

# The Myositis Association

## 2021 Mentored Research Fellowship Application

### Information and Instructions

**Mentored Research Fellowships** are designed to help promising junior investigators (MDs and PhDs) for a period of two years, subject to satisfactory progress, at the salary level approved by the participating institution, to a maximum received annually of \$50,000. Candidates should have completed residency or fellowship training or have received a PhD within the three years prior to commencing the Fellowship and be performing research under the supervision of an established mentor. Recipients must devote at least 50% of their time to research, but may include some study and clinical experience in allied fields. There should be limited supplementation of salary from outside sources.

A competitive candidate will be an early stage clinical or basic investigator that has demonstrated commitment to the field of myositis or related fields. The research environment, quality of research project, career development plan and mentor are all equally weighted in the funding decision. Applicants must also convey a clear path to research independence.

As examples, applicants can apply at the level of 1) clinical/research fellow (post-residency training) with the award allowing them an opportunity to perform myositis research prior to an independent faculty position. 2) post-doctoral fellow with a clear commitment to myositis research and a path to an independent position. 3) Junior faculty within three years of their independent position as a means of freeing up clinical responsibilities to perform myositis research under the guidance of a mentor.

Please refer to the TMA research guidelines for complete information about the TMA research program. Inquiries concerning the application should be directed to Chrissy Thornton, TMA Executive Director, who can be reached at [Chrissy@myositis.org](mailto:Chrissy@myositis.org).

The following items must be included for an application to be considered:

- The completed TMA Application

- The applicant and mentor's biosketch in NIH format (example can be found on the TMA webpage where this application is located)
- An outline of the research project (up to six pages)
- Mentor's letter (see Note 1)
- Personal statement and career development plan (see Note 2)

A complete application will include, in order, the following sections:

- I. Administrative Information
- II. Mentor Information
- III. Research Plan Summary (includes Letter from Mentor, Applicant Personal Statement/Career Development Plan and Research Proposal)
- IV. NIH Biographical Sketches (applicant and mentor)
- V. Conflicts of Interest

*Type size must be at least 10 - 12-point. Margins must be at least 1/2 inch. Single-spacing is preferred. Applications not conforming to these guidelines will be returned without review. The review committee should be considered to be familiar with standard methodologies but critical or novel experimental details must be provided. Applications should be concise and complete.*

Only TMA application forms or computer-generated facsimiles of TMA forms containing the same information may be used. The proposal and other supporting documents must be submitted in a single file electronically and must be **received by TMA no later than June 30, 2021**. If the applicant does not receive an email confirming receipt of the application, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact TMA to assure that the application has been received prior to the application deadline.

A **Letter of Intent** is required by **May 15** and must contain the following:

1. A one-page cover letter providing the title of the project and identification of any persons who might have a conflict of interest in reviewing the proposal (e.g. former and present collaborators, mentors,

and/or competitors). The cover letter should also describe how this application meets the criteria for the level of funding requested:

- Pilot project – evidence that the project is new and innovative and will lead to future grant support.
  - Fellowship funding – applicant must be within three years of completing training and be performing research under the supervision of an established mentor. Please identify the mentor.
2. A one-page description of the specific aims of the project
  3. A biosketch in NIH format (an example can be found on the TMA website)

Letters of Intent must be submitted in one PDF document and be received by midnight Eastern Time on **May 15, 2021**.

Application for a fellowship should be made through an accredited medical school, university or research institute, which must agree to supply the clinical and/or laboratory facilities. For proposals involving participation of human subjects, the applicant must provide the Institutional Review Board approved consent form. If the IRB has not yet approved the study, a letter from the IRB acknowledging receipt of the consent request must be included and TMA must receive confirmation of the approval from the IRB prior to funding. Proposals involving participation of animal subjects must follow the process described above for human subjects, with references to “Institutional Review Board” replaced by “the institution’s animal care and use committee”. For proposals involving the use of drugs not approved by the FDA, evidence of an IND is also required prior to funding.

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**Note (1)** The mentor’s letter should not exceed two single spaced pages. Specifically, the mentor should briefly describe the research project and why the applicant is qualified and appropriate to conduct it. A description of the mentor’s previous trainees and ability to mentor is important. In addition, a description of how this fellowship will lead to career independence is essential.

**Note (2)** The personal statement with career development plan should not exceed two single spaced pages. How this fellowship will lead to career independence and what skills will be learned during the fellowship should be detailed.

**Note (3)** The preferred format for electronic submission is a single Adobe Acrobat file (Adobe PDF). If you are unable to create a single PDF file which contains all of the application requirements, multiple files can be submitted but should be clearly named to correspond with the various application sections and requirements. **Scanned documents are strongly discouraged and may not be reviewed if they are illegible.**

# The Myositis Association Mentored Research Fellowship Application

Applicant Name:

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Institution:

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Sponsor:

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Form of myositis to be studied (check all that apply):

- Juvenile myositis
- Dermatomyositis
- Inclusion-body myositis
- Polymyositis

## Section I - Administrative Information

Applicant:	
Date of Birth:	SS#:
Current Title or Position:	
Department:	
Institution Address:	Phone:
	Fax:
	E-mail:
	Tax-exempt ID or Equivalency:
<p>Type of Institution:</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Public Institution;             <input type="checkbox"/> state             <input type="checkbox"/> local                                <input type="checkbox"/> Private Institution                                <input type="checkbox"/> Other         </p> <p>If other, please specify:</p>	
Full title of Research Proposal:	
Abbreviated title of Research Proposal:	
Dates of Fellowship Period:	
<p>Total Amount Requested:</p> <p>(Fellows are eligible for up to \$50,000 annually)</p>	
<p>Name/Title/Address of Person to Whom Checks Should be Mailed:            (person indicated is official signing for the applicant organization)</p>	

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## Section II - Mentor Information

Mentor:	
Current Title or Position:	
Department or Division:	
Institution:	
Institution Address:	Phone:
	Fax:
	E-mail:

Signature of Supervisor:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Section III - Research Plan Summary

Full Title of Application:

Abstract of Research Plan (do not exceed the space provided):

Lay Summary



## **Section IV - Biographical Sketches**

### **Section V - Research Plan**

1. Specific Aims.
2. Background and significance.
3. Preliminary data
4. Research Strategy
5. Literature cited.
6. Consultant and collaborative arrangements (if applicable).
7. Human subjects information (if applicable).
8. Laboratory animals (if applicable).
9. Mentor Letter (max 2 pages)
10. Personal Statement and Career Development Plan (max 2 pages)

*Please limit items 1-4 to no more than ten pages.*

## Section VII - Conflicts of Interest

Please identify any researchers who should not review this application because of a conflict of interest or other reason. Provide reason for conflict.

Reviewer:
Institution:
Reason for conflict:

Reviewer:
Institution:
Reason for conflict:

Reviewer:
Institution:
Reason for conflict:

**Submit completed application to:**

**Chrissy Thornton  
Chrissy@myositis.org**

**Executive Director  
The Myositis Association  
6950 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 370  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Phone: (800) 821-7356**