

NOTICEBOARD

THE NANCY LURIE MARKS FAMILY FOUNDATION

Request for proposals in autism research

Background and purpose

The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation announces the availability of research funds for projects aimed at investigating communication difficulties, capacities and options for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Although communication impairment is at the core of the autism syndrome, relatively little scientific attention has been focused on addressing this critical area.

Specific goals of the request

Projects investigating one or more of the following areas are invited: (1) the exploration of communication options for non-verbal and minimally verbal children and adults with autism; (2) investigation of the etiology of language impairment in individuals with autism; and (3) the development of communication intervention strategies for those with autism. Please note that the Foundation particularly encourages projects which explore the development of and efficacy of Augmentative and Alternative Communication devices and strategies, including Facilitated Communication, in helping individuals with autism to communicate.

Award information and mechanism of support

The Nancy Lurie Marks Family Foundation will provide total grant support of up to \$100 000 for one year. The grant is not renewable. Please note that the Foundation limits indirect costs to 10% of direct costs excluding equipment. Applications requesting less than the maximum funding level are encouraged.

Application is open to investigators working at established research institutions (both for profit and not-for-profit) and investigators at state health agencies, the FDA, VA, and at intramural divisions of NIH. Applications may be submitted by investigators working anywhere in the world. It is expected that applicants possess a terminal degree such as M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree, and hold an academic rank of postdoctoral fellow or higher.

Deadlines

The deadline for receipt of Letters of Intent is 15 March 2007. No full proposals will be accepted without the submission and approval of a Letter of Intent. Approved applicants will be requested to submit a full grant proposal for submission by 15 May 2007. Notification of a request for a full proposal is expected no earlier than 15 April 2007. Applications are subject to peer review by a study section empanelled by the Foundation. Final funding decisions will be made after review by the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Awards will be announced in autumn, 2007.

Applicants must use the Foundation's online application system to apply. A copy of the full program announcement and submission information is available at: www.nlmfoundation.org.