Do you anticipate that this funding will increase your competitiveness for other funding sources?
- c. Please comment upon the significance of the work that you propose:
 - i. Is it similar to or a direct extension of work that has been or is being performed elsewhere?
 - ii. Does the work complement or extend other studies that are being performed at your institution?
 - iii. How novel are the studies that you describe?
 - iv. Would such a proposal be competitive for NIH funding in its current form, or would you require additional preliminary data?
 - v. Do you anticipate that the support would lead to the generation of physical resources that might be useful to other investigators in the field?
 - vi. If so, would you be willing to make them widely available?

5. Budget

List full budget with amount requested from the Foundation. Budget justification should be suited to the proposal. Include:

- a. Names, titles, time/percentage effort of all participants, requested salaries and fringe benefits, and total amount required.
- b. Statement that the institution or other funding sources will absorb indirect costs.
- c. A written budget justification.

It is important that the investigators match the dollar award with the actual project. If funding from other sources is being used to cover certain parts of the study, please elaborate on what part of the budget will not be completed with Foundation funding and what the approximate costs of the full project would be. No overhead or indirect costs will be considered. List the additional sources of funding if budget exceeds The Marfan Foundation's grant amount.

6. Other Support: 2 pages

List other support received by principal and co-investigators for any projects (include yearly and total budget and duration of any grants):

- a. Current
- b. Pending
- c. Description (in a paragraph, describe each current or pending grant and whether it has scientific or budgetary overlap with the present proposal).

7. Biographical Sketches: 5 pages each

Using the supplied form, please provide biographical sketches for key personnel. Indicate the total number of publications in each of the 2 categories: referenced articles and invited works. If you prefer, you may use the NIH biosketch form instead.

8. Facilities Description: 1 page

Describe the research facilities (laboratory space, clinical population, etc) available for the project.

9. Appendix

- a. Figures, tables etc.
- b. Literature cited
- c. Human subjects experimental approval
- d. Vertebrate animal experimental approval
- e. Letters of support