

Opportunity:

The International Rett Syndrome Foundation (Rettsyndrome.org) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the scientific research in Rett syndrome, a rare neurodevelopmental disorder caused by mutations in *MECP2*. We aim to fund science that will lead to treatments for those living with Rett syndrome. We recognize that in order to achieve this goal, it will require 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 into the first three years of a faculty appointment.

The award provides up to \$400,000 over four years to support one year of advanced postdoctoral training in Rett syndrome related research and the first three years of research in a new faculty appointment.

Timeline of funding:

The IRSF Research Independence Award program is aimed at Ph.D or M.D-holding researchers currently in a mentored postdoctoral position that plan to apply for 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 years, including 10 percent for indirect costs. Support is split into two phases. The initial phase will fund the last 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 post-doc research

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 or more than 6 years of postdoctoral research experience at the time of application are ineligible for the award. Clinically related training periods will not be counted towards postdoctoral research experience.
- Applicants must be actively seeking a tenure-track position at an institution of higher education during the next job cycle
- Applicant must be a US Citizen
- Limited to institutions located in the United States

Instructions for submissions:

[Click here to download full application .](#)

Full applications are due May 28th, 2021 at 5 p.m. EST

The application includes:

- A biosketch including a personal statement, positions and honors, and contributions to science
- A research plan detailing research activities planned for a one-year period of advanced postdoctoral training and for the first three years of faculty appointment
- Budget and budget justification
- Letter of support from the proposed mentor
- Letters of recommendation from two current or former mentors or senior scientists familiar with the applicant's career

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the application and all letters are received by the deadline.

Applications should be sent via email to: research@rettsyndrome.org

Dates:

Application and letters of recommendation due: May 28th, 2021 at 5 p.m. EST

Fellows notified: July, 2021

Grant Activation

All applications will be reviewed by IRSF staff and IRSF grant review committee. Awardees will be notified in July, 2021.

To activate the second phase of the grant, fellows must submit an offer letter for a tenure-track faculty appointment including the confirmed startup package, laboratory space, and available equipment and resources relevant to the research proposal. Applicants must also submit a progress report and updates to the proposed research plan, a detailed budget, and budget justification. IRSF will review these documents and reserve the right to withhold support if the fellow does not secure a tenure-track position, or if the above documents and resources are deemed inadequate. IRSF will evaluate these discrepancies on a case-by-case.

Contact information:

Administrative inquires: research@rettsyndrome.org

Scientific inquiries: dpichard@rettsyndrome.org