



National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society

Frequently Asked Questions

Request for Applications (RFA) on Generating Knowledge and Tools to Address Compartmentalized Inflammation in Multiple Sclerosis – Spring 2022

Q. Who is eligible to apply for this RFA?

A. Applicants should possess an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent and be considered eligible by their institution to apply for grant support. Postdoctoral fellows, residents and other trainees are not eligible to apply.

Q. Are postdoctoral fellows eligible to apply for the RFA?

A. No.

Q. Is this open to researchers outside of the U.S.A.?

A. Yes.

Q. When will granted awards begin?

A. We expect awards will start on or about October 1, 2022.

Q. What is the budget?

A: A maximum of \$600,000 USD (direct cost) over up to 3 years.

Q. What is the indirect cost rate?

A. 10% - note that indirect costs are only available for awards made to U.S. institutions.

Q. Can I use the award to start a new MS cohort or registry?

A. No – given the scope and timeframe of the award, applicants are expected to utilize existing cohorts or registries if needed to conduct their proposed studies.

Q. How many will be awarded?

A. The number of awards for funding consideration depends on committee review, plus availability of funds. Based on past experience, we anticipate awarding the top-ranked 15% to 20% of applications received.

Q. Who should I contact for questions about suitability of my research to the RFA?

A. Initial communication should be with Fiona Brabazon, PhD, Director, Biomedical Research (fiona.brabazon@nmss.org), or Walt Kostich, Senior Director, Translational Research (walter.kostich@nmss.org).

Q. How will the Community Review be incorporated into the full review process?

A. This group will review all proposals deemed to be of scientific merit following the scientific peer review process and will individually rate and then collectively tier proposals according to the degree of relevance to people affected by MS. Community reviewers will also help us to identify participant-centered concerns about proposed research, such as unduly burdensome protocols or outcomes of low

interest to people affected by MS. These insights, along with the outcomes from the peer review, will be taken together to inform the final funding recommendations.

NOTE: The Community Review Committee will have access to the entire application but will rely heavily on the **Plain Language Description** of proposals. Applicants are advised to utilize the many resources the Society has provided on how to write a [successful Plain Language Description](#).

Q. With the Community Review, does applied research have an advantage over basic science?

A. No. Members of the Community Review Committee will receive training focused on broad scientific concepts, as well as how these concepts relate to a community perspective, prior to the evaluation of applications. In addition, basic science and clinical studies will be evaluated and tiered separately.

Q. Is this Request for Applications the only funding opportunity being offered by the National MS Society in 2022?

A. No. As part of our commitment to support the research workforce, we plan to offer the annual opportunity for fellowships and early career funding opportunities in summer 2022, and plan to open an opportunity for investigator-initiated research grants that advance our [Pathways to Cures Roadmap in the fall of 2022](#), and we expect that these opportunities will align with many of the themes that MS researchers are actively pursuing.

Q. Is there an opportunity for follow-on funding after the award is complete?

A. There is currently no specific program for follow-on funding. However, the Society is interested in taking advantage of opportunities and may consider providing additional funding of projects with outstanding preliminary results through our investigator-initiated research grants.