Oligodendroglioma Clinically Relevant Biomarker Request for Application

Application Deadline: January 15, 2016

BACKGROUND:
National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) seeks applications in the area of biomarkers to advance our understanding of oligodendroglioma with the goal of accelerating therapeutic development and improving patient care.

Pure oligodendroglioma is a relatively rare brain tumor representing approximately 6% of gliomas. In addition, there are patients with mixed oligoastrocytomas, embodying another 3.3% of gliomas. Together these oligodendroglia-based tumors account for 1,850 (or 2.7%) brain tumor diagnoses each year in the U.S. alone. Because of its relative rarity, both preclinical and clinical research efforts on this tumor type lag behind the more prevalent forms of brain tumors. Therefore, critical investment in this area of research is required to accelerate the development of new effective treatments for oligodendroglioma patients.

As continued learning of the genetics and biology of oligodendrogliomas matures, it is likely that there will be further sub-classification to include the added precision of defined molecular and imaging biomarkers. These discoveries will aid in the identification of therapeutic targets but should also be directed towards the development of more precise predictive and prognostic clinically useful biomarkers. Within this research landscape, implementation of a clinically useful biomarker development research program will be critical for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the clinical trial evaluation process by early identification of promising drug candidates and for determining treatment strategies for individual patients in the clinical practice setting.

RESEARCH GRANTS IN OLIGODENDROGLIOMA:
Clinically useful biomarkers can help bring new medicines to the right patients faster than the current pace of today. It is the goal of NBTS through the Oligodendroglioma Community Research Fund to advance and accelerate novel therapeutic approaches along the clinical development continuum by implementing a program that focuses on the identification of clinically useful biomarkers that will inform treatment strategies for oligodendroglioma patients. In developing this program, NBTS will seek to support research that engages in the discovery, development, characterization and/or validation of new, or refinement of existing, biomarkers including:

- **Prognostic biomarkers** that predict survival.
- **Predictive biomarkers** to identify patients who are more likely to benefit from a treatment.
- **Surrogate biomarkers** to predict outcome based on a response to therapy.

Grant awards will range from $100,000 to $150,000 per year for two years, depending upon the needs presented in the application. Funds may be used for travel, meetings and other appropriate expenses associated with non-laboratory planning requirements and collaborations, as well as for traditional (e.g. salary, etc.) appropriations. Indirect costs will not be funded.

Please see below for application process details.
REPORTING:
Six and eighteen months into the grant, the awardees will take part in a progress assessment with the NBTS staff via telephone. At the end of year one a telephone review or visit by NBTS staff or advisors will take place in addition to submission of a required detailed written Progress Report listing the accomplishments of the year. A Final Report must be submitted at the end of year two. Milestones will be agreed upon at the time of the award.

NBTS will no longer accept applications from institutions at which a research grant recipient has neglected to submit the required reports.

Should grant recipients generate publishable results, they are expected to publish their results in peer reviewed scientific journals and present their findings at scientific conferences. It is mandatory that proper reference be made to the National Brain Tumor Society in all manuscripts, poster presentations, news releases, or institutional publications resulting from this grant-supported work. Notification of publication must be made to NBTS prior to release so that we may inform our donor community of the news at the time of publication. Reprints and copies should be sent to NBTS.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
Grants are open to the national and international research community. Researchers do not have to be citizens of the United States to apply and receive funding. Applications may be submitted by public and private institutions such as hospitals, universities, colleges, and laboratories. Past NBTS grant recipients may apply. NBTS Scientific Advisory Council and NBTS Medical Advisory Board members may apply.

NBTS requires full, timely disclosure regarding potential financial and/or intellectual overlapping grant applications. The required disclosure will not affect a grant’s scientific review or consideration. As NBTS does not provide overlapping funds, receipt of an overlapping grant award will impact the level of funding awarded. However, NBTS will provide the maximum benefit possible. Failure to disclose the required information in a timely manner will result in an administrative disqualification of an application or the withdrawal of a grant award. The unfortunate consequence of a failure to promptly report possible overlapping applications prior to the NBTS scientific review and Board consideration may result in a worthy grant not being funded.

APPLICATION PROCESS:
All applicants must submit the following information:
- Cover Page (form enclosed)
- Biographical Sketch including Personal Statement and Other Research Support for each researcher listed on the grant (NIH format may be submitted.)
- Budget and Justification (form enclosed)
- Resources and Environment
- Research Plan including Background and Significance, Specific Aims, the Research Plan, and Human and Animal Subjects (not to exceed 3 pages)
- Appendix (as required) – Not to exceed 15 pages
- Research Summary (not to exceed 200 words)

Applications must be submitted electronically at: https://goo.gl/SPzXX6
REVIEW/FUNDING PROCESS:
Applications are peer reviewed by the NBTS Scientific Advisory Council and invited guest reviewers (as needed). The NBTS Board of Directors makes the final award decision. All applicants will be informed of the final decision about the status of their application. The start date for each of the Oligodendroglioma Research Grants will be dependent on the project’s hiring of required staff to begin the suggested study.

Funds will not be granted for indirect costs. Salaries, including those of graduate students or postdoctoral fellows, may be requested at the Principal Investigator’s (PI) discretion. NBTS encourages collaboration. PI's must be faculty at the level of Instructor or equivalent, or higher.

Grant awardees are expected to attend the 2016 and 2017 NBTS Annual Meeting (date and location TBD) to present project findings. Travel costs should be included in the project’s budget.

QUESTIONS:
Please visit the National Brain Tumor Society’s website, www.braintumor.org, for answers to frequently asked research grant questions. Direct all other questions to Kacey Troy, NBTS Research Program Manager, at ktroy@braintumor.org.

National Brain Tumor Society is an equal opportunity organization.
RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION
Font must be at least 10 points and no more than 6 lines of type per vertical inch. Please note all page limits.

Section I.
A. Cover Page (page 1) - Use attached cover page form. Please note that application will be disqualified if form is not completed honestly. Electronic signatures are permitted.
B. Detailed Budget and Justification - Use attached budget and justification form. Biographical Sketch of Professional Personnel – NIH form may be used. Include Other Support. Not to exceed 3 pages per person.
C. Resources and Environment

Section II.
Sections II A-D * should not exceed 3 pages. Applications exceeding page limit will not be reviewed.
A.* Specific Aims
B.* Background and Significance
C.* Progress Report/Preliminary Studies
D.* Experimental Design and Methods
E. Human Subjects
F. Animal Subjects
G. Literature Cited - Not to exceed 2 pages

Section III.
A. Appendix – Not to exceed 15 pages. Limit materials to graphs, diagrams, tables and charts essential to the application. No more than 1 manuscript can be included (count manuscript as one page).
B. Project Summary – Not to exceed 200 words. Write 150-200 word description of proposed research project in lay terms. Include sentence on future applications of the proposed project and how it will facilitate a cure for brain tumors.
APPLICATION COVER PAGE

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
Name: 

Title: 

Address: 

Contact Numbers:

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ORGANIZATION
Name: 

Address: 

Federal ID: DUNS Number: 

Contact Person:

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RESEARCH PROJECT
Title: 

Key Personnel: 

Type of Grant: Amount of Grant: ($/per year) Population Studied: (Adult, Pediatric, Both) 

Specialty Area: 

Other Support for Proposed Project: Active, Promised, Pending, or Submitted
National Brain Tumor Society must be notified of any modification of the following response or any new application filed for any part of the proposed project during the pendency of this review. Failure to do so may result in disqualification of this application and any grant awarded.

I hereby attest that information contained in this application is accurate and true.

Principal Investigator: 

Signature Date 

Organization’s Contact Person: 

Signature Date
BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

DETAILED BUDGET for DIRECT COSTS
Please provide separate page for each research year

PLEASE NOTE: PI’S MUST DEDICATE A MINIMUM OF 10% EFFORT TO THE PROJECT

PERSONNEL

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Role on Project</th>
<th>Type Appt. (months)</th>
<th>% effort on project</th>
<th>Inst. base salary</th>
<th>Dollar Amount Requested</th>
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PERSONNEL SUBTOTALS

PERSONNEL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (EXPLAIN PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES)

PROJECT EXPENSES

TOTAL

EQUIPMENT (ITEMIZE AND JUSTIFY)

SUPPLIES (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY AND JUSTIFY)

TRAVEL (INCLUDE AIRFARE and TRAVEL EXPENSES TO NBTS ANNUAL MEETING)

OTHER EXPENSES (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY AND JUSTIFY)

PROJECT EXPENSES SUBTOTAL

TOTAL DIRECT COSTS