

Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research (OPAR)

The Oregon Tax Check-Off Alzheimer's Research Fund (AD Tax check-off fund)

Request for Research Proposals

2008 Application Guidelines

The Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research (OPAR) requests research proposals under its Oregon Income Tax Check-off Alzheimer's Research Fund (AD Tax check-off fund). These funds have been made available by Oregonians through the Oregon income tax check-off program. Grants are awarded to clinical, basic, or social scientists for support of clinical, biological, behavioral, or health systems research that will advance the understanding, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer's disease. Appropriate fields include the neurosciences, genetics, nursing, social work, epidemiology, sociology, psychology, psychiatry, public health, economics, counseling, delivery of health care services, and others relevant to Alzheimer's research or practice. The proposed research should investigate relevant scientific questions that will improve our understanding of dementia or that will advance health care treatment or prevention strategies. Special attention will be given to projects that foster collaboration.

Although applications are evaluated on the basis of scientific merit, priority is given to investigators just entering the field of dementia research ("new investigators") and to new or innovative projects. For purposes of grants awarded by OPAR under the Oregon Alzheimer's Tax Check-off program, there are three categories of "new investigator":

- 1) New investigator. An individual who has a doctoral degree in a relevant field and has demonstrated a commitment to a career that includes significant research but who has not yet received significant research grant support from the NIH, other federal or international agencies funding research, or major foundations. A commitment to research may be evidenced by participation in a post-doctoral fellowship involving research activity, experience as a co-investigator on a grant awarded to an established researcher, minor research grants awarded, significant research grants applied for, or other equivalent experience and accomplishments.
- 2) Doctoral Student or Post-doctoral Fellow. A student actively enrolled in a doctoral program in a relevant field may submit applications for research that fit the guidelines for this program. To qualify for an OPAR award, doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows must identify a faculty mentor with peer-reviewed research experience in a relevant field of study. The application must describe the support to be provided by the mentor for this project and the mentor must co-sign the application. Post-doctoral fellows who apply must obtain the signature of their supervising faculty member.
- 3) Established investigator with new research direction. An established, principal investigator-level scientist or faculty member at a university or research institution who is embarking on a new direction of study related to Alzheimer's disease or related forms of dementia. A "new direction" may entail a material mid-career

change of course, a new area of investigation, or the application of non-dementia related study of a phenomenon, intervention, biological process, disease, or condition to the study of that phenomenon, intervention, or biological process or mechanism as it pertains to Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Established investigators who apply should clearly explain the redirection in their career that the funds would support and elaborate the roles of any junior investigators working on the project.

Applications from established investigators with substantial support in dementia research are discouraged, except as described in 3) above. For purposes of this grants program, "established investigators" are researchers who are serving or have served as principal investigator (PI) on one or more R01 level federal research grants or similar grants related to Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Applications from women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities are encouraged.

Support is limited to one-year grants of up to \$25,000, with no indirect costs. Each grant will be evaluated and rated by scientific reviewers with substantive expertise in the topic addressed by the proposal. Generally, one reviewer will reside within Oregon and one outside the state. For this cycle, OPAR is anticipating 3-5 funded grants depending on availability of funds. OPAR will make final decisions based on scientific review and relevancy to OPAR's mission. Only no-cost extensions will be considered non-competitively and no-cost extensions must be requested before the end-date of the grant.

Grants are made to an institution or facility but are for the exclusive use of the awardee. Support may be requested only for direct research costs, including personnel, equipment, or supplies. No indirect costs to the institution are provided. If the grant application is being submitted simultaneously to more than one funding source and support from other funding source(s) is approved, the applicant must notify the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research and withdraw this application from consideration. Duplicate funding for the intended research study will not be permitted. Requests from applicants who have funding from other sources will be reviewed carefully to assure non-duplicate funding. Investigators should clarify areas of possible funding overlap. Grants will not support the following: {1} travel not essential to the conduct of the research, {2} student tuition, and {3} salary for the principal investigator (although this may be considered on an exceptional basis and must be clearly explained in budget justification). Grants may support stipends for doctoral students, graduate research assistants, laboratory technicians, and others who have no other salary support for this proposed study.

No applicant may receive concurrent support from more than one OPAR Grant. A substantive written report describing the research findings and a detailed expenditure report will be due to the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research within 60 days of the grant's end date. All publications and other reports or presentations of investigations supported by these funds, shall acknowledge such support, using the following wording: "This study was supported [in part] by the Oregon Tax Check-Off Alzheimer's Research Fund administered by the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research."

Applicants must be employed by or enrolled in a public or not-for-profit research, academic or health system institution in the state of Oregon.

Answer these questions in your Application

1. What do you intend to do?
2. Why is the work important?
3. What has already been done?
4. How are you going to do the work?
5. How will you analyze the results?
6. What is the timeline for completion of proposed work?

Human Subjects

Prior to funding, projects approved for funding and that involve the use of human subjects must submit to the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research a copy of the sponsoring institution's human research committee's review and approval of the project.

Projects approved for funding and that involve the use of vertebrate animals must be approved by the sponsoring institution's animal care committee. In addition, the protection of animal subjects assurance form (included in grant application) must be completed and signed by both the applicant and by the designated institutional official responsible for assuring the protection of animal subjects according to current NIH guidelines. Applications not meeting these requirements may not be reviewed.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated in the following categories:

- {1} Scientific & clinical importance
- {2} Prior work by principal investigator relevant to this proposal and PI and Co-inv qualifications to conduct study
- {3} Originality
- {4} Research design and methods
- {5} Adequacy of proposed statistical analysis
- {6} Adequacy of facilities, institutional support, & mentoring support (if required)
- {7} Potential for completion

Special Instructions to Applicants

{1} The application deadline is 5:00 pm, March 5, 2008.

{2} The research grant application must be completed in its entirety. The grant application, including application form, abstract, and research plan, and vertebrate animal assurance form should be submitted by email to: boisel@ohsu.edu. Applications must be submitted electronically combined in one integrated file. PDF files are encouraged although applications may be submitted in Microsoft Word. An email will be sent to you acknowledging receipt of your completed application – IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT LINDA BOISE AT: boisel@ohsu.edu OR (503-494-6370).

{3} Pages requiring signatures should be sent by U.S. (or interoffice) mail, with original signatures, postmarked NO LATER than March 5, 2008 to:

Linda Boise, PhD, Administrator
Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research
c/o Layton Aging & Alzheimer's Disease Center
Oregon Health and Science University
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road (CR131)
Portland, Oregon 97239.

{5} To obtain a copy of the application form, send an email request to: Linda Boise, PhD, at boisel@ohsu.edu.

{6} Award decisions are expected to be made in June 2008, with funding periods of one year beginning on or about August 1, 2008 (pending all required institutional and IRB approvals).

{7} Investigators receiving funds will be asked to submit formal financial and narrative reports on results from research carried out under grants received, and, periodically, to provide updated information to the Small Grants Program about their research progress for purposes of dissemination and future fundraising. Awardees may also be asked to present the results of their research at a meeting of or sponsored by OPAR or at a scientific or community meeting.

The Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research invites your questions about the application preparation and /or the award process. Questions may be directed to the following members of the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research:

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