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www.rettsyndrome.org



RESEARCH GRANTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE

Deadline for Letter of Intent: February 1, 2008

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation, (IRSF), announces the availability of research grants and post-doctoral fellowships for international biomedical research for the treatment and cure of Rett syndrome (RTT). IRSF, a 501(c)(3) organization, seeks to encourage research that encompasses innovative approaches and techniques that will lead to future funding from NIH and other sources. We are committed to funding senior as well as junior investigators. Junior investigators must have a sponsoring mentor. Teams working together from different disciplines and different institutions as well as industry are encouraged to apply.

In October, 1999 the cause of RTT, a debilitating neurological disorder, was identified as defects in the *MECP2* gene on the X chromosome. IRSF encourages research that answers questions with regard to how changes in *MECP2* cause disease. Relevant disciplines include but are not limited to Developmental Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry, Cellular and Systems Physiology, Child Neurology, Immunology, Pharmacology, Gastroenterology, Orthopedics, and experimental neurotherapeutics. Proposals that address application of high-throughput technologies in genomics and pharmacology to the study of RTT are also being solicited. Treatment-related research is especially encouraged, and the translational potential of the research plan will weigh significantly in evaluating the merits of the application.

Mecp2 knockout mouse models and monoclonal antibodies to full-length human MeCP2 are available to researchers. (Visit the IRSF website for details through [www. RSRF.org](http://www.RSRF.org) or www.rettsyndrome.org)

The maximum funding level for research grants is \$50,000 per year up to two years. Proposals for less than the maximum amount are encouraged. Requests for additional funding to enable high-throughput approaches will be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided that the translational aspect of this work is made clear in the application. Funding for the second year is non-competitive but is based on review of the first year's progress report by IRSF's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Grants are made for technical support, supplies, equipment and relevant travel. No salary support is provided for the Principal Investigator. Indirect costs of up to 10% of direct costs may be included.

Two-year fellowships of \$50,000 (\$40,000 salary plus \$10,000 of expendables) per year are designed to assist promising post-doctoral students establish careers in fields relevant to Rett Syndrome research.

Before a full application can be submitted, the researcher must submit a Letter of Intent describing the project in a succinct manner (1-2 pages). The Letter of Intent should include objectives and specific aims of the proposal, preliminary data, design methods, and qualifications of the PI. **Please include curriculum vitae.** Letters of Intent will be reviewed the IRSF SAB. Applicants will be notified of IRSF's decision by March 14, 2008 and if favorable, will be asked to submit a grant application. Deadline for application will be May 2, 2008.

The following information should be included at the top of every Letter of Intent:

- Specify Research Grant or Post-Doctoral Fellowship
- Indicate dollar amount requested and number of years (1 or 2)
- If applicant is a post-doc, specify name of Mentor (include a copy of Mentor's *curriculum vitae* along with applicant's)

Letter of Intent must be received no later than February 1, 2008. Email to: mgriffin@rsrf.org