



2021 Funding Opportunity Announcement

Overview

The Sarcoma Foundation of America (SFA) is pleased to announce a research funding opportunity to provide one-year grants in the amount of \$50,000, to support translational science research on the etiology, molecular biology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of human sarcomas. The grants are awarded on an annual cycle from June 1 to May 31 (the annual period of performance).

In support of our overall mission to fund research and increase awareness and advocacy for sarcoma patients and their families, the goal of the SFA grant program is to encourage research that results in improved therapeutic options for sarcoma patients.

The SFA encourages applications that focus on the following areas of research for the 2021 cycle:

- Immunotherapy
- Omic characterization of sarcomas and definition of novel targets
- Omic patterns of sensitivity and resistance to existing agents
- Systemic therapy combinations
- Gene Therapy

For each awarded grant, funding of up to \$50,000 in total cost is available to cover equipment, supplies and other expenses in support of research within the period of performance. In addition, the following funding restrictions apply:

- Applications proposing clinical trials are not eligible and will not be funded
- No more than 10% of the total cost amount can be applied to indirect cost (e.g., \$5,000 indirect cost toward the \$50,000 total cost of the grant)
- The SFA does not permit funds to be used for Principal Investigator (PI) salaries. However, applicants are permitted to request money for the payment of salaries for non-faculty post-docs, fellows, and technicians, if applicable. No more than 50% of total cost can be used for salaries (e.g., \$25,000 for the \$50,000 award). Applications requesting more than this amount for salaries will not be accepted.

Key Dates

October 1, 2020	Earliest application submission date on proposalCENTRAL
February 1, 2021, at 5:00 pm ET	Application submission deadline
February – Mid April 2021 (estimate)	SFA Medical Advisory Board scores and ranks proposals
Mid April 2021 (estimate)	Winners selected and awards announced
June 1, 2021	Award funds made available for research
June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022	Grant Award Period of Performance (start date – end date)
July 31, 2022	Final due date for the Final Research Report and Financial Report due in proposalCENTRAL (within two months of the end date)

Review and Selection

Grant applications will be reviewed by the SFA Medical Advisory Board immediately following the application deadline of February 1, 2021, at 5:00 pm ET. Applicants are *estimated* to be notified on or before April 20, 2021, as to the award decision for their proposal. The funds awarded will be made available for research by June 1, 2021.

SFA's grant review process is based on the same peer review system utilized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The merit grading is unbiased and based solely on the scientific merits of the proposal. The SFA Medical Advisory Board, composed of leading academic scientific sarcoma experts, reviews all of the grant applications (peer review) and ranks them through a scoring system. Scoring of grants is done individually by each medical expert and scores are added together to determine the final ranking of each proposal. Any reviewer with a conflict of interest is excused from voting on a specific proposal. The highest scoring grant applications are recommended for funding to SFA's Board of Directors, who approve the final selection of grant awards. Selections for funding are based on scores from internal and external medical reviewers, available funding, and the predicted potential for the research effort to result in improved therapeutic options for sarcoma patients.

Report Deliverables

Grantees/PIs are required to submit a Final Report (research outcomes and impact) and Financial Report (list of cumulative expenditures) no later than two months after the end date of the period of performance. Please be aware that failure to provide these deliverables may adversely affect future funding to the organization and/or awards to the same PI. Instructions for the Final Report and Financial Report will be made available to awardees through our grant website: proposalCENTRAL.

Eligibility and Exclusions

- Any individual(s), inside or outside the U.S., with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed sarcoma research as a grant principal investigator (PI), is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support;
- Each proposal must identify only one lead PI. The PI is responsible for the overall grant management, coordination and research oversight to include the deliverables;
- Applications from researchers outside of the U.S. must be able to provide a budget and accept funds in U.S. dollars;
- Returning SFA PIs and organizational grantees must be in compliance with any/all previous SFA grant deliverables;
- The SFA will only accept applications that focus on the following areas of sarcoma research:
 - Immunotherapy
 - Omic characterization of sarcomas and definition of novel targets
 - Omic patterns of sensitivity and resistance to existing agents
 - Systemic therapy combinations
 - Gene Therapy
- Applications proposing clinical trials are NOT eligible and will not be accepted.

Application and Submission Information

Completed applications must be submitted by Monday, February 1, 2021, at 5:00 pm ET. Researchers must submit proposals electronically at proposalCENTRAL, an e-grantmaking website shared by many government, non-profit, and private grant-making organizations. The SFA does not accept applications via e-mail or paper applications.

First-time users are required to [register](#) and complete a professional profile in order to apply for an SFA research grant. If you have any questions about registration, how to apply, or other logistical application questions, please contact the proposalCENTRAL customer support at 800 875 2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International) or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

The online SFA application consists of the following components:

Title Page (section 1) – Enter title of proposal/application and choose from one of the following SFA eligible grant research areas:

- Immunotherapy
- Omic characterization of sarcomas and definition of novel targets
- Omic patterns of sensitivity and resistance to existing agents
- Systemic therapy combinations
- Gene Therapy

Applicant/PI professional profile (section 4) – This section allows PIs to edit an existing profile as well as indicate expertise

Institution & Contacts (section 5) - Applicant's institution is pre-loaded as Lead Institution. To change, select from list. Applicants are asked to select an Institutional Financial Officer/Signing Official.

Key Personnel (section 6) – List Personnel and Consultants who will be involved in the project performance.

Abstract (section 7) – In addition to choosing a primary sarcoma subtype (and additional keywords if applicable), PIs need to give a *summary*, in 3,000 characters or less (including spaces), of the written research proposal. Applicants should prepare their abstract in language accessible to a general scientific audience and avoid jargon. Be sure to include all important objectives/aims as well as a brief description of the methods to achieve them. The relevance, significance and innovation of the proposal as it applies to the treatment of sarcoma should be included. Note: Instruction on the full proposal can be found under the *Attachments* section below.

Budget Period Detail and Summary (sections 8 & 9): Enter the allowable cost necessary and reasonable to complete the work described in the proposal during the period of performance.

- SFA grants are for a one-year period. Please use June 1, 2021, as the start date and May 31, 2022 as the end date of the project.
- The SFA does not permit funds to be used for PI salaries. However, applicants are permitted to request money for the payment of salaries for non-faculty post-docs, fellows, and technicians, if applicable. No more than 50% of total cost of the grant can be used for salaries (e.g., \$25,000 for the \$50,000 award). Applications requesting more than this amount for salaries will not be accepted.
- Applicants are required to provide a written justification for the purchase of any permanent equipment items over \$500. This justification is limited to 500 characters (including spaces).
- No more than 10% of the total cost amount of the grant can be applied to indirect cost (e.g., \$5,000 indirect cost toward the \$50,000 total cost of the grant).
- Where possible, please provide specific descriptions for each line-item cost and how the amount was determined. Please use multiple line items under a budget category to identify specific costs, rather than combine all costs into a single line-item. If more room is needed, the budget justification box at the bottom may be used.

Organization Assurances (section 10) – It is the responsibility of the PI/grantee to obtain all necessary IRB and IACUC approvals prior to engagement in human subjects and vertebrate animal research, respectively.

- If the project involves vertebrate animal use, is the institution assured by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare ([OLAW](#)) and is there an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee ([IACUC](#)) approval date?
- If the project involves human participant clinical research with prospective enrollment, collection of samples/data or use of samples/data with access to identifiers, does the institution have an [FWA](#) and is there an [IRB](#) approval date? Optional guidance to assess your project can be found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/humansubjects/hs-decision.htm>?

Attachments (section 11)

Biosketch and Research Proposal Attachment

Applicants must upload one PDF attachment containing biosketches, a Research Proposal, and references (one PDF for all of these sections). **The *Biosketch and Research Proposal* attachment is limited to six pages**, which means quantity or length may need to be limited (e.g., shorten biosketch for experience most relevant to application or supply biosketch for PI only). Applications with a *Biosketch and Research Proposal* attachment exceeding six pages will not be accepted. Do not submit manuscripts or journal articles. Biosketches, not CVs, are specifically requested to minimize submission length; the biosketch should describe individual expertise as it contributes to the application.

In the Research Proposal section of this attachment, identify the specific aims, research activities, outcomes and contributions of the proposed research, including the innovative components that will advance the field. Specifically describe the relevance of the research to addressing human sarcoma therapies, and the potential to make significant advances. Items to consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Significance/Relevance:** Specifically, how will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field, now or in the future? Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there preliminary data?
- **Innovation:** Does the application seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- **Approach and Timeline:** Are the specific aims well-defined? Are expected outcomes for each aim clearly described? Are the aims able to be completed within the grant period of performance? How will the success or failure of the aims be measured? Are the rationale and timing of the measurements defined and appropriate? How will relevant outcomes/data from the project be disseminated/shared. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented clearly?

Facilities and Research Disclosure Form Attachment - Complete and upload the template provided in this section. (The *Facilities and Research Disclosure form* attachment is separate from the *Biosketch and Research Proposal* attachment, and does not count toward that six-page limit).

For the facilities section, provide the project location, hospital space, institutional equipment and briefly comment on whether/how the scientific work environment contributes to the probability of success and whether the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators is adequate for the project proposed.

Other research support relevant to your proposal and additional investigator support should also be listed on this attachment.

Signed Face Page Attachment - After completion of all the proposal sections, click one of the “Print Signature” buttons to open and print the signature page for upload, under the applicable attachments section listed.

Signature Page (section 13) - Applications must be signed by both the PI and the institution’s financial officer/signing official. In order to do this, click the “Print Signature Pages” button in Section 13 - Signature Page(s) of the application. The first page of the PDF that is generated should be printed and signed by both the PI and the institution’s financial officer. After it’s signed, convert to PDF (for example by scanning) and attach the signature page in Section 11 - Attachments in the application.

Complete online application instructions can also be found at the following links:

[How to Register your Institution with proposalCENTRAL \(Grants and Contracts Officials Only\)](#)

[How to Register as a proposalCENTRAL user](#)

[How to Add Other Support](#)

[How to Add Publications](#)

[How to Create an Application using proposalCENTRAL](#)

Acknowledgement and Publicity

Proper acknowledgment is critical for our ability to continue supporting sarcoma advocacy, awareness and research. Publications, press releases and other documents that cite results/outcomes from SFA grant-supported research is expected to include an acknowledgement of SFA grant support such as “The research described was supported by grant # [sample format] 2021 SFA XX-21 from the Sarcoma Foundation of America.”

Given the typical delay in publishing in medical journals, we encourage other accessible and timely publishing options which describe/discuss the research and accomplishments to include: press releases, website content, publications, presentations, interviews, posters, abstracts, articles, or other communications with the appropriate SFA acknowledgement.

Contacts Related Notices

Questions about SFA research grants can be sent to sfagrants@curesarcoma.org.

Questions about registration, how to register/apply, error or system problems or other logistical application questions should contact the [proposalCENTRAL](#) customer support at 800 875 2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), or +1 703 964 5840 (Direct Dial International) or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.

Please refer to our [Grants FAQ](#) for additional information.

SFA follows the practices outlined in the “[U.S. Department of the Treasury Anti-Terrorist Financing Guidelines: Voluntary Best Practices for U.S. Based Charities](#)”