Evaluating Candidates for ABTA Funding

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ABTA Research Grant Opportunities

Jack & Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowships
Three-month, $3,000 grants for medical students to conduct brain tumor research with esteemed scientist mentors during the summer term.

Discovery Grants
One-year, $50,000 grants for high risk, high impact research with the potential to change current diagnostic or treatment models.

Basic Research Fellowships
Two-year, $100,000 mentored grants for postdoctoral fellows to conduct lab or field-based research and establish their careers as brain tumor scientists.

Research Collaboration Grants
Two-year, $200,000 grants to promote team science and accelerate advancements in the brain tumor field.
Review Criteria: Criteria that is similar across all grant types

Research Question and Significance
• Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field of brain tumor research?

Scientific Merit and Feasibility
• Does the proposed hypothesis(es) comprehensively address the overarching research question(s)?

Investigator(s)
• Do they have appropriate research experience and training?

Resources
• Are the institutional support, equipment, and other resources necessary for the successful conduct of the proposed research clearly available to the Applicant/PI?

Impact
• Does the applicant explain clearly for a non-scientist how this project will have a significant impact on the brain tumor community?
Review Criteria: criteria that vary across grant types

Mentorship
• Do the mentor(s) have the research and training expertise and the time needed to develop and successfully implement the proposed research?

Grantsmanship
• Is the project narrative specific to the role the PI will have in the mentor’s lab?

Career Development Potential
• Does the Applicant/PI present a clear and feasible plan for developing the necessary research, scientific, management, and leadership skills needed to progress towards independence?

Innovation
• Does the proposed project challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies?

Project Team
• Do the PIs have the appropriate track record of accomplishments and leadership to successfully implement the proposed research and overcome obstacles that might arise?
Review Process

Peer Review

• Introductory call with reviewers
• Three reviewers per LOI (if applicable) and Full Application
• NIH Scale for scoring 1-9
• Select score for each criteria
• Select overall score – consider all criteria weighted equally
• Top-scoring applications discussed in the peer review meeting

Patient Advocate Review

• 1 – 2 training calls with reviewers
• One Patient Advocate per Full Application
• Can consider and comment on all individual criteria, but do not select a score
• Primarily consider potential for impact on patients
• Select overall score (NIH Scale 1-9)

All applicants receive all reviewer comments at all stages