

Discovery Research Grants 2020

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

**Up to \$200,000 per year for up to three
years**

**Letter of Intent Submission Deadline:
Jan. 31, 2020**

EvansMDS 2020 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. Patients are waiting for effective treatments and we seek to fund the research that will help create them.

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 grants of up to \$200,000 per year for up to three years each to fund highly innovative and novel research.

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.*

- Germ line mutations predisposing to MDS, age associated clonal hematopoiesis or genetic mosaicism including a functional understanding of the role of the mutations, and the role of cooperating mutations in promoting disease progression.
- Analysis of the progression of MDS to AML and strategies to intervene, or prevent transformation
- Clinical studies to improve patient outcomes including Investigator initiated studies to study potential new patient treatments, combination studies that specifically target the founder populations and blasts, and supporting correlative studies. Studies matching new diagnostic approaches with improved treatments.
- Studies on improving the applicability or outcome of novel cell-based therapies, especially focusing on engineered lines that would not require matched donors.
- Development of preclinical models for the practical discovery and development of new MDS therapies.

Research topics of previously funded projects are available on evandsmds.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. *Project Description* (limited to one page) – The *Project 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 *Project Description* 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, 2020** 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@epeffoundation.org.

Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will be notified in early March 2020. The deadline for submission of the full proposals will be in early April 2020. It is intended that funding will be initiated by **September 1, 2020**.

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