

# Conquer Chiari Research Grant Guidelines 2010

## INTRODUCTION

These guidelines are intended to detail the Conquer Chiari Research Grant process. Conquer Chiari is committed to having a major positive impact on the lives of people suffering from Chiari and the pain and disability caused by these conditions. In support of this goal, the organization is issuing a call for research proposals in the specific area of Determining the Effectiveness of Physical Therapy for Chiari Related Neck, Shoulder, and Arm Pain and Disability.

## RESEARCH PRIORITIES

During the regular Conquer Chiari grant cycle (every two years) the organization is open to any and all ideas related to improving the experiences and outcomes of Chiari patients; however for the 2010 grant cycle, the organization is focused specifically on one area.

### *Special Focus Area*

In the 2010 grant cycle, Conquer Chiari is interested specifically in establishing the effectiveness of physical therapy programs for both long-term Chiari patients and patients who have recently undergone decompression surgery.

An overview of the type of research project that Conquer Chiari is interested in is provided with the call for proposals (Conquer Chiari Research Grant – Physical Therapy).

Priority will be given to proposals which demonstrate a clear path to widespread clinical impact and/or a fundamental improvement in the current state of scientific understanding. Priority will also be given to proposals which can demonstrate the potential to generate future funding outside this grant process, such as from Federal or private foundation grants.

Multi-center proposals are strongly encouraged.

If there is a question as to the relevance of a project idea, applicants are encouraged to discuss their project ideas with the organization prior to submitting a full application.

To discuss project ideas, please contact Rick Labuda via email at [director@conquerchiari.org](mailto:director@conquerchiari.org) or by phone at 724-940-0116.

## **GRANT DESCRIPTION**

### *Research Grant Structure*

Grant awards will be for a maximum of \$75,000 total with a maximum duration of two years.

### *Eligibility*

Applications are invited from any researcher with a Ph.D., M.D., or other equivalent professional degree, who is an employee in good standing at a recognized research institution.

It is hoped that this grant process will:

1. Encourage new researchers to focus on Chiari and the pain and disability it can cause
2. Encourage established researchers to transfer their knowledge, skills, and techniques to this area
3. Provide seed funding for researchers with novel ideas to generate the preliminary results and pilot data necessary to pursue NIH funding awards

### *Key Dates*

Call For Proposals: March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Applications Due: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Award Notification: August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Funding: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

### *Proposal Review*

Conquer Chiari has established a committee of qualified experts who will assess the proposals and make funding recommendations to the Boards of Directors. Final funding decisions will be made by the Boards of Directors.

Once the Boards of Directors have made their final funding decisions, applicants will be notified. An attempt will be made to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants, but this is not guaranteed. Upon award notification, the final terms of the grant award will be decided between the organization(s), the principal investigator, and the host institutions.

The proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

1. Sound theoretical basis for work, including prior research if available
2. Sound experimental design and methods
3. Qualifications of PI and co-investigators
4. Access to patient subjects if required
5. Quality of available research facilities and equipment
6. Originality of research idea
7. Alignment with the missions and goals of Conquer Chiari and/or Column of Hope
8. Clear path to clinical significance (including commercialization if necessary) and/or a fundamental advancement in understanding
9. Potential of research team and line of research to generate follow-on funding outside of this grant process

### *Human/Animal Subjects Approval*

Proper approval for the use of human/animal subjects from the host institution must be demonstrated prior to any monetary awards. In addition, a copy of the patient informed consent must be submitted prior to award.

If animal subjects are to be used in the project it is expected that the research will adhere to the host institution's guidelines for such use and that these guidelines:

- Ensure the humane treatment of animals during the course of the proposed work
- Follow, at a minimum, the guidelines established by the NIH
- Comply with any and all laws and regulations covering the use of animals in research

All work funded in whole or in part through this grant process is expected to comply with current laws regarding the privacy and confidentiality of individuals' health information, as defined in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and any other relevant State and Federal regulations.

### *Funding Guidelines & Limitations*

Proposed project budgets should adhere to the following guidelines:

- Funding for PI salary is limited to \$10,000. In addition, budgets for salaries shall follow the current NIH salary cap..
- Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the project's direct costs. The combined direct and indirect costs can not exceed \$75,000.
- Major equipment purchases must be justified, including an explanation of how the equipment will be used after the grant period
- Travel costs should be integral to the proposed experimental design and methods, necessary to achieve clinical impact and/or fundamental advancement in understanding, or be for the purpose of attending the Conquer Chiari Research Conference

### *Intellectual Property*

The Conquer Chiari Research Grant Program is intended to advance the missions and goals of the grantmaking organization and be of benefit to those affected by Chiari, syringomyelia, and related pain and disability. The grantmaking organization acknowledges that during the course of research supported, in whole or part, by the organization, that inventions may occur which constitute intellectual property and can be protected through patents, copyrights, etc.

It is the grantmaking organization's explicit wish that such inventions be administered in a way consistent with the purpose of this grant program, and in as timely a manner as possible. Therefore, unless otherwise requested by the host institution, title to such inventions shall reside with the host institution and/or the inventor(s), as per the host institution's intellectual property policy. If, however, the host institution does not have an established policy and procedure for administering such inventions, or chooses not to pursue the administration of an invention, the grantmaking organization retains the right to determine the disposition of the invention rights in question.

The grantmaking organization also recognizes that securing and protecting the rights involved in an invention may delay the publication and dissemination of information about the invention. Such a delay is acceptable only if the purpose of the delay is to administer the invention in a manner consistent with the missions and goals of the grantmaking organization and the purpose of this grant program. A delay in publication for this reason, however, shall at no time extend more than 6 months beyond the completion of the research grant without the express written consent of the grantmaking organization. It is expected that at no time shall researchers or the host institution allow commercial interests to come before or interfere with the scientific, medical, and academic interests of this program and the advancement of the missions and goals of the grantmaking organization.

Based upon the specifics of the proposed work, and in recognition of their support, the grantmaking organization may elect to negotiate a royalty sharing agreement, with the host institution, as justified by the amount of the grant award relative to the total cost of research resulting in the invention in question.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Conquer Chiari is interested in finding researchers who are willing to work collaboratively with in mind, it is expected that grant recipients will:

1. Attend and present their work at a Conquer Chiari Research Conference. This is required and applicants are encouraged to allocate appropriate funds for this in their project budget.
2. Provide Conquer Chiari end of year and final progress and financial reports within two months of the end of the funding year(s). Conquer Chiari may specify the format and content of such reports.
3. If requested, provide a summary of research progress suitable for general, non-technical audiences. This summary may take a variety of forms, such as a Word document, PowerPoint presentation, or video of work being done in the research facility. The release of such summaries will be coordinated with any planned publications in a professional journal.
4. Disseminate the results of their research through commonly accepted methods, such as journal publications and conferences. The grantmaking organization will be duly recognized as having provided funding in all such publications, conferences, etc.
5. Not issue any press releases or other statements intended for a general, non-scientific audience without giving advance notice, an opportunity to review, and the option to participate in such statements to the grantmaking organization.
6. Share and forward copies of all publications which result from the funded work, both during and after the grant period, to the grantmaking organization.
7. Make themselves available for a reasonable number of phone calls and discussions regarding the progress of the research, changes to the research project, and new ideas that may develop over the course of the project.
8. Notify the grantmaking organization of the intent to pursue patent(s) or copyright(s) based on the funded work.

## **APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Applicants should complete the Research Grant Application, keeping in mind the above Grant Guidelines and following the specific instructions on the Grant Application.

The completed Grant Application, along with supplemental information, such as an NIH style biosketch and research papers (maximum of 3), should be submitted via email to:

[director@conquerchiari.org](mailto:director@conquerchiari.org) with the Subject: Research Grant Application

Questions regarding the grant process, guidelines, application, or relevance of proposed work should be directed to [director@conquerchiari.org](mailto:director@conquerchiari.org) as well.