



## Request for Proposal 2022 - MPAN

### Introduction

Associazione Italiana Sindromi Neurodegenerative da Accumulo di Ferro (AISNAF, Italy), Hoffnungsbaum e.V. (HoBa, Germany), NBIA Disorders Association (NBIADA, USA), and Stichting IJzersterk (The Netherlands) intend to solicit the submission of research projects by investigators committed to advancing understanding of Mitochondrial-membrane Protein-Associated Neurodegeneration (MPAN) in order to pave the way to targeted treatments.

More specifically, the four Associations are interested in funding studies to:

- Uncover the structural and/or functional properties of C19Orf12 protein,
- Reveal the functional and molecular effects of various genetic mutations underlying MPAN,
- Develop new disease models or study existing ones to shed light on mechanisms.

It is required that research resources, including model organisms developed under this funding initiative must be shared. Please include a sharing plan in your proposal.

### Relevance

The proposal must clearly describe the impact on advancement of the MPAN research pipeline, what new knowledge will be achieved and how this will enable further studies.

Please note that proposals addressing subjects other than those mentioned above will be rejected without review.

### Budget

Funds are made available through contributions by all four organizations in the overall amount of USD 145,000. The following types of grant applications may be submitted:

- Up to USD 70,000 for a one-year project,
- Up to USD 145,000 for a two-year project.

Applicants may submit a grant application for either one or two years or both, to allow flexibility and consider the different needs of researchers. Multiple grant awards may be awarded if two one-year grants are considered most worthy of funding.

Applicants may contact the grant manager (see below) for further information and clarifications.

Budget may include: Reagents/Supplies, Services, Personnel (including PI's salary up to \$ 10,000), Other Expenses and indirect costs. Indirect costs are allowed up to a maximum of 10%.

*Researchers currently receiving MPAN research funding by any of the four associations are excluded from applying to this grant call.*

## Other Funding Sources

The strategy to secure subsequent funding must be presented. In all cases, it is expected that the results originating from this type of research will lay the basis of future proposals to larger funding agencies.

Please, provide statement that there is no funding overlap in monies requested from this grant call or explain in detail if such overlap exists and why funding is still essential from the funding organizations.

## Evaluation

The main review criteria comprise:

- scientific excellence
- expected impact focusing on knowledge advancement and new insights or approaches
- feasibility (i.e. institutional facilities, timeline, personnel, and budget)

The proposal will be evaluated by an ad hoc Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) made up of at least five independent experts. All possible conflicts of interest will be carefully evaluated beforehand. In addition, grant applicants are permitted to request a maximum of two specific reviewers be excluded from reviewing their proposal due to a conflict of interest. This request should be submitted at the same time as the submission of the proposal.

All reviewers will score the proposals with a score from 1 to 5 (1: poor–5: excellent) and will meet in a plenary session to discuss the applications and reach a consensus on the final ranking. Proposals will be ranked by their average score. These results will be sent to the funding associations whose board of trustees will then reach a consensus on which grant(s) to fund.

The applicant will receive written feedback at the end of the review process.

Reviewers will be bound to strict confidentiality about the matters that come to their knowledge during the review process.

## Grant agreement

Awardee and their Institution will be asked to sign a Grant Agreement (attached).

## Deadlines

Deadline for proposal submission	May 2, 2022
Anticipated award announcement	June 30, 2022
Project start date	July 2022 or later

## Further Information

- If the study involves humans, copies of the Informed Consent will be required, and if the study involves humans or animals the Institutional Review Board (Ethics Committee) approvals will be required before payment.
- All publications resulting from the research funded must acknowledge Associazione Italiana Sindromi Neurodegenerative da Accumulo di Ferro (AISNAF), Hoffnungsbaum e.V. (HoBa), NBIA Disorders Association (NBIADA), and Stichting Ijzersterk, and should be provided for dissemination when published.

- The funds will be disbursed in three instalments regardless of whether the project is for one or two years: 35% at start of project; 35% after six or twelve months following the submission of interim scientific and financial reports; 30% at the end of the project as documented by the final scientific and financial reports which will have to be submitted within three months of the end of the grant unless an extension is granted. Should the awardee not comply with this requirement the final payment may be forfeited.
- All research papers accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal and supported in whole or in part by the grant must be made available at NIH PubMed Central as soon as possible, and in any event within six months of publication, in line with an Open Access policy.

Please contact the grant manager at [grantmanager@sciencecompass.it](mailto:grantmanager@sciencecompass.it) with any questions regarding the grant call requirements.

## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

### ***Please follow instructions carefully***

#### Formatting guidelines

- Font: Times New Roman
- Type font: 12 points
- Spacing: Single-spaced between lines of text and double-spaced between paragraphs
- Length limitations: Character number limitations are section-specific and include spaces

#### Figures

Figures can be uploaded in the following sections: **Preliminary Results** and **Research Plan**. Graphs or charts can be placed here as well. Use high resolution pictures only for photographs that require details.

#### Proposal

Please use the attached template for submitting your proposal.

Proposal must contain all the following sections collated in **one** pdf file:

- 1. Cover Letter** (please use the attached form)
- 2. Principal Investigator** (please use the attached form for biosketch and bibliography)
- 3. Scientific information:**
  - I. Title of the proposal**
  - II. Abstract** (max 2000 chars). Organize the abstract into separate sections:
    - Broad objectives
    - Background and Rationale
    - Research design and methods for achieving the stated objectives
    - Relevance and Anticipated output
  - III. Lay summary** (max 5000 chars). Provide a description of the project avoiding the use of jargon, complex terms and phrases and use plain English. Focus on the significance of the research and how it will be instrumental for the design of novel disease-modifying therapies. Please make sure this Lay summary does not contain confidential information.

- IV. **Background and Rationale** (max 8000 chars). Present background information and a rationale for the proposed study plan using the scientific literature and previously published or preliminary data (if available).
- V. **Preliminary results** (max 5000 chars). In order to support your hypothesis, please provide any preliminary data produced in your lab that is pertinent to the proposed study.
- VI. **Research Plan** (max 12000 chars). List the Specific Aims of the project. Provide a clear description of each one and of the experimental plan to achieve them. Explain the aim for **collaborations**, if any. Provide a timeline for the different Specific Aims (Gantt chart or similar). For each aim include milestones and contingency plans. Also, when presenting the expected results please describe how the data/materials produced will be shared with the scientific community. Finally, please provide a rationale on how you will secure future funding to expand your results once this funding ends.
- VII. **Collaborations** (max 5000 chars). Please note that budget cannot be allocated for collaborators. If collaborations are envisaged, indicate who the collaborators are (specifying name and institution and providing a brief bio sketch) and describe the approaches each collaborator will bring to the overall study. *Please note that all listed collaborations must be supported by collaboration letters which must be attached to the proposal.*
- VIII. **Cited Literature** (max 20,000 chars). List all references. The list must include the names of all authors, year of publication, title, book or journal, volume number and page numbers.
- IX. **Host Institution**. Provide information about the facilities and resources available for you at the Host Institution, including lab and office space, major equipment and core facilities and services available. The Host Institution (HI) will be requested to sign a Grant Agreement upon confirmation of funding. A draft Grant Agreement is attached.
- X. **Budget**. The maximum budget allowed is currently USD 145,000 (one hundred forty-five thousand). Please arrange the budget into a table followed by a paragraph for budget description/justification. The table should list the following items and the related expenses in USD (use whole numbers only):
  - **Materials, Supplies, Services**: List by category: Services include items such as Animal Housing (justify the total no. of animals needed and the cost per diem), Sequencing, Peptide Synthesis, etc. Major cost items should be listed and properly justified.
  - **The salary of only one staff member** (postgraduate, postdoc, technician, etc.) The salary should be determined by the time spent dedicated to the project. A compensation of up to \$ 10,000 can be claimed to cover the time spent by the PI on this project, which does not preclude a full salary of another staff member.
  - **Other expenses**: i.e. publication costs, samples, animal shipments and others.Please note that the following costs are not covered:
  - Equipment of any type
  - **Indirect Costs**: allowed up to a maximum of 10%Please contact us if you feel you want to discuss different budget categories.
- XI. **Personnel**. List the people involved in the project indicating: name, surname, date of birth, degree, role on the project, type of contract at the Host Institution, end date of contract, if the salary has been requested, annual effort on the project (% of time).

**The final document must be a single pdf file composed of Proposal, Cover Letter, PI's Biosketch, possible Collaboration Letters. Name the file "2022 Dr XXX MPAN Grant Application" and email it to [grantmanager@sciencecompass.it](mailto:grantmanager@sciencecompass.it) no later than May 2, 2022, 24:00 CEST.**