

## VIII. Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. I want to submit a new research award application, but am uncertain about whether the lab I will be working in will be available in the near future due to COVID-19.**

The DF understands that all award applications will be submitted during an uncertain time. It is recommended that applicants develop their research proposals assuming that all institutional systems/laboratories will be in available to support their proposed work at the time of funding. If funded, adjustments may be requested to the award term or project.

- 2. If I receive an award and my research project is affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, what will happen to my funding?**

The DF is committed to supporting the work of its research award recipients. Should the ongoing pandemic affect your ability to complete your funded research, you have the option to request a change in your award term (i.e., delayed start or no-cost extension), and/or a modification to your research project if necessary.

- 3. If I receive a research award, is it possible to transfer it to another institution?**

Award transfer requests - made any time after the applications are received - are not considered or granted, with the exception of the Sun Pharma Research Award. Award recipients moving to a new institution have the option to reapply for funding using the DF's new award procedures and forms. CDA recipients reapplying will be limited to a total of 36 months of funding. All such applications will be reviewed by the DF's Medical and Scientific Committee. For additional information, contact the DF office.

- 4. If I receive a research award, is it possible to defer it until a later date?**

DF awards cannot be deferred. Individuals are encouraged to apply for DF awards when they are ready/able to accept an award for the defined funding year.

- 5. Can I apply for a career development award and a grant?**

If you are applying for a **new** career development award, you may submit a separate application for a grant. However, please be aware you are only able to receive funding for one award.

Current CDA recipients applying for a second or third year of funding cannot also apply for a grant.

- 6. Can I apply for a fellowship and a grant?**

*No.* If you are applying for a DF fellowship, you are not eligible to apply for a grant.

## VIII. Frequently Asked Questions, Cont.

### 7. **Must I have IRB approval for my research project at the time I apply for an award?**

No. If your project involves human subjects, simply select “Yes” in box 3I on the award application form. If you are selected to receive the award, you must obtain and provide proof of IRB approval prior to the start of the award period—July 1. Award funds cannot be disbursed without formal documentation that identifies the start and end date of the approval period.

### 8. **I would like to apply for a career development award and it requires that I have a faculty position. My faculty position will not be effective until July 1; can I still apply for the award?**

Yes. All of the award eligibility requirements must be met at or before the time of funding—i.e., as of July 1. Your application materials should clearly document that you will meet the faculty eligibility requirement by July 1. Specifically, your form of support from your Dermatology Department Chief or Chair should clearly state the faculty position you will have and the effective date. In addition, you will need to provide confirmation of your appointment just prior to the start of the award period.

### 9. **I am applying for a career development award (CDA) and have an NIH R01 application pending. If I receive the R01, what would happen to my DF CDA?**

The DF requires all CDA award recipients to relinquish the CDA upon receipt of a federally funded award for which they are a PI. Therefore, if you were awarded a DF CDA and also receive the R01, the DF award would terminate on the effective date of the R01 grant. See section II-B for further information on NIH grants and DF eligibility.

### 10. **How many awards are funded in each award category?**

The Foundation does not fund awards based on a quota. Instead, the number of awards funded each year is based on the number of meritorious applications submitted and available funds.

### 11. **Can my letters of support be submitted separately?**

Yes. Your letters of support may be submitted separately. However, they must be submitted through Dropbox on or before the application deadline.

### 12. **When will the award recipients be announced?**

The list of 2021 award recipients will be available at noon on the DF website following the DF Board of Trustees meeting on Saturday, March 21.

## VIII. Frequently Asked Questions, Cont.

### 13. Do you have any suggestions for strengthening my application?

Every applicant is strongly encouraged to seek guidance from their mentor and chair in developing their research proposal and application materials. The following is a list of helpful hints offered for consideration.

- a. ***Ensure your materials are complete and address all requested topics/areas*** -- especially the letter of support from your mentor and the Comments of Support Form completed by your chair. This information is extremely important and enables the Medical and Scientific Committee to fully evaluate your application.
- b. Have one (or more) established investigators review a draft of the proposal and allow sufficient time for revision and timely submission.
- c. Attempt to make applications specific. For example, if a proposal concerns a particular disease, specify inclusion and exclusion criteria; if several subtypes of the disease of interest exist, specifically state which subtypes will be studied.
- d. Consider including a power analysis demonstrating the minimum number of subjects (i.e., animals or humans) needed for experiments to be informative.
- e. In studies involving multiple aims, note the peril of having second- and third-order aims dependent upon an initial aim that may or may not be attained.
- f. If the project is highly dependent upon the participation and/or expertise of a key collaborator, consider obtaining a letter of support from this individual that acknowledges his/her commitment to the project.
- g. Include where possible and appropriate preliminary data in support of the proposed aims of the application.

### 14. I have a DF Career Development Award (CDA) that is in year 2 of funding and just received a promotion to Associate Professor. Am I still eligible for my CDA?

Yes. New (i.e. Year 1) CDA recipients may be no greater than an Assistant Professor at the time of funding (July 1).