

**Oregon Tax Checkoff for Alzheimer's Research Fund
through Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research (OPAR)
Administered by the OHSU Layton Aging & Alzheimer's Disease Center
Application Guidelines for Research Proposals**

Letter of Intent deadline: 5 p.m. Friday October 20, 2023

Application deadline (for accepted Letters of Intent): 5 p.m. Friday February 9, 2024

The Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research (OPAR) invites your application for research funding.

OPAR will fund two applicants at \$35,000 (funds allowing).

Letters of Intent will be reviewed and applicants will be notified by Fri Nov 10, 2023, if a full proposal is requested. The Letter of Intent form can be found here: <https://www.ohsu.edu/alzheimers-disease-research-center/grants>, or email Natasha Spoden: spoden@ohsu.edu

OPAR funds are made available by Oregonians through the Oregon Charitable Checkoff 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, or prevention of Alzheimer's. 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 improve our understanding of dementia or that advance treatment or care.

OPAR welcomes applications from all qualified individuals. We do not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic make-up, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The mission of this program is to support researchers in the early stage of their careers. Applicants may be investigators in Oregon who are launching their careers, including senior graduate students (for doctoral dissertation research), fellows, and junior investigators (please review guidelines for further information). We do not accept applications from established Alzheimer's researchers. For purposes of this grant program, "established investigators" are researchers who have been a principal investigator (PI) or Co-PI on one or more R01-level federal research or non-federal research grants on Alzheimer's. Please contact Natasha Spoden spoden@ohsu.edu for more information.

Each grant proposal will be evaluated and rated by scientific reviewers with substantive expertise in the topic addressed. Generally, one reviewer will reside within Oregon and one outside the state. The OPAR committee will make final decisions based on scientific review and relevancy to OPAR's mission.

Budget requirements

Grants are awarded to an institution or facility but are for the exclusive use of the awardee. Support is limited to one year. No-cost extensions will be considered non-competitively, but must be requested before the end-date of an awarded grant.

All items in the requested budget must be delineated in the Budget Justification section.

- Support may be requested for direct research costs, including personnel, equipment and supplies.
- Grant funds may be applied to stipends or salary support for doctoral students, graduate research assistants, postdoctoral fellows, laboratory technicians, and others who contribute to the study as long as they are not paid by another mechanism for the same work (see also comments on duplicate funding below).

- Requests for salary support for the principal investigator must be clearly justified.
- Support may be requested for travel expenses that are essential to the conduct of the proposed studies and/or to a conference for the purpose of presenting results from research supported by AD Tax Checkoff funds.
- Indirect costs to the institution are not allowed.
- Student tuition costs are not allowed.

Duplicate funding for the intended research study will not be permitted. If the grant application is being submitted simultaneously to another funding agency and support is approved, the applicant must notify OPAR and withdraw his/her application from consideration. Should the application to OPAR be recommended for funding, a copy of the abstract and specific aims pages for all currently funded AND pending projects must be provided prior to final approval.

No applicant may receive concurrent support from more than one AD Tax Checkoff grant.

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.

Applicants should be prepared to address the following in their application:

Items 1-6 not to exceed six pages:

1. Specific Aims. The research hypothesis or scientific question to be investigated must be clearly stated.
2. Background review, including previous work carried out by PI and other key investigators that directly relate to this research
3. Anticipated scientific and clinical significance
4. Proposed research design, methods, statistical analysis, and timetable for research (include power calculations if applicable)
5. Potential problems that may be encountered
6. How your proposed project will help you obtain future funding from NIH or other major funding sources (including, if appropriate, foundations or other state or federal sources of funding) for dementia-related research.
7. References (no page/number limit)
8. Facilities available
9. List the title, amount of funding, and year of any current or previous support from the Oregon Tax Checkoff Alzheimer's Research Fund

Human and Vertebrate Animal Subjects

Projects approved for funding that involve human subjects must submit to the OPAR a copy of the sponsoring institution's human research committee's approval of the project. Approval must be provided to OPAR before funds will be transferred for the project.

Projects approved for funding that involve the use of vertebrate animals must provide documentation of approval by the institutional animal care and use committee for the project prior to the transfer of funds.

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-investigator qualifications to conduct study
3. Originality
4. Research design and methods
5. Adequacy of proposed statistical analysis
6. Adequacy of facilities, institutional and other supporting resources and mentoring support (if required)
7. Potential for completion
8. Potential for future funded research based on the results of the proposed study

Applications must be submitted electronically combined in one integrated PDF. The grant application should include cover sheets (pages 1-3) with required signatures scanned into the document, principal investigator status (page 4) and then suggested reviewers page, budget and budget justification, abstract, research plan, and required biosketches and mentor letters. Deliver in one PDF by email to Natasha Spoden at spoden@ohsu.edu. Please use this in the subject line: **OPAR Submission (Last name)**. An email will be sent acknowledging receipt. If you do not receive an acknowledgement please email Natasha Spoden.

Applicants from OHSU: institutional approval by the designated signing official in Research Development and Administration (RDA) must be submitted with your application.

Applicants from other institutions: must have signature of department head and any others required by the institution for submission of research grants.

Award decisions are expected to be made by April 12, 2024, with funding for a one-year period beginning in June (pending all required institutional and IRB approvals).

A substantive written report describing the research findings and a detailed expenditure report will be due to OPAR within 60 days of the grant's end date. A manuscript prepared for submission that describes the funded project methods and results may be used as the final narrative report.

An OPAR committee member will be assigned as the primary contact/support person for AD Tax Checkoff grantees to advise the project PI, if needed, on questions that arise regarding successful completion of the project. This contact/support person will contact project grantees mid-way through their project period to inquire about the progress made. OPAR may also seek information from Tax Checkoff grantees about their research progress for purposes of research dissemination and fundraising.

Grantees will be asked to present the results of their research at a meeting sponsored by OPAR or at other scientific or community meetings. All publications, reports or presentations of research supported by these funds, shall acknowledge such support, using the following wording: *This study was supported, in part, by Oregon citizens through the Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund of the Oregon Charitable Checkoff Program. This fund is administered by the Oregon Partnership for Alzheimer's Research.*

Please send copies of published manuscripts or presentation abstracts on the research funded by Alzheimer's Disease Oregon Charitable Tax Checkoff to Natasha Spoden spoden@ohsu.edu

OPAR invites your questions about the application preparation and/or the award process. **Questions may be directed to the following members of the OPAR:**

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