

4600 Devitt Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45246
513.874.3020
513.874.2520
www.rsrf.org
www.rettsyndrome.org



RESEARCH GRANTS AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE TO INVESTIGATE THE NEUROBIOLOGY OF RETT SYNDROME

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 to promote the understanding of MeCP2 in the pathogenesis of the neurobehavioral phenotype of Rett syndrome (RTT). IRSF seeks to encourage research that encompasses innovative therapeutic approaches and state of the art diagnostic techniques that will result in a better understanding of the underlying pathology of RTT and lead to an amelioration of the symptoms and a cure for RTT. We are committed to funding senior as well as junior investigators. Junior investigators must provide evidence of an appropriate mentor. We encourage research that will lead to NIH and other funding sources.

IRSF encourages applications for research projects with one or more of the following objectives:

- 1) To define the role of MeCP2 during normal brain development,
- 2) To characterize the role of MeCP2, including MeCP2 target genes, in normal structure and function of the nervous system,
- 3) To determine the relationship between patterns of expression of MeCP2 and related proteins in the nervous system and the neurologic and behavioral phenotypes of patients with RTT and/or related animal models,
- 4) To investigate neuronal abnormalities that result from MeCP2 dysfunction, and
- 5) To develop innovative therapeutic approaches.

Considering the interdisciplinary nature of such projects, collaborative studies between geneticists, molecular biologists, neuroscientists, child neurologists, and other clinical or basic researchers are encouraged. Applications of high-throughput technologies in genomics and neuropharmacology are actively solicited as part of this RFA. Teams working together from different institutions as well as industry are also encouraged to apply.

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 or www.rettsyndrome.org)

The maximum funding level for research grants is \$50,000 per year up to two years. 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. 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 by IRSF's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Special requests for funding above \$50,000 per year to enable massively parallel, 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.

The 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 (Post-doc is PI). **Please include *curriculum vitae*.** Letters of Intent will be reviewed by IRSF's 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 applications is 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