

THE IACOCCA FAMILY FOUNDATION
COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE AT THE FOUNDATION TO LEARN IF MY PROJECT IS A GOOD FIT FOR FOUNDATION CONSIDERATION?

Although the interest and inquiries are greatly appreciated, the small staff size at the Foundation does not allow for individual consultations with the many researchers who make such requests. Another important component is that all proposals are reviewed within the context of the entire applicant pool. Therefore, the Foundation encourages all researchers with projects align with the Foundation's scope to apply. You will help inform the Foundation of the various research currently in the field – and certainly ensure that the most innovative and promising research may be funded.

Potential applicants may find it useful to review the past projects funded by the Foundation at: www.iacoccafoundation.org/diabetes-research/research-history. As you will see, the Foundation has funded “prevention,” as well as “cure” projects. Also, the Foundation recognizes that the field is always fast-changing, so know that we are open to new avenues and a wide variety of projects.

MY WORK HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN THE DIABETES AREA. CAN I STILL APPLY?

Yes. The Foundation seeks to fund investigators with a range of backgrounds and expertise to push the cutting-edge of type 1 diabetes research. As long as your proposed project focuses on type 1 diabetes, you should apply, even if your past work has been in other areas of autoimmunity or in different fields (i.e., chemistry, engineering). Investigators without prior experience in diabetes or in autoimmune research are encouraged to form collaborative teams that encompass the necessary skill sets. The application must make a compelling case that you and your team are able to conduct the proposed type 1 diabetes work.

THE FOUNDATION STATES THAT APPLICANTS MAY MAKE ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER YEAR. CAN DIFFERENT RESEARCHERS APPLY FROM THE SAME INSTITUTION?

Yes, an organization can submit more than one application understanding that there are many different researchers and projects at an institution. Each application needs to be for a different project, as well as there should not be more than one application for a researcher / principal investigator.

DOES THE FOUNDATION ACCEPT PROPOSALS FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S.?

Yes, the Foundation accepts proposals from outside the U.S. For any international applicants, the Foundation requires the equivalent paperwork to the IRS determination letter stating that it is a non-profit institution.

WILL THE FOUNDATION FUND MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS?

Although the Foundation has funded multi-year projects, currently the Foundation is accepting applications for projects that have a term of one year.

IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE RESEARCHERS, WHAT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR BIO-SKETCHES AND SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

Please provide a bio-sketch for each collaborator (or trainee for Fellowship applications) with one person named as the Principal Investigator. As for scientific accomplishments, these should be submitted as a single page representing the key advances by the Principal Investigator. An additional sheet(s) noting the accomplishments of the co-investigator(s) should be included when there is a co-PI.

IF THERE ARE CO-INVESTIGATORS FROM DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS, HOW SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE APPROACHED?

When collaborating across institutions, the Foundation asks that there be one Principal Investigator and be inclusive of subcontracts. Then, if the project is funded, the Foundation will negotiate with the Principal Investigator's institution.

IS IT OKAY TO USE THE SAME FORMAT AS NIH FOR THE BIO-SKETCHES?

Yes, with the focus being on training, faculty positions and publications, as well as meet the two page maximum limit of the Foundation.

DOES THE FOUNDATION SUPPORT FELLOWSHIPS?

Yes. Postdoctoral fellows are eligible to apply for a grant understanding that their research is under the sponsorship of a strong advisor. Further, please list both the Principal Investigator and Fellow on the application. Grant monies are typically directed toward the Principal Investigator's laboratory. Bio-sketches for both the Fellow and Principal Investigator are needed.

DO I NEED TO INCLUDE PAPERS TO SUPPORT THE "MAJOR SCIENTIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS"?

No. Do not include additional information or complete manuscripts. Reference published manuscripts appropriately in the proposal. Any additional preliminary data must also be included within the proposal.

THE FOUNDATION STATES THAT IT WILL FUND PROJECTS BETWEEN \$10,000 AND \$500,000. THIS IS A BIG RANGE, COULD YOU GIVE FURTHER GUIDANCE?

The most important thing to the Foundation is that the amount asked for reflects *the true cost* of the project. There is no magic number, but the requested budget should be appropriate for the project. The budget is inclusive of all direct and indirect costs at a maximum of 10% for eligible expense categories.

DOES THE FOUNDATION HAVE A SALARY CAP?

Although there is not a salary cap, the Foundation certainly hopes salaries are reasonable.

DOES THE FOUNDATION SUPPORT RESEARCH WITH ADULT STEM CELLS?

The Foundation does support research using adult stem cells. If your lab also does work with embryonic stem cells, the Foundation needs assurance that there would not be any overlap in funding or research. To further clarify, the Foundation will not fund research using embryonic stem cells, human fetal tissue or human embryos.

WHAT FONT SIZE SHOULD I USE?

Although the Foundation does not require a particular font size or margin setting, there are limitations noted on the application as to word count and maximum pages allotted per section. And, of course, an application, which is easy to read, is greatly appreciated!

DO YOU HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT?

No, there are different ways to approach this statement. It is important to the Foundation that the researcher and the director of grants management (or equivalent position) are both on “the same page” about the contents being presented, including that the budget will support the project in its’ entirety.

ARE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES ACCEPTED?

The Foundation asks for original signatures. The other copies can be photocopies of the signatures.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR GRANT SUBMISSION? ARE PAPER COPIES ALSO DUE ON THIS DATE?

The grant submission deadline is Friday, October 30, 2015 by 5pm Eastern. Paper copies must be received to the Foundation *no later* than Tuesday, November 3, 2015.