

Discovery Research Grants 2026

Request for *Letters of Intent*:

EvansMDS Strategic Funding Initiative in Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Grant Size: up to \$250,000 per year for up to three years

Letters of Intent must be submitted via [Proposal Central](#)

Submission Deadline: **January 31, 2026**

EvansMDS 2026 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. The mission of EvansMDS is to fuel the discovery of new knowledge that will lead to the development of better MDS therapies and ultimately, disease cures. Since the inception of the EvansMDS initiative, we have committed over \$160M to MDS research.

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 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 fund multiple individual grants of up to \$250,000 per year for up to three years each to support 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*):

- Research to better understand germline variants predisposing individuals to MDS, age-associated clonal hematopoiesis or genetic mosaicism;
- Analysis of the progression of clonal hematopoiesis to CCUS, MDS and subsequently to AML, and strategies to intervene, or prevent progression, particularly at earlier disease stages prior to development of MDS;
- Large scale screening, molecular modeling, and application of novel chemical biology approaches against putative targets for the development of new MDS therapies;
- Development of preclinical models for the discovery and validation of candidate MDS therapeutics;
- Preclinical studies aimed at developing novel cell and gene therapy approaches for MDS;
- Studies aimed at identifying mechanisms of sensitivity and resistance to existing MDS therapies;
- Creating new curated data sources and novel computational tools for the application of machine learning to MDS research;
- Novel imaging and pathology modalities and algorithms for improving diagnosis, understanding pathogenesis, and directing MDS therapy;

Brief descriptions of previously funded projects are available [here](#).

Eligibility:

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. Tenure-track or tenured investigators at the Assistant Professor level (or equivalent) at institutions outside of the United States may apply, but grants to such institutions may only be made following an

inquiry into whether such institution satisfies a US “equivalency determination.” Because the equivalency determination inquiry can take several weeks, timelines stated in this RFA are not applicable to foreign applicants. The Foundation values diversity and inclusiveness in its Discovery Research Grant Program and encourages submissions from groups underrepresented in science.

Applicants are limited to submission of one Letter of Intent per year. Investigators with current DRG funding are welcome to apply in their final year of funding. Recipients of EvansMDS Young Investigator Awards (EYIAs) are encouraged to submit a DRG LOI as early as their final year of EYIA funding. LOIs from prior EYIA awardees are automatically accepted on a non-competitive basis for two years following their final year of EYIA funding.

Letter of Intent Submission Process:

Applicants for *Discovery Research Grants* should submit a letter of intent (LOI) via the [Proposal Central](#) platform.

The LOI is limited to the following items (all text in Arial 11pt font with ½ inch margins):

1. **Aims Page** (one page; required PDF upload) – brief background, specific aims, statement of significance and potential impact of the proposed research.
2. **Project Description** (one page; required PDF upload) – description of relevant preliminary data and the experimental strategy that will be used to achieve the specific aims. Include information that addresses feasibility of the proposed research and can include figures.
3. **Cited References** (no page limit; optional PDF upload).
4. **NIH Biosketch** for the principal investigator (5 pages; required PDF upload).

LOIs will be subjected to competitive review by a panel of MDS experts. Applicants with the highest impact scores will be invited to submit a full application.

Dates:

- **December 1, 2025:** LOI submission portal opens
- **January 31, 2026:** deadline for LOI submission
- **Early March, 2026:** notification of LOIs selected for full application
- **April 15, 2026:** deadline for submission of invited applications
- **Mid-June, 2026:** notification of awards
- **September 1, 2026:** funding begins

DRG Requirements:

EvansMDS may invite DRG awardees to serve on review committees for the DRG and EYIA programs. DRG awardees are expected to attend and present updates (typically in the 2nd and 3rd year of funding) at the annual EvansMDS Summit, held in the late fall.