

Rett Syndrome Research Independence Award Request for Proposals

Opportunity:

There are currently no FDA-approved treatments available for Rett syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental disorder caused by mutations in *MECP2*. However, advances over the last 20 years have brought us closer to being able to develop treatments that target the underlying pathology associated with the loss of MeCP2. The International Rett Syndrome Foundation (IRSF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding treatments for Rett syndrome and supporting families living with Rett syndrome, continues to support fundamental, translational, and clinical research to achieve the goal of creating disease-modifying or curative treatments for Rett syndrome. IRSF recognizes that the achievement of its goals requires well-trained scientists who are engaged in MeCP2 and Rett syndrome-related research. The Research Independence Award aims to facilitate the next generation of researchers committed to Rett syndrome and MeCP2 research in their transition from a mentored research position to a faculty appointment in a tenure-track position.

Funding level:

The IRSF Research Independence Award is aimed at Ph.D. or M.D. researchers currently in a mentored postdoctoral position that plan to apply for a tenure-track or equivalent faculty position in the upcoming year. To support the transition to research independence, IRSF is committed to funding up to \$400,000 over the course of four (4) years, including 10% for indirect costs. Support is split into two phases. The initial phase will fund the final year of a mentored postdoctoral training position. The second phase will commence when the applicant begins a tenure-track research position and will continue for 3 years. It is our intention that these two phases be continuous.

Phase 1: Awardees will receive up to \$100,000 for 1 year of research as a post-doc.

Phase 2: Upon commencing a tenure-track research position, awardees will receive up to \$100,000 annually for 3 years.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must hold a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degree
- Applicants must be currently in non-independent, research-oriented postdoctoral training program at an academic, government, or non-profit research institution
- Applicants with less than 2 years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of application are ineligible for the award. *For the 2022 cycle, the upper limit of postdoctoral training experience has been removed due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- Applicants must be seeking a tenure-track position at an institution of higher education in 2023 or 2024
- There are no citizenship requirements

- Limited to institutions located in the United States

Scientists from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Submission dates:

- May 18, 2022 Letter of intent due
- July 1, 2022 Invited Full Application due
- December 2022 Award notification

Instructions for submission:

The Letter of intent (LOI) is a required step in the application process and must be completed online at <https://proposalcentral.com>. First-time users must register and complete a Professional Profile to begin the application process. In the “Grant Opportunities” tab, filter by “Grant Maker” to find “International Rett Syndrome Foundation” or search for “International Rett Syndrome Foundation” in the search box. Select “Apply Now” to begin the LOI.

The LOI should include:

- research plan (no more than one (1) page in length)
- biosketch
- overview of scientific interests and goals describing your future research program as an independent investigator and how your research plan will benefit the progression of science leading to a treatment or cure for Rett syndrome (no more than one (1) page in length)
- letter from your current institution confirming you are in a mentored training position

The LOI must be submitted by 5:00 PM Eastern time on May 20, 2022. LOIs will be reviewed and select applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Full applications will be reviewed for scientific merit by members of the Scientific Review Board, followed by a programmatic review by IRSF staff. Final funding decisions are approved by IRSF’s Board of Directors. Notifications to applicants are expected in December 2022.

Contact information:

Administrative inquiries: research@rettsyndrome.org

Scientific inquiries: ngarg@rettsyndrome.org