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EvansMDS.org



Discovery Research Grants 2019

**Request for Letters of Intent for EvansMDS
Strategic Funding Initiative in
Myelodysplastic Syndromes**

**Up to \$200,000 per year for two years with
possible extension**

**Letter of Intent Application Deadline:
Jan. 31, 2019**

EvansMDS 2019 Strategic Funding Initiative

Founded in 1984, The Edward P. Evans Foundation is a non-profit Charitable Trust dedicated to funding research on Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) through its EvansMDS initiative. We are seeking to fund the discovery of new knowledge that will lead to the development of better MDS therapies and ultimately, disease cures.

EvansMDS is conducting this competitive grant program to identify and fund research into the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of MDS that is collaborative, transformative, and of high impact. Priority will be given to projects that directly examine key features of MDS rather than general concepts in leukemia, hematopoiesis, aging or immunology.

Discovery Research Grants (DRGs) - EvansMDS will offer several individual two-year research grants of up to \$400,000 (\$200,000 per year) with the possibility of a costed extension for a third year, to fund highly innovative and novel research. The focus of these awards will be on transformational basic, translational, or aspects of clinical research that are directly applicable to the etiology, pathogenesis or treatment of MDS.

The following topics are of specific interest to EvansMDS. Please note that these are only suggestions - *we are most interested in whatever your most exciting ideas might be.*

- Germline mutations predisposing to MDS, age associated clonal hematopoiesis or genetic mosaicism
- Analysis of the progression of clonal hematopoiesis to MDS and strategies to intervene, or prevent the pathogenesis of progression
- Correlative research to better understand or clarify the impact of clinical studies showing significant promise for the treatment of MDS
- Studies on improving the applicability or outcome of novel cell-based therapies, or bone marrow transplants
- Studies to accelerate the use of BCL2 family inhibitors for the treatment of MDS in combination with azacitidine, decitabine, or lenalidomide, including clinical trials, clinical trial correlates, preclinical studies, mechanism of resistance and biomarkers to predict response
- Studies that examine the roles of DDX41 and ASXL1 in the pathophysiology of MDS and secondary AML.

Research topics of previously funded projects are available on evansmds.org.

Application process:

Applicants for *Discovery Research Grants* should submit a letter of intent (LOI) that will determine eligibility for full application. EvansMDS will issue a request for a full proposal to those investigators submitting LOIs found to be of interest.

The LOI shall consist of the following items, which will be shared with a panel of MDS experts (the Reviewing Committee):

1. *Cover Letter* (limited to one page) – The cover letter must include a description of the specific aims that will be addressed by the project and how achieving these will advance the prevention or treatment of MDS.

2. *Description of the Project* (limited to one page) - The description should describe the experimental strategy that will be used to achieve the specific aims described in the cover letter.
3. *Cited References* (optional, limited to one page, may be included on the *Description of the Project* page).
4. NIH-style Bio sketch for the Principal Investigator (PI).

Applicants must be established independent investigators in a tenure-track or tenured position at the Assistant Professor level (or equivalent), or higher, at a recognized 501(c)(3) university or non-profit institution in the United States.

Letters of intent are due **January 31, 2019** and will be reviewed by the Reviewing Committee and the Foundation. All documents must be submitted in electronic form, as a single pdf file, by email, to grants@epefoundation.org.

Applicants selected for a full proposal will be notified in early March. The deadline for submission of the full proposals will be in early April. It is intended that funding will be initiated by **September 1, 2019**.

Investigators currently funded by the Edward P. Evans Foundation are welcome to apply.