

Discovery Research Grants 2022

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:
January 31, 2022

EvansMDS 2022 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 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.*

- Identification of novel interventionable therapeutic targets and preclinical studies of novel therapies.
- Development of preclinical models for the practical discovery and development of new MDS therapies.
- Germline mutations predisposing patients 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.
- Studies to understand the epigenetic landscapes of MDS, mutations of epigenetic regulators, and epigenetic states that allow clonal populations to expand and progress to MDS.
- Correlative research to better understand or clarify the impact of clinical studies showing significant promise for the treatment of MDS.
- Applications of artificial intelligence or machine learning that might improve outcomes for MDS patients or further our understanding of MDS pathogenesis.
- Studies on improving the applicability or outcome of novel cell-based therapies, or bone marrow transplants.

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 or less) – 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 or less) – 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 or less, 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. The Foundation values diversity and inclusiveness in its Discovery Research Grant Program and encourages submissions from underrepresented minority investigators.

Letters of intent are due by **January 31, 2022** 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. The subject line of this email should read DRG 2022 LOI from <your name> (e.g., “DRG 2022 LOI from Michael Lewis”).

Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will be notified in early March 2022. The deadline for submission of the full proposals will be in early April 2022. It is intended that funding will be initiated by **September 1, 2022**.

Applicants are limited to the submission of one Letter of Intent. Investigators previously funded by the Edward P. Evans Foundation are welcome to apply. Investigators who are currently funded are welcome to apply in their final year of funding.