



2018 Call for Letters of Intent

Background:

BDSRA believes that to effectively unravel the mysteries of Batten disease, the worlds of medical science, research, and families must work together toward a common goal: discover treatments and cures while assuring a better quality of life for those living with the disease. BDSRA's focus is to:

- **Develop 'research assets' such as animal models, tissue samples, etc. within disease forms to make available to researchers worldwide.**
- **Facilitate early discussion with university researchers, biotech, NIH and FDA partners to speed drug discovery**
- **Provide funding to encourage new idea development and collaborations**
- **Utilize BDSRA's ever-growing family community to provide patient-focused input and direction on trial readiness and trial execution**

Focus for 2018's Research Funding Round: Biomarkers

BDSRA seeks letters of intent from the Batten and larger lysosomal disease research community for innovative technologies in biomarkers for any of the 14 forms of Batten disease. Development of, or improvement of biomarkers using tissue, blood, urine or imaging are welcome, as are new concepts in development.

As always, the scientific merit of projects is paramount. We also greatly encourage projects that will pull together multiple funding sources, cross-lab collaborations, and projects that have promise of future NIH, DOD or other government, or industry funding.

Eligibility of Applicants:

Eligible applicants must have a Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent degrees and currently hold a full-time position at any level (post-doctoral, research scientist, assistant/associate/full professor, etc.) at an established academic/research institution. Applicants will be considered from both the United States and internationally. Investigators from centers with a history of research in metabolic diseases are strongly encouraged to apply. The average award is \$40,000; however exceptional applications may be funded at a higher amount if the budget request is justified. Initial grants are awarded for one year with potential of renewal based on progress made during the first year. Awards will be granted based on available research funds

Application Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit a letter of intent (single-spaced with 0.5" margins using no less than 11-point Arial fonts). Letters of intent should include the following in order and be submitted in one electronic document in the order listed below and be no more than 2 pages in total:

- Project Title
- PI Name and Institution
- Introduction
- Significance of proposed research
- Specific aims
- Methods
- Project timeline
- Preliminary Budget

Applicants without a faculty appointment (e.g., post-doctoral level) must also submit a letter of support from their project mentor.

The award requires that funds not be used for the support of institutional indirect or overhead costs.

Timeline:

Letters of Intent should be received no later than **April 15th**. Requests for full proposals will be made by **May 30th, 2018**. We anticipate making project announcements by **August 30, 2018**.

Proposals will be funded by BDSRA for one year and the submission of a progress report will be required six months after the project start date. A final report will be due 90 days after the end of the funding period.

Please submit proposal and all materials in the order listed and in one document electronically to:

info@bdsra.org