

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS



## CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Defeat MSA Alliance (USA), Defeat MSA/Vaincre AMS Canada and the MSA United Research Consortium are pleased to announce the first round of our 2021 seed grant program to foster the development of new research on Multiple System Atrophy, with particular emphasis on collaborative projects. Funded seed grants will contribute to the collective mission of cultivating promising research into the underlying causes, possible treatments and slowing disease progression. Applications that demonstrate innovative methods that help elucidate connections to other disorders will be weighed more heavily.

Accepted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal via our research platform:

[defeatmsa.smartsimple.com](https://defeatmsa.smartsimple.com)

Funded proposals will receive a one-year grant of up to \$50,000 USD/\$60,000 CDN for a term of one year.

### **Terms**

Each applicant must be affiliated with an established research or academic institution. Confidentiality regarding the grant review process, the research platform, proposal requirements, awarded funds and personnel associated with grant management is expected.

All grant applications must use the [defeatmsa.smartsimple.com](https://defeatmsa.smartsimple.com) platform. No applications for funding will be considered any other way, through personal appeals to individual board members or to members of the Scientific and Medical Research Advisory Board (SMAB).

## **Eligibility**

Applicants will be asked to disclose whether they have applied for or received funding from other MSA funding bodies or organizations for the same research proposal during the current cycle. Also, while the call for funding proposals is being disseminated worldwide, no proposals from researchers in any countries that are currently subject to trade sanctions or embargoes by the US or Canadian governments will be accepted.

## **Criteria for Awarding Funds**

Proposals will be evaluated for scientific merit; collaborative research by new researchers to the field or collaborative partnerships; and studies that demonstrate the potential for external funding beyond this initial seed funding. If funded, the first half of the award will be provided at the outset with the remaining after receiving the sixth month report (as described below). The budget should be limited to direct costs only. Affiliated charities in the Consortium will not fund indirect or overhead costs.

## **Proposal Due Date and Timeline**

A Letter of Intent outlining the research proposal is requested by July 31, 2021. Applicants with promising research will be invited to submit a full research proposal.

## **Reporting on Awards**

Investigators will be required to report on project progress at the sixth month mark and a timeline for submitting applications for external funding outside of Defeat MSA Alliance (USA), Defeat MSA/Vaincre AMS Canada and MSA United Consortium. A final report will be presented at a public panel event in 2022/2023.

## **Letter of Intent for Proposal**

The Letter of Intent should include project or proposal title, an abstract, names of the team members (with institutional affiliations and position or rank), requested amount for funding and at least three research references. Applicants are required to respond to the LOI relevant questions on the [defeatmsa.smartsimple.com](https://defeatmsa.smartsimple.com) platform and submit all parts of the LOI in one complete pdf file.

## **LOI Content**

### **Cover Sheet**

The LOI cover sheet should include the title of the proposed project and the names, affiliations, and contact information for all project participants. A project contact must be identified and

should be the principal investigator. The project contact provides the communication link between the Science and Medical Research Board (SMAB) and the project team on all matters.

Personal appeals for funding to individual board members of Defeat MSA Alliance (USA), Defeat MSA/Vaincre AMS Canada or other board members from affiliated charities in the MSA United Consortium ([www.MSAunited.org](http://www.MSAunited.org)) is prohibited.

On the cover page, provide a 200-word abstract in non-technical language (strict 200 words maximum) of the proposed activity.

## **Proposal Narrative with Supporting Information**

The proposal narrative with supporting information must be written using 12-point font, single spaced, with at least one-inch margins. Begin each section listed below on a new page. The narrative with supporting information must include the following sections:

- 1) A proposal summary that explains the motivation for and risks associated with the project, what is novel about the proposed research, what research methods and instrumentation will be used. This section must articulate a clear set of objectives, a compelling vision of what the project might achieve, and what differentiates it from previous research. Further, please provide an explanation of how the study will demonstrate the potential for external funding beyond this initial seed funding. In this regard, please include information on potential source(s) of funding and timing of the continuation of this research initiated by the seed grant (3-page maximum). Also, please indicate information about any additional investigators.
- 2) A NIH style biographical sketch (no more than 5 pages); for information on the bio sketch format, instructions and samples, visit:  
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

For questions, please contact the research coordinator at: [MSAresearch@defeatmsa.org](mailto:MSAresearch@defeatmsa.org)

References: NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding (2020); Cornell University Grants Office (2021); CurePSP Research Program (2014)



[www.msaunited.org](http://www.msaunited.org)