

## Rett Syndrome Innovation 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. The Rett Syndrome Innovation Award seeks to gain a better understanding of the underlying pathology of the disorder in order to identify novel therapeutic approaches to treat and cure Rett syndrome.

### Program objective:

The two-year Rett Syndrome Innovation Awards are meant to: (1) provide seed money for research that leads to the identification of therapeutic targets or therapeutic approaches to treat Rett syndrome, (2) assist investigators to establish careers in the field of Rett syndrome research, and (3) lead to follow-on funding from other agencies.

### Main areas of research interest:

We have identified several focus areas of interest and listed them below. The list order is not indicative of priority, and the areas are not exclusive.

1. Molecular, cellular, and circuit-level characterization of MeCP2 function to generate novel therapeutic targets/approaches
2. Integrated multi-level characterization of Rett Syndrome disease states including pre- and post-regression phases in disease models encompassing both the loss of and the restoration of MeCP2 function
3. Identification and engagement of modulators of MeCP2 function for the development of novel therapeutic targets

This RFP does not support clinical research projects.

### Funding level:

The Rett Syndrome Innovation Award funds innovative research up to \$150,000 per year for two years (\$300,000 total). Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total budget. Additional details can be found in the general budget guideline section below.

Applications for collaborative projects with two or more Principal Investigators from different institutions will be considered. Justification for multiple Principal Investigators with complementary expertise should be provided in the Letter of Intent (LOI).

**Eligibility:**

- Independent investigators with an appointment in an academic, government, non-profit research institution, or biotechnology company worldwide
- History of independent publication record
- History of grant support in which the applicant is the principal investigator (PI)
- US Citizenship is not required

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.

Please submit a one-page letter of intent detailing your research plan and a biographical sketch. Please highlight how your research plan will benefit the progression of science leading to a treatment or cure for Rett syndrome.

LOIs should 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 include a research and lay summary, a detailed research plan, budget, and budget justification. Applications will be reviewed for scientific merit by members of the Scientific Review Board and then undergo programmatic review by IRSF staff. Final funding decisions are approved by IRSF’s Board of Directors. Notifications to applicants are expected in December 2022.

**General Budget Guidelines**

- The maximum funding level is \$150,000 a year for two years.
- Grants are made for technical support, supplies, equipment, and relevant travel. PI salary support will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be limited to 20% of the total award.
- Indirect costs of up to 10% of direct costs may be included *within* the total request amount.
- Proposals for less than the maximum amount are encouraged.
- Second year funding is non-competitive but is based on review of the first year’s progress report.



**Contact information:**

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