CURE's investigator-initiated grants program seeks to push the envelope and accelerate promising research leading to disease-modifying breakthroughs for people living with epilepsy. CURE prioritizes highly innovative, risky, paradigm-shifting projects that address CURE’s mission to cure epilepsy, affirming our core belief that the only acceptable final goal is “no seizures, no side-effects.”

**CURE: Our mission is to cure epilepsy, transforming and saving millions of lives.**

*We identify and fund cutting-edge research, challenging scientists worldwide to collaborate and innovate in pursuit of this goal.*

*Our commitment is unrelenting.*

CURE strongly encourages multidisciplinary, collaborative projects, especially those that include investigators and expertise from fields outside of epilepsy.

Requests may be made for up to $250,000 for two years.

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**PRIORITY AREAS**

The following 2018 priority areas reflect CURE’s focus on advances that have the potential to truly transform and save lives. Prevention and disease modification/elimination are critical goals and consistent with our mission.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

• 2018 Priority areas
  o Transformative research to enhance our understanding of the cellular, molecular, genetic and systems-level mechanisms that lead to any of the epilepsies, facilitating the continued investigation of disease-modifying or preventative strategies
  o Innovative approaches that can prevent, modify and/or arrest the development of acquired epilepsy after stroke, tumor, viral infection, etc.*
  o Research that will inform the development of novel therapies to prevent onset or halt the progression of the severe pediatric epilepsies
  o Research focused on new, effective treatments for the >30% of the epilepsy population who are pharmaresistant
  o Novel research that furthers our understanding of the causes and ultimate elimination of SUDEP
  o Translational, clinical, and clinically-informed basic research that will facilitate elevated understanding of the cellular-, molecular-, and systems-level mechanisms that underlie the relationships between sleep and epilepsy.

*Due to the exciting launch of our Post-Traumatic Epilepsy Team Science Initiative in collaboration with the Department of Defense, this priority area has been slightly revised to exclude epilepsy as a result of head injury.

• Based on CURE’s current research objectives, lower priority will be given for research in the following areas:
  o Research that focuses solely on a comorbid condition without also seeking to address/understand the accompanying epilepsy
  o Research that focuses solely on improving localization of the epileptic seizure focus

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This award is available to both established and early career investigators*. Researchers who serve on CURE’s Scientific Advisory Council are ineligible to apply for or sponsor a grant for the duration of their term. International applicants are welcome. All materials must be submitted in English.

* Generally, early career investigators are university faculty at the assistant professor level (or hold an equivalent position in a non-university research organization). Established investigators are university faculty at the associate professor level or above. Post-doctoral fellows may not apply for this award.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

BUDGET

Requests may be made for up to a total of $250,000 paid over 2 years. Funding requests may include salary support for the PI, technical staff and/or collaborators; supplies, animal costs, etc.; and travel to an epilepsy-related conference if the PI is presenting his/her CURE-funded research. Limited equipment purchases that are required to complete goals will be considered. **Indirect costs are not supported.**

2018 FUNDING CYCLE DETAILS

In 2018, CURE will issue one request for proposals for the CURE Epilepsy award.

**2018 CURE Epilepsy Award Timeline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Approximate Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent Deadline</td>
<td>March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Application Invitations</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Application Deadline</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Award Announcement</td>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anticipated Project Start Date</td>
<td>Winter 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LETTER OF INTENT INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI). The LOI should clearly and succinctly outline the hypothesis to be tested, the specific aims, and provide a brief description of the research plan according to the guidelines in this announcement.

**Letter of Intent Instructions:**

Below are instructions for the required **scientific summary** and **future directions** sections, which together can be no longer than two (2) pages in length.

**LOIs exceeding two pages of text will not be reviewed.**

1) **Scientific Summary:** Clearly and succinctly outline the hypothesis and specific aims, and provide a brief description of how the proposed research plan aligns with CURE’s mission and with CURE’s desire to push epilepsy research forward by leaps rather than by incremental steps (1½-page maximum)
2) **Future Directions:** Describe what next steps will be taken once the goals of your proposed project have been achieved. *(1/2-page maximum, including spaces)*

A few things to note:

- It is important to keep in mind that a key factor that reviewers consider when assessing applications is feasibility. Lower scores will be given to proposals that are not realistically achievable within a 2-year timeframe. The “Future Directions” section enables you to explain how your research will progress once the goals of your proposed project have been achieved.
- Graphs and charts do not count towards the two-page text description of your project.
- References are not required at the LOI phase. However, if you decide to include references they do not count towards the page limitation.
- We no longer require LOIs to include lay summaries since lay reviewers now only participate in the review of full proposals.

**PROPOSALCENTRAL INSTRUCTIONS**

LOIs must be submitted through proposalCENTRAL ([https://proposalcentral.altum.com](https://proposalcentral.altum.com)). In order to begin an application, applicants will need to create a professional profile, if one does not already exist.

Instructions for each section of the application in proposalCENTRAL:

1) **Title Page:** Enter proposal title (maximum 150 characters, including spaces).
2) **Download Templates & Instructions:** Download LOI guidelines and other available instructions (if provided) as needed.
3) **Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal:** Use this optional section to grant access to a collaborator or co-investigator.
4) **Applicant/PI:** This section should auto-populate from the applicant’s professional profile. Double-check that the information is complete and correct. If it is not, click Edit Professional Profile to update the information. Indicate whether you are an early career or established investigator.
5) **Institution & Contacts:** Information should auto-populate from applicant’s profile.
6) **Collaborators/Co-Principal Investigator:** Please enter information for any co-investigators or collaborators, if applicable.
7) **Keywords:** Select at least 3 keywords from the list that best describe the specific focus of your research proposal.
8) **Current and Pending Support:** List all current and pending support for you and any co-investigators. Pending support includes any grant applications that you have submitted, but for which decisions have not yet been communicated. Current and pending support is required for the PI and co-PI, but is not required for collaborators.
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

9) **Attach LOI:** Once the LOI is finalized per the instructions below, attach by uploading the PDF into this section of proposalCENTRAL.
10) **Validate:** The system will check for required components that have not been completed. Applicants will not be able to submit until all required components are completed.
11) **Submit:** Hit “submit” after your application has been successfully validated.

**FORMATTING GUIDELINES**

- Type font: 12-point
- Type density: No more than 15 characters per inch (including spaces). For proportional spacing, the average for any representative section of text should not exceed either 15 characters per inch or 114 characters per line.
- Spacing: Single-spaced between lines of text, no more than five lines of type within a vertical inch.
- Margins: Minimum of 0.5-inch top, bottom, right, and 1-inch left.

**Inquiries:** Questions regarding these guidelines are welcome and should be directed to Liz Higgins at Liz.Higgins@CUREepilepsy.org or 312-255-1801.

**APPLICANT FAQs**

Answers to a series of frequently asked questions may be found below. If after reviewing additional clarification is needed, please reach out to Liz Higgins at Liz.Higgins@CUREepilepsy.org.

**Q** Are international applicants eligible to apply?

**A** Yes, international applicants are eligible to apply for CURE grants. All application materials must be submitted in English and should be written with a clear hypothesis and specific aims as is consistent with the U.S. grant making system.

**Q** Are multiple researchers from the same institution allowed to apply for the same grant?

**A** Yes. There is no limit to the number of researchers from the same institution who can apply for the same grant.

**Q** I’m interested in submitting a LOI for an open CURE award with a scientist who is currently funded by CURE. Is this allowed?

**A** Yes, you can apply for an open award as long as you would no longer be receiving salary from the current award by the start date of the new award for which you are applying. Grantees cannot receive funding on two different awards at the same time.
I was invited to submit a full application last year, but was not awarded funding. I have addressed the concerns voiced in the reviews of my original application and would like to reapply. Can I reapply, and if so, what is the process?

Yes, we encourage you to reapply. However, you must go through CURE’s standard application process. The first step is to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI).

I received a CURE grant in the past. Can I apply again?

Yes. You are welcome to apply for a grant as a current/former CURE grantee. However, current grantees cannot receive funding on two different awards at the same time. So, you can apply for an open award as long as funding for the new award would begin after your current award has ended.

Can I apply for an award if I am an active reviewer for CURE?

Yes. If you are an active reviewer you can still apply for an award. We will just make sure that you are not assigned to applications in the award category for which you applied.

Can I submit more than one application in the same cycle?

Yes, if the two applications have completely different hypothesis and specific aims.

Does CURE only fund academic laboratories?

CURE funds research from academic and non-academic laboratories. We fund researchers working at universities, companies and non-profit research institutions.

If I am submitting with another researcher, do we both need to apply?

CURE welcomes collaborative proposals with more than one principal investigator. However, one application must be submitted on behalf of the collaboration, under one PI’s account in proposalCENTRAL.

Can multidisciplinary funding be split between two institutions?
Yes, funding can be split among multiple institutions. However, CURE will only contract with the primary institution, which will be responsible for negotiating subcontracts with the institutions of any collaborators/co-PIs involved with the project. CURE requires detailed budgets outlining the allocation of funds to each institution.

**Who can receive salary from the grant?**

Grant funds can be allocated to cover the salaries of investigators, postdocs, and graduate students in relation to the percentage of effort spent on the project, as well as research supplies and some travel expenses (see below). **Indirect costs are not covered.**

**Can grant funds be used for travel expenses?**

Yes. There is a travel cap of $1,500 USD for international applicants and $1,000 USD for U.S. and Canadian applicants per year which can be budgeted for a maximum of 2 investigators (the PI and Co-PI). If awarded funds, CURE encourages all grantees to attend the annual AES meeting in December. Additional funds outside of the award will not be given to attend this event.

**If I can’t submit by the deadline, can I request an extension?**

No, CURE does not provide deadline extensions.