



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Request for Applications (RFA) on Accelerating Functional Recovery in Multiple Sclerosis – November 2022**

**Q. Who is eligible to apply for this RFA?**

A. This RFA is open to investigators at not-for-profit research institutions. Collaborations with commercial organizations are allowed. Applicants should possess an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent and be considered eligible by their institution to apply for non-mentored research 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, 2023.

**Q. What is the budget?**

A: A maximum of \$660,000 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, see [Policies and Procedures](#) for more details.

**Q. Can I submit more than one application as a PI?**

A. Yes – more than one application as PI is permitted but not encouraged.

**Q. Are collaborations required for this award?**

A. No – this is not a requirement, but is encouraged.

**Q. Under what circumstances are animal studies encouraged?**

A. Animal studies are encouraged in combination with work that is translated to humans. Pre-clinical animal work alone is not encouraged.

**Q. Do all studies need to have a mechanistic component?**

A. Yes, but keep in mind this can take many forms. For example, this could include moderator variables or cellular mechanisms of remyelination combined with behavioral measures of function in people with MS.

**Q. Are studies using dietary supplements as interventions allowed?**

A. Yes.

**Q How many will be awarded?**

A. The number of awards for funding consideration depends on committee review, and availability of funds. Based on past experience, we anticipate awarding the top 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 Kathy Zackowski, PhD, OTR, Associate Vice President, Research ([Kathleen.Zackowski@nmss.org](mailto:Kathleen.Zackowski@nmss.org)), or Anna Lampe, PhD, Director, Research ([Anna.Lampe@nmss.org](mailto:Anna.Lampe@nmss.org)).

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

A. The Community Review Committee, made up of non-scientists that are affected by MS, 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 are only required to use and 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. Is this Request for Applications the only funding opportunity being offered by the National MS Society in 2023?**

A. No. We recently released a [commercial funding opportunity focusing on nervous system repair](#). 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 2023, and plan to open an opportunity for investigator-initiated research grants that advance our [Pathways to Cures Roadmap](#) in July. 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 grant funding opportunities.