



The International Rett Syndrome Foundation Announces up to \$4M in Funding Available for Translational Research on Rett Syndrome

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation, (IRSF), announces the availability of two new translational research grant award mechanisms to promote the development and testing of therapeutics to treat and reverse Rett syndrome (RTT). The two new award mechanisms seek to facilitate the development and testing of novel therapeutics targeting the underlying pathology of the disorder, thereby leading to an amelioration of symptoms or ultimately a pharmacological reversal of RTT. Through these awards, IRSF seeks to foster academic and public-private partnerships and further facilitate drug discovery, development and testing. We encourage novel research programs that broadly encompass the following areas of unmet need:

- Design, synthesis and testing of potential disease modifying therapeutics to treat or reverse RTT
- Testing of existing therapeutics both in vitro and in vivo to repurpose their use in RTT
- Development and/or validation of in vitro and in vivo models of RTT for therapeutic testing
- Development and/or validation of novel biomarkers for objective clinical trials outcome measures
- Testing of IND-ready therapeutics in pilot clinical trials

HeART (Help Accelerate RTT Therapeutics) Award Mechanism

HeART grant awards will be provided for cell-based assay development, early-stage drug discovery and development, early stage medicinal chemistry efforts on high value candidate therapeutics, cell-based screening of candidate therapeutics and follow-on early-stage in vivo testing. Grant applications for exploratory studies towards development of biomarkers or objective clinical outcome measures will also be considered. The goal of this award mechanism is to provide seed funding for early stage drug discovery and development efforts.

ANGEL (Advanced Neurotherapeutic Grant of Excellence) Award Mechanism

ANGEL grant award proposals must be comprised of very specific programs that are focused on pre-clinical drug discovery and development or clinical testing of therapeutic candidates. The goal is to provide larger, multi-year awards with a strong emphasis placed on the later stages of translational research. ANGEL awards will be milestone-based and as such are subject to interim review of progress.



Program Details

HeART Awards: This grant award was designed to provide a facile mechanism for the provision of small, one year seed grants for drug discovery and development programs. The program will provide funding in amounts ranging from \$25,000-\$50,000 for one year with a high likelihood of follow-on funding for successful programs.

Frequency: Awards will be made in two cycles in 2010

Due Dates: **Cycle 1 Letter of Intent due:** March 26, 2010
Cycle 2 Letter of Intent due: August 16, 2010

Application due: April 26, 2010
Application due: September 30, 2010

Funding: The maximum funding level for **HeART grant awards** is **\$50,000** per year for one year. These awards will provide technical support, supplies, equipment and relevant travel. Indirect costs of up to 10% of direct costs may be included. Proposals for less than the maximum amount are encouraged.

Please Note: All HeART grant applications will require only a 3-5 page proposal narrative.

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ANGEL Awards: This grant award was designed to provide a mechanism for the provision of larger, one to two year grants for the later stages of translational research. The program will provide a maximum of \$300,000 in funding for up to two years. This mechanism requires development of a milestone based research plan, interim reporting on milestones and interaction with IRSF staff prior to and during the award period. The budget and duration of funding are variable and continued funding will be based on satisfactory progress on milestones. Submission of a proposal requires permission from IRSF.

Frequency: Applications may be proposed on a rolling basis year round and solicited applications will be subject to approximately a 90 day period for review and response following submission of a full application.

Funding: The maximum funding level for **ANGEL grants** is **\$300,000** per year for up to two years. These awards will provide technical support, supplies, equipment and relevant travel. Indirect costs of up to 10% of direct costs may be included. Proposals for less than the maximum amount are encouraged. Funding for the second year is non-competitive but is based on review of the first year's progress report.

Please Note: Grant applications are usually solicited by private invitation. Unsolicited proposals are also accepted, but preliminary inquiries for **ANGEL awards** are encouraged to determine the Foundation's interest. All inquiries should be forwarded to IRSF staff prior to submission of an Expression of Interest (EOI). Once solicited, the EOI should describe the project in a succinct manner (1-3 pages) including a brief outline of the objectives, specific aims, research design and methods, and qualifications of the PI and other principal investigators involved in the project. Supporting preliminary data may be appended where appropriate.



Considering the interdisciplinary nature of the HeART and ANGEL award mechanisms, collaborative studies among geneticists, molecular biologists, neuroscientists, child neurologists, medicinal chemists and pharmacologists engaged in drug discovery and other clinical or basic researchers are encouraged. Teams working together from different institutions as well as within pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries are also strongly encouraged.

These awards will provide support for qualified scientific projects in existing, private, early-stage biotechnology companies, or in more advanced companies if a clear need for non-profit funding to support the project can be demonstrated and justified.

Eligibility: Academic investigators must hold a faculty position to be eligible. Investigators from biotechnology companies or non-profit research institutions are also eligible to apply. Applicants from non-academic institutions should provide a biographical sketch/CV of key personnel and management.

IMPORTANT: All Letters of Intent, Expressions of Interest and Applications submitted for funding consideration to IRSF must be submitted via our online submission process.

[Submit Letter of Intent or Expression of Interest](#)

For application submission inquiries, please contact:

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For program related inquiries, please contact:

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