

PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PILOT RESEARCH

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society provides funds for limited short-term support of research in areas where preliminary data are scant or nonexistent. This program is designed to support unique or novel ideas with the potential to open significant new areas of research on multiple sclerosis. Projects that are simply extensions of on-going research or that already have ample supporting data will not be considered.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Society utilizes a Web-based facility for the submission of research grant applications. All applicants are required to use this facility for the completion of their proposals. In order to submit a proposal for research support, investigators must first register with our apply online site (www.mssocietyapplyonline.org) and complete a pre-application. Staff of the Research Programs Department will review the pre-application to determine whether the research plan is appropriate and relevant to our goals.

The application is brief, with the project description strictly limited to two pages. Applications that are submitted are then peer-reviewed in an expedited manner.

ELIGIBILITY

Investigators at established research institutions may apply to this program. It is expected that the person indicated as the principal investigator in an application for a grant is the one who is personally and actively responsible for the conduct of the research and who is considered eligible by his or her institution to apply for a research grant. The principal investigator need not be a United States citizen. Applicants are not eligible to apply if they have an existing National MS Society pilot research award that expires later than the application deadline. Applications for Pilot Research Projects under the direction of, or that request stipends for, postdoctoral fellows or for graduate students will not be accepted. Pilot awards must not be used to support dissertation work for a graduate student. Postdoctoral fellows are encouraged to apply for one of the Society's programs of research training.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Support for Pilot Research Projects is limited to a maximum of \$40,000 in direct costs for one year. Funds to purchase major items of equipment are discouraged for this program, as are requests for travel funds. The grantee institution, through the officer signing the application, may add an amount for indirect costs up to 10% of the sum requested by the principal investigator except that indirect costs are not allowed in connection with funds requested or expended for: (a) patient costs or (b) purchase, modification or installation of any approved equipment. Indirect costs will not be provided for grants awarded to institutions outside the United States. All other conditions of the Pilot Award are as stated under the "Research Grants" section of the policies and procedures document.

A written report of the work accomplished during the Pilot Research Project and an account of expenditures are required within 30 days after a Pilot Research Project terminates. Forms and instructions for these reports will be sent to investigators as the end date for their project approaches.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPRINTS

As soon as a manuscript is accepted for publication, a copy of it, with the name of the journal and the expected date of publication, should be sent by email to the Associate Vice President of Research Information (cathy.carlson@nmss.org). Manuscripts will be respected as privileged communications. As soon as reprints of a published article are available, or if a press release from the institution is being prepared for distribution, please send to cathy.carlson@nmss.org.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society must be acknowledged in all dissemination materials (e.g., publications, scientific exhibits, scientific presentations, press releases, etc.) related to research supported in full or in part by the Society. The following acknowledgment, or its equivalent, should be used:

"This investigation was supported (in part) by a Pilot Research Award from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society."