

2021 Pilot Award – Request for Applications

Grants awarded through this RFA are intended to provide early support for exploratory ideas, particularly those with novel hypotheses for autism. Appropriate projects for this mechanism include those considered higher risk with less assurance of ultimate impact, but with the potential for transformative results.

Investigators new to the field of autism are encouraged to apply for these awards. The total budget of a Pilot Award is \$300,000 or less, including 20 percent indirect costs, over a period of up to two (2) years.

[Policies and Procedures](#)

LOI Deadline
May 6, 2021

Maximum Budget

Over Two Years
\$300,000

Important Dates

Application Available
March 10, 2021

LOI Deadline
May 6, 2021

LOI Notification
July 1, 2021

Full Proposal Deadline
August 12, 2021

Award Notification
October 28, 2021

Award Start Dates
December 1, 2021
January 1, 2022
February 1, 2022



The Simons Foundation uses an electronic grants submission process. All interested grant applicants must submit their applications online through [proposalCENTRAL](#).

The deadline for Letter of Intent submission is Thursday, May 6, 2021, 5:00 PM Eastern Time

Accessing the Letter of Intent Application in proposalCENTRAL:

Prospective applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) using the LOI application via [proposalCENTRAL](#) (pC). To start an application in pC, users must first login to their pC account.

If You Need to Create a New Account in pC

To create a new account, go to <https://proposalcentral.com/> (pC) and click "Create One Now." Fill in the required fields, check the boxes to agree to pC's "Terms of Service and Acceptable Use Policy" and then click "Save." For the next steps, see the "If You Have an Existing Account in pC" section below.

If You Have an Existing Account in pC

For all users with a pC account, log in under "Application Login" at <https://proposalcentral.com/> and select "Create a New Proposal" or click on the "Grant Opportunities" tab. Scroll down to "Simons Foundation" and then click "Apply Now" for the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative-Pilot Award program in order to start the proposal and access the templates. After all sections are completed, you will be able to click on the "Submit" button.

LOI Requirements and Submission Instructions

To submit a letter of intent (LOI), the following proposalCENTRAL sections must be completed:

1. **Title Page:** Please provide the following information
 - a. Project title
 - b. Estimated annual budget
 - c. Indicate use of Simons Collections biospecimens, data or participant recruitment.
 - d. Select a primary category. Please note a secondary category is not required.

2. **Download Templates & Instructions:** The following templates are available for download:
 - a. 2021 Pilot RFA Letter of Intent (LOI) Instructions
 - b. Simons Foundation Policies and Procedures

- c. 2021 Pilot RFA Request for Applications (RFA) Announcement
- d. Methodological and Statistical Considerations for SFARI Grant Proposals
- e. Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Models of Autism: Experimental Design Considerations
- f. Pilot RFA Specific Aims Page Template
- g. Pilot RFA Proposal Narrative Template
- h. Human Participants Study Information Sheet
- i. Investigational Compound Information Sheet
- j. Statement of Changes Template
- k. Biosketch Template
- l. Progress Report Template
- m. Renewable Reagents and Data Sharing Plan Template

3. **Enable Other Users to Access This Proposal:** Complete this section to give administrators or collaborators access and to allow other users to submit the LOI on your behalf.
4. **Applicant/PI:** The principal investigator (PI) should be listed here. For grants with multiple PIs, the contact PI should be listed here.
5. **Organization/Institution:** Enter the lead institution. Contact information for the signing official and financial/fiscal officer from your institution is required; select the correct person or enter new names in this
6. **Key Personnel:** Indicate key personnel, including but not limited to: principal investigators (not including the contact PI), co-investigators, consultants, postdoctoral research associates and others. In rare circumstances, the applicant organization may designate multiple individuals as PIs who share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. For more information on the responsibilities of PIs, please refer to the relevant questions in the [FAQ section](#).
7. **Attach Letter of Intent:** The following documents are to be uploaded in the “Attach Letter of Intent” section, where they are also available for download:
 - a. **Specific Aims Page:** The Specific Aims Page should not exceed one (1) page and should be a summary of the proposed project focused on the research aims of the project, including a concise rationale for the hypothesis, description of preliminary data and experimental approach, and impact on autism research.
 - b. **Proposal Narrative:** The Proposal Narrative should not exceed three (3) pages of single-spaced, size 11-point text, 0.5 margins. The Proposal Narrative should be considered an

expanded version of the Specific Aims Page and used to provide more detail on the following:

- 1) Relevant scientific background
- 2) Preliminary results when applicable
- 3) Specific aims
- 4) Experimental design
- 5) Pitfalls and alternative strategies
- 6) Project significance and relevance to autism
- 7) Timeline and milestones

Figures, figure legends and references should follow the narrative text and will **not** count towards the page limit. References should be in *Journal of Neuroscience* format, including full author list, title and a link to PubMed. Figures are limited to 10, each fitting on a single page. Please attach them at the end of the three-page narrative in the same PDF file.

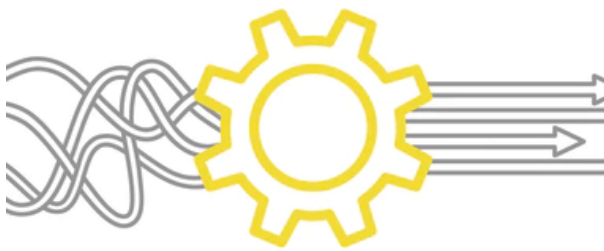
- c. **Human Participants Study Information Sheet:** Required only for investigators proposing to conduct human participant research/clinical studies.
 - d. **Investigational Compound Information Sheet:** Required only for investigators proposing to use investigational compounds or chemicals for which public information is not yet available.
 - e. **Statement of Changes Template:** Required only for investigators who are resubmitting an application previously submitted to SFARI.
 - f. **Biographical Sketches of Key Personnel**
 - g. **Progress Report:** Investigators currently receiving SFARI funding on science relevant for the current proposal should include a progress report in two (2) pages or less.
 - h. **Renewable Reagents and Data-Sharing Plan**
8. **PI Data Sheet:** Your professional profile will populate this section of the application. If revisions are required, select "Edit Professional Profile" and go to the "Personal Data for Applications" section. Please note that the contact PI's ORCID identifier ("iD") is required. Once the PI's ORCID iD is provided, you will be able to sync a limited amount of data from your ORCID account with your pC account.
 9. **Validate:** You must click the "Validate" button below to check for any missing required information or files. All missing required information will be listed on the screen. Please correct any missing information before proceeding to the next step.
 10. **Submit:** You will be unable to submit if you have not provided all the required information. Any missing information will be listed on the screen. If your submission is successful, you will receive a

confirmation message on the screen and a confirmation email will be sent to the applicant.

Review of applications

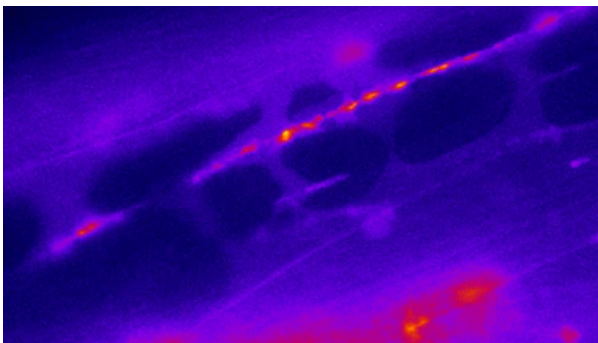
Each LOI is evaluated by at least two members of the SFARI science team, with additional advice from outside advisers as needed. A committee of peers will review applications at the full-proposal stage and make recommendations to the SFARI science team. A list of SFARI reviewers from previous years can be found [here](#). Applications will be judged on the excellence of science, relevance to autism and appropriateness of budget. The SFARI science team makes final funding decisions, taking into account the peer reviewer evaluations outlined above as well as programmatic and budgetary considerations.

Related Content



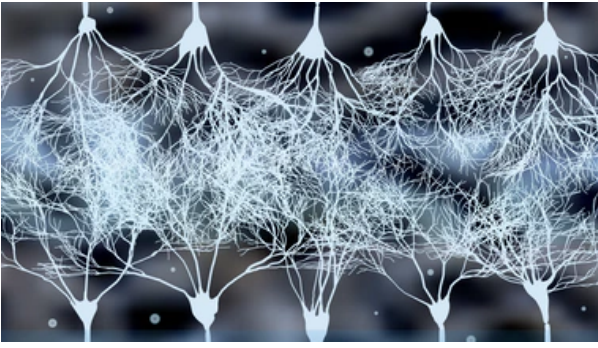
Blog

Updates to SFARI's 2021 requests for grant applications



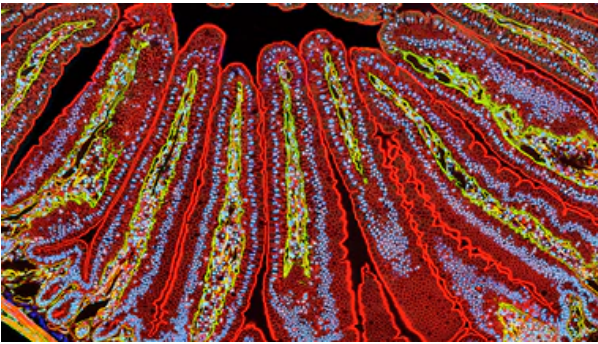
News

SFARI Summer 2020 Pilot awardees announced



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