



Shannon O'Boyle Memorial Grant Neuropsychiatric Illness Request for Applications

What:

To be awarded \$100,000 in direct costs. No portion of these funds shall be used to cover indirect institution costs.

When:

RFA released: Wednesday, **January 19, 2024**

Letter of intent deadline: **Friday, March 1, 2024 midnight ET**

Full application deadline: **Friday, April 5, 2024 midnight ET**

Announcement of Award: **~August 2024**

Eligibility:

- This opportunity is open to all stages of investigators working in a relevant field (neurology, psychiatry, or psychology, and/or a focus in neurodevelopmental disorders or rare disorders).
- Applicant must hold a full-time position at a university/institution or an organization with 501c3 status
- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD. Applicants with a master's degree in life sciences are also eligible only if they are in a full-time professor position.
- International applicants welcome to apply
- Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs) who share equal responsibility on the application are allowed. Co-Investigators (Co-Is) who bring additional expertise but do not have primary responsibility for the application are also allowed. Neither Co-PIs, nor Co-Is are required. Applicants without these team members will not be at a disadvantage.

- Applicant and/or any team member of applicant cannot be involved in more than one PMSF grant application type per year.

Description:

The PMSF Board of Directors has established an annual research grant of \$100,000 in honor of Shannon O'Boyle and to acknowledge her family's significant contributions. The grant will be used to advance research in neuropsychiatric illnesses and to keep Shannon's legacy alive by inspiring and offering hope to all.

A successful proposal will advance research in either neuropsychiatric illness, challenging behaviors, or skill regression in Phelan-McDermid syndrome. Proposals can include foundational basic research in laboratory models or highly clinical studies in people with Phelan-McDermid syndrome.

Rich data sources which can be leveraged for proposals exist via the NIH-funded Developmental Synaptopathies Consortium (DSC), a Natural History Study focused on Phelan-McDermid syndrome within the Rare Disease Clinical Research Network:

(<https://dsc.rarediseasesnetwork.org/research-study/7902>), and/or the Phelan-McDermid syndrome Neuropsychiatric Consult Group (<https://pmsf.org/neuropsychiatric-consultation-group/>). Collaboration with either of these groups, or other neurodevelopmental disorder groups which may have psychiatric phenotypes is encouraged.

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, 2024 in the form of a scientific abstract (250 word limit) describing their project *prior* to full submission of their application on April 5, 2024. All applicants are invited to submit both a letter of intent and full application without review from PMSF. The purpose of the letter of intent is to allow PMSF to find grant reviewers and gauge the volume of applications and is thus required. A letter of intent should only be submitted if the applicant is planning to submit a full application. **Early submissions of letters of intent prior to March 1st are highly encouraged.**

Applications will be reviewed by members of the PMSF Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee and the wider Phelan-McDermid syndrome research community. Applications will also be reviewed by families of individuals with Phelan-McDermid syndrome. It is strongly encouraged that applications are highly relevant to families and include well-written lay abstracts.

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), and CC Amanda Bergen (amanda@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 letter of support emails).

Required Components:

By March 1, 2024:

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

By April 5, 2024 (full application components):

The following documents should be organized in this order within the PDF:

- **Title page** (see template [here](#))
- **Lay abstract** (<250 words)
 - *Important: Families of individuals with Phelan-McDermid syndrome will review applications– successful applications will have lay abstracts which fully encompass the work, including methods, and will be written in a digestible way
- **Scientific abstract** (<250 words) – can be the same as letter of intent or have minor updates
- **Research strategy** - (<3 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)
- All graphs/charts must fit within the 3 page limit.
- **Budget** (<1 page or spreadsheet)
 - Exact budget allocations as line items
 - \$2,000 must be included to facilitate travel of the Principal Investigator to a Phelan-McDermid syndrome conference or gathering to present findings.
- **Budget justification** (<1 page)
 - Short descriptions explaining budget line items
- **2 letters of support (<1 page each)** – sent to kate@pmsf.org and amanda@pmsf.org separately by references (colleague, collaborator, etc.)
- **Principal Investigator CV or NIH-format biosketch**, either format is accepted (< 5 pages)
- **(If applicable) Co-PI or co-I CV(s) or NIH-format biosketch(es)**, either format is accepted but MUST be <5 pages.

Review process:

Initial review will be done to remove incomplete applications. Further review will occur based on scientific merit including reviewers from the PMSF Scientific and Medical Advisory Committees and from the wider Phelan-McDermid syndrome research community. Phelan-McDermid syndrome families will also review grants. Applications will be scored on similar categories to those listed below. These are a guideline and are subject to change.

- Investigator background
- Research strategy
- Impact of grant to family members of an individual with Phelan-McDermid syndrome
- Reasonable budget

Successful applicants will be notified in the summer of 2024. Applications not selected for an award will receive a summary of reviews in an anonymous fashion in the fall of 2024.

For Grant-Related Inquiries, Contact: kate@pmsf.org