

300 Brickstone Square, Suite 201  
Andover, MA 01810

[T] +1 978 494-6009

EvansMDS.org



## ***EvansMDS Young Investigator Award***

Up to \$150,000 per year for up to three years

### Request for Applications

Submission Deadline to [Proposal Central](#):  
January 31, 2024

## **EvansMDS Young Investigator Award**

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. Since the inception of our EvansMDS initiative, we have provided over \$142 million dollars for MDS research.

The Edward P. Evans Foundation is pleased to announce the opening of our *EvansMDS Young Investigator Award* (“EYIA”) program for 2024 to help develop the next generation of research leaders who will blaze a path toward finding these cures. We are targeting support for promising candidates committed to the study of the biology, pathogenesis, and treatment of MDS as they make their *transition to independent investigators*. Recognizing that securing independent funding is often challenging during this period of career development, our goal is to facilitate this transition and promote the entry of new investigators into the MDS field.

We are offering up to \$150,000 per year for up to three years to defray the costs of salary and supplies. Second year funding is conditional upon compliance with grant terms and satisfactory progress toward independence during year one (for example, submitting applications or interviewing for independent positions). Third year funding is conditional upon compliance with grant terms and the Young Investigator’s acquisition of a written offer of an independent investigator position from a 501(c)(3) or equivalent research institution. *Because of the timing of this requirement, applicants are advised to discuss their career plans with their current principal investigator prior to application.*

Young Investigators successfully securing their first independent appointment will be eligible to submit *Letters of Intent* that are automatically accepted for application to the EvansMDS Discovery Research Grant (DRG) program in each of the first two years following the final year of the EYIA grant. These DRG applications will be given special consideration during the evaluation process.

As an additional incentive, we offer EYIA grant recipients flexibility to apply for, and receive, additional awards from EvansMDS or other parties during the period of EYIA grant funding.

**Candidate Investigators** – The candidate should be an early career (typically within eight years of completing a graduate degree) physician or scientist (MD, PhD, or MD-PhD), currently in a non-tenure track (or equivalent) position with a university, hospital or other recognized 501(c)(3) or equivalent non-profit institution. Eligible candidates include outstanding researchers conducting innovative research under the guidance of an established Mentor (as described

below). Candidates must demonstrate how this funding, for the limited period of the award, will help to advance their project, idea, or research laboratory to the point of securing an independent investigator position. The Edward P. Evans Foundation values diversity and inclusiveness in its EvansMDS Young Investigator program and encourages submissions from groups under-represented in science. *Applications will be made through [Proposal Central](#).*

Eligible candidates generally should not hold the title of *Assistant Professor* and may not hold the title of *Associate Professor or Professor*. Individuals who are presently, or have in the past, been the principle investigator on any government or privately funded research grant (with the exception of an NIH training grant or similar) are not eligible for an EYIA grant.

The Foundation welcomes direct engagement regarding the suitability of any promising candidates for which these guidelines may require further discussion or clarification.

**Candidate Mentors** - Candidate Mentors should be nationally recognized active investigators working at the cutting edge of basic, translational, or clinical research in MDS.

## Details & Application process:

Applicants for an *EvansMDS Young Investigator Award* should submit an application in collaboration with their Mentor through [Proposal Central](#). The application will consist of the following items, which the Foundation will share with an independent review panel comprised of MDS experts:

1. **Introduction and career narrative** (up to 2 pages). The career narrative should include professional milestones that are expected to be achieved at the end of each year.
2. **Plain language research summary** (1/2 page). This should be a description of the research proposal and how it will impact the treatment of MDS, in plain language suitable for an eighth-grade reader. Jargon should be avoided. If the proposal is accepted, the plain language summary will be published on the EvansMDS web site.
3. **Graphical abstract** (1/2 page). The graphic should visually convey the impact of the research project if successfully completed.
4. **Research plan** (up to 2 pages). The research plan should include research milestones or deliverables that are expected to be achieved at the end of each year.
5. **References** (as required, no page restrictions)
6. **Proposed high-level budget** for use of funds (e.g., salary, supplies, travel)
  - a. Salary may not exceed NIH guidelines at 75% time allocation.
  - b. Indirect expenses may be included up to 8% of the total direct costs (e.g, \$11,111 of a \$150,000 annual grant payment).
7. **NIH Bio sketch** for the Candidate Mentor
8. **NIH Bio sketch** for the Candidate Investigator
9. **Letter from the Candidate Mentor** recommending the Candidate Investigator for this award, describing a mentorship plan that would enable the Candidate Investigator to obtain an independent investigator position, and describing the contributions that the Mentor has made toward training successful independent investigators (up to 2 pages). Letters from Mentors should be submitted independently by the Mentor through [Proposal Central](#). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the recommendation letter is received by the submission deadline.
10. **Two Additional Letters of Recommendation for the Candidate Investigator**, at least one of which must be from an institution other than the Candidate Investigator's current institution. Letters (up to 2 pages, single page preferred) should be submitted independently through [Proposal Central](#). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the additional recommendation letters are received by the submission deadline.

Applications are due by **January 31, 2024** and will be reviewed by a panel of MDS experts and the Foundation. Application and document submission must be made through [Proposal Central](#).

Candidate Investigators who are approved for this award will be notified around the end of March 2024. It is intended that funds will be paid to the Candidate Investigator's institution for use by the Investigator before **July 1, 2024**.

Please note that EvansMDS asks that all of our awardees annually share their research results in-person at our MDS Summit, usually held in the late fall. Unexcused failure to participate in this meeting will result in loss or suspension of research funds.