FACIOSCAPULOHUMERAL (FSH) SOCIETY, INC. RESEARCH GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Facioscapulohumeral (FSH) Society offers postdoctoral fellowships, research fellowships, and basic research and clinical-research grants to support research relevant to understanding the molecular genetics, pathophysiology, cause, and treatments of facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD).

To obtain an application, please submit a letter of intent. The letter of intent should contain a single page introductory cover letter plus a one or two-page descriptive summary of the proposed – enough for a decision from the Scientific Advisory Board. In addition, please provide a highly intelligible lay summary of several paragraphs for presentation to non-scientists and prospective and current donors. A well thought out and tight rationale for a research project can easily lend itself to one page. The letter of intent may be submitted at any time to the FSH Society, attention: Dr. David Housman, Scientific Advisory Board Chairman. Please e-mail letter of intent to both David Housman (dhousman@mit.edu) and Daniel Paul Perez (daniel.perez@fshsociety.org) or fax or mail to address below.

Indirect costs are not allowed but fringe benefits are considered a part of personnel costs and are allowed.

Deadlines for receipt of both research grant, clinical grant, research- and post-doctoral- fellowship applications are: **February 28, 2018 and August 31, 2018.**

Payment if awarded, is made in two equal installments. The first payment is executed on the activation date. The second payment is executed six months after the beginning of the award period. A progress-to-date package will be sent to the FSH Society at the end of six months. The subsequent year of funding will not be activated prior to a review of the six-month progress reports and an explanation of changes that the work necessitates or changes in specific aims for the next year. The progress report is required at 6 months after the start of each award period.

Propagatable materials (including monoclonal antibodies, recombinant DNAs, animal models, cell lines, and any propagatable cells) should be freely available to other investigators following publication. The Society's position is that there be no restriction or proprietary rights in materials produced with our support.

+ GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Society's focus is on facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD).

Support will be for research projects that will contribute to identify and understanding the basic defect in FSHD and preclinical and translational research related to FSHD.

The range of awards for grants is between $7,500 and $125,000 per year with an average award being about $57,500. Grants are usually for one year, with the possibility of funding or renewal for up to three years.

In addition to its regular grants, the Society offers a special Delta Railroad Construction Grant for innovative proposals accelerating the discovery of a treatment and cure of Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy (FSHD). A Delta Award can be funded for one year for up to $75,000 per year.

**General areas of interest** include -- tissue, cell and molecular biology studies of FSHD, the development of animal models for FSHD, biomarkers and outcomes measurements and clinical trials readiness. Proposals are sought for research that helps with understanding of the genetic, pathophysiological, neuromuscular and developmental mechanisms of the disease. Further, there is interest in the development of cell, small-molecule and gene therapy, genomic engineering technologies and other therapeutic programs that may arise from that understanding.
Specific areas of interest, as highlighted in the FSH Society’s 2016 Annual International Research Consortium meeting in Boston, include --

Molecular mechanisms (understanding genetic toxicity in FSHD; Understanding Dux4 and how to silence it. How to silence the RNA; understanding what real pathophysiology is in FSHD; studying relationship to other markers and correlation between the expression and activity, transcriptional activity of DUX4).

Genetics and epigenetic (studies that focus on the uniformity in the genetic testing and the subgrouping of patients as so far as that is possible; understanding of the epigenetic regulation of the repeats helps us to better understand the disease process and the disease mechanism; Modifiers of the disease mechanism).

Clinical studies (surrogate outcome biomarkers, validated outcome measures; natural history studies; studies to identify, validate, and determine the best standard measurements are critical for trial preparedness in FSHD).

Models (research that helps focus to ensure that we are measuring the same kinds of things, that it does translate into a usable tool for our therapeutic industry; development, characterization and use of animal models - whole animal; mice; fish; pig and mammal; emphasis on cellular models; research on models to help develop precisely how you deliver, how you formulate, how you get the conceptual entity to the effective therapeutic use of the entity requires something that you can test).

As the Society has limited funds, grants that are funded are considered "seed money." If the project shows promise, it is hoped that other institutions will fund it thereafter. Generally the Society does not include salaries of the principal investigator. Indirect costs are not allowed, but fringe benefits are considered part of the personnel costs and are acceptable. Grant applications should be completed and forwarded in electronic form (pdf/Word) to the FSH Society. Grant applications and reference letters should be e-mailed to Daniel Paul Perez (daniel.perez@fshsociety.org) or faxed and/or mailed to address below.

If reprints are to be considered as part of the application, please provide in electronic format (pdf/Word).

A reference sheet is enclosed with each application for use by three or more applicant-selected personnel acquainted with the Postdoctoral-, Predoctoral-applicant’s relevant experience. Three (3) references or letters of support are required and may be from your own institution.

Applications are reviewed by two primary reviewers as well as by the FSH Society's Scientific Advisory Board. The Society will notify the applicant about the funding decision by letter only.

+ (POSTDOCTORAL-, PREDOCTORAL- and RESEARCH-), FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

Support will be for research fellowship projects that contribute to identifying and understanding the basic defect of FSHD and preclinical and translational research related to FSHD.

Indirect costs are not allowed but fringe benefits are considered part of personnel costs and are acceptable.

The range of awards for grants is between $7,500 and $70,000 per year with an average award being about $45,000. Funded fellowships may be requested for one, two or three years, subject to satisfactory progress reports at 6 months intervals.

A reference sheet is enclosed with each fellowship application for use by three or more applicant-selected personnel acquainted with the applicant’s relevant experience. Three (3) references are required and may be from your own institution.
Applications should be completed to include the applicant's curriculum vitae, plus that of the research sponsor, and forwarded in electronic form (pdf/Word) to the FSH Society. If reprints are to be considered as part of the application, please provide in electronic format (pdf/Word) for distribution.

The Society will notify the applicant about the funding decision by letter only.

If any questions, please contact:

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