



## 2023 PMSF Innovation Award Request for Applications

### What:

To be awarded \$50,000 in direct costs + \$10,000 in indirect costs for the span of one year

### When:

RFA released: **Jan 17 2023**

Letter of intent deadline: **March 1 2023 midnight ET**

Full application deadline: **April 1 2023 midnight ET**

Announcements of Awards: **~August 2023**

### Eligibility:

- Must be an early career investigator (less than 8 years since completion of last degree)
- Applicant must hold a position at a university/institution or an organization with 501c3 status
- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD
- International applicants welcome to apply
- Applicant and/or laboratory team of applicant cannot apply to more than one PMSF grant type per year

### Description:

We are seeking highly novel grant applications which explore an understudied area of Phelan-McDermid syndrome (PMS) research. Successful proposals will open new avenues of research in the field. Applications with clinical relevance will be preferred. Applications can be focused on any topic, but areas of special interest to families include: research across other neurodevelopmental disorders, development of tools for monitoring or managing symptoms, peripheral nervous system studies, identification of new drug candidates, implication of new cell types, and understanding of genes aside from *SHANK3*. Project feedback can be requested by email to [kate@pmsf.org](mailto:kate@pmsf.org) but no guarantee of funding can be made.

### Important notes:

Applications which do not have all components or are not submitted on time will be disqualified.

Applicants must submit a letter of intent by March 1 2023 in the form of a scientific abstract (250 word limit) describing their project *prior* to full submission of their application on April 1. All applicants are invited to submit both a letter of intent and full application without review from PMSF. The letter of intent allows PMSF to find grant reviewers and gauge the volume of applications and is thus required and should only be submitted if the applicant is submitting a full application. **Early submissions of letters of intent prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> are highly encouraged.**

PMS families will take part in the final stage of the review process. Applications which are not highly relevant to families or do not have well-written lay abstracts are unlikely to be successful.

### **Submission process:**

All required components should be sent as a combined PDF email attachment to PMSF's Scientific Director, Dr. Kate Still ([kate@pmsf.org](mailto:kate@pmsf.org)) with the subject line: [Grant title; last name of applicant; part of application]

There are four parts to each application, requiring four separate emails: (Letter of intent, full application, two separate reference emails).

### **Required Components:**

*By March 1 2023:*

- **Letter of Intent** – scientific abstract describing the proposed project (<250 words)

*By April 1 2023 (full application components):*

- **Investigator CV or NIH-format biosketch**, either is accepted (< 5 pages)
- **Scientific abstract** (<250 words) – can be the same as letter of intent or have minor updates
- **Lay abstract** (<250 words)
  - \*Important: PMS families will review applications– successful applications will have lay abstracts which fully encompass the work, including methods, and will be written in a digestible way
- **Research Strategy** - (<2 pages not including references)
  - Should include background/rationale, preliminary data (if applicable), project aims and methods
  - References should be included and do not count towards the page limit (no limit)
- **Argument for Innovation** (< 1 page)
  - Explain why the proposal is novel in the context of ongoing research in the PMS field (references encouraged – they do not add to the page limit)
  - What new research directions would this project open?
  - Should be engaging for both scientists and PMS family members

- **Early Career Investigator Statement** (< 1 page)
  - Explain career goals, how they will be achieved, and how Phelan-McDermid syndrome could continue to be a focus after completion of this award
- **Budget** (<1 page or spreadsheet)
  - Exact budget allocations as line items
- **Budget justification** (<1 page)
  - Short descriptions explaining budget line items
- **2 letters of support** (<1 page each) – sent to [kate@pmsf.org](mailto:kate@pmsf.org) separately by references (mentor, colleague, collaborator, etc)

### **Review process:**

Initial review will be done to remove incomplete applications. A second review will occur based on scientific merit including reviewers from the PMSF Scientific and Medical Advisory Committees and from the wider PMS research community. Applications will be scored from 1-5 based on the following categories, and additional categories as needed:

- Investigator background
- Research strategy
- Impact of grant to PMS families
- Impact of grant to PMS research field
- Probability the grant will be technically successful
- Reasonable budget

Top-scoring applications will be sent to a third review from PMS families. Final decisions will be made in conjunction with PMSF staff and Board of Directors, and successful applicants will be notified in the summer of 2023. Applications not selected for an award will receive a summary of reviews in an anonymous fashion in the fall of 2023.