

## About the American Lung Association Innovation Award

Since 1915, the American Lung Association Research Team has made significant contributions to the fight against lung disease by revolutionizing treatment and unlocking secrets of the body's immune system. We have funded breakthroughs in the fight against tuberculosis, identified genes that cause the development of lung cancer and cystic fibrosis, and developed innovative ways to treat respiratory distress syndrome. The American Lung Association nationwide research program is building on over a century of success as we continue to invest in the brightest, pioneering minds with immense potential to drive innovation, discover the unknown, and improve the lives of those living with lung disease.

## About the Funding Opportunity

**The Innovation Award is for \$75,000 per year, for up to two years.** The award is intended to support highly promising investigators with stellar track records of accomplishment, who have the potential to advance the field of lung disease science.

Successful applicants are investigators with evidence of prior excellence and productivity in the early stages of their careers; applicants must have held a K or R type award within three years prior to applying for this Lung Association award.

Grants are subject to annual review and may be granted for up to two years. The second year of support is contingent on demonstration of satisfactory progress, as well as, the availability of funding from the Lung Association.

## Key Dates

August 5, 2019	Applications accepted through <a href="#">proposalCENTRAL</a>
December 12, 2019	Deadline to submit an application is Thursday, December 12, 2019 (11:59 PM, Eastern Time)
February- April	Peer Review Period
June 30, 2020	Outcome notifications are sent to all applicants

## Important Notes

Applicants are limited to submitting only one application per annual cycle.

It is recommended that applicants submit projects to the appropriate Institutional Animal Care and Use of Committee (IACUC) and human subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the time of application or before. Copies of the approvals must be provided to the American Lung Association prior to the start of an award.

## Eligibility Requirements

### Citizenship

At the time of application, candidates must be United States citizens or foreign nationals holding one of the following visa immigration statuses: permanent resident (**Green Card**), exchange visitor (**J-1**), temporary worker in a specialty occupation (**H-1B**), Canadian or Mexican citizen engaging in professional activities (**TN**), Australians in Specialty Occupation (**E-3**) or temporary worker with extraordinary abilities in the sciences (**O-1**). At the time of application and throughout the award, an applicant must be employed by a U.S. institution.

### Experience and Productivity

At the time of application, the applicant must hold a doctoral degree and have a faculty appointment or equivalent with demonstrated institutional commitment (salary support, research space as evidenced by a Department Chair or equivalent letter) in a recognized academic or other not-for-profit research institution. The applicant's publication record should reflect significant scientific contributions. The applicant must have held a K or R level grant in the 3 years prior to the application.

Individuals who have been PI on two or more large federal research grants (even those with multiple PIs) in their career are not eligible to apply (examples of large federal grants are R01, U01, P01, and VA Merit). Note that being identified as a Co-Investigator does not count toward this restriction.

### Peer Review

Applications determined by administrative review to be eligible for funding will go through a rigorous external peer review process. Factors considered when reviewing applications include:

- Scientific merit, technical feasibility, innovation in approach, design and methodology;
- Applicant's education, experience, evidence of faculty status or permanent status and ongoing institutional commitment from the Department Chair (or equivalent); and
- The impact of the research on lung health and the likelihood that the applicant will make and continue to make significant contributions to the field.

**Use the below instructions to help assemble and submit your Research Plan**

Please note: Page limits, language and format requirements listed in the Language and Format Requirements must be adhered to in preparing your research plan. Not adhering to format and page limitations may result in an application being administratively withdrawn.

**Specific Aims:** State concisely the goals of the proposed research and summarize the expected outcome(s), including the impact that the results of the proposed research will exert on the research field(s) involved.

**The Specific Aims section must not exceed one (1) page.**

List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed, e.g., to test a stated hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm or clinical practice, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.

Aims must not be too general, such as “*To define the determinants of maximal expiratory flow,*” but rather “*To study the influence of static lung recoil on maximal flows.*” Your statement should be limited to what can be accomplished during the award period.

**Research Strategy:** Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order using the instructions provided below. Start each section with the appropriate section heading – Significance, Innovation and Approach. Cite published experimental details in the Research Strategy and provide the full reference in the References section. **Applicants are limited to 6 pages.**

**Significance**

- Explain the importance of the problem or critical barrier to progress in the field that the proposed project addresses.
- Explain how the proposed project will improve scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in one or more broad fields.
- Describe how the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field will be changed if the proposed aims are achieved.
- Explain how this research will impact your future goals or directions, as long as a clear distinction is made between your immediate and long-range plans.

**Innovation**

- Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms. This provides an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and ability in this area, and to synthesize large volumes of information into a succinct and cohesive statement.
- Describe any novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation or interventions to be developed or used, and any advantage over existing methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions. Clearly synthesize your own contributions to the field, and demonstrate your relative stature in the area.
- Explain any refinements, improvements, or new applications of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions.

**Approach**

- Explain why you have chosen to address a particular portion of the overall problem and why you have chosen a particular approach. Discuss your preliminary studies, data and/or experience pertinent to this application and specify all novel data.
- Describe the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses to be used to accomplish each of the specific aims of the project. For each aim, include how the data will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted (e.g., number of experiments, types of measurements to be made).
- Discuss potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success anticipated to achieve the aims. This should include discussion of what you will do if conflicting and contradictory data are obtained.
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address the management of any high risk aspects of the proposed work.

**Assurances:** State concisely how assurances will be met within the confines of the proposed research project. Assurances must not exceed two (2) pages.

**Human Subjects:** When human subjects or material obtained from such subjects are used in the proposed project, the application must state how the rights and welfare of the individual subjects are protected and assured. Include consent forms and questionnaires in appendix, if applicable. If the proposed research project involves human subjects, the population sampled shall be inclusive of the general population, of relevance to the scientific question posed, without restriction in regard to gender, race, age, and socioeconomic status. Proposals that intentionally restrict the population sampled must include a compelling scientific rationale for such design.

**Animal Use and Justification** When animals are used in the project, the application must include a succinct and complete description of the following five points:

- Provide a detailed description of the proposed use of the animals in the work outlined in the Research Strategy section. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and numbers of animals to be used in the proposed work.
- Justify the use of animals, choice of species and numbers to be used. If animals are in short supply, costly, or to be used in large numbers, provide an additional rationale for their selection and numbers.
- Provide information on the veterinary care of the animals involved.
- Describe the procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain, and injury will be limited to that which is unavoidable in the conduct of scientifically sound research. Describe the use of analgesic, anesthetic, and tranquilizing drugs and/or comfortable restraining devices, where appropriate, to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.
- Describe method of euthanasia to be used and the reasons for its selection. State whether this method is consistent with the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Guidelines on Euthanasia. If not, include a scientific justification for not following the recommendations.

#### **Biohazard Materials**

When biohazard materials, defined as recombinant, infectious and tumor selected agents (i.e. radioisotopes) that may be detrimental to normal organisms upon controlled exposure are used:

- Describe procedures that will be used to monitor possession, use and transfer of the Select Agent(s).
- Describe plans for appropriate biosafety, bio-containment and security of the Select Agent(s).
- Describe the bio-containment resources available at all performance sites.

**References:** **References must not exceed five (5) pages.**

**Appendix:** May contain additional and relevant material such as letters of support, questionnaires and/or consent forms. No other material such as preliminary data, photographs/images or publications, is allowed in the appendix. **The appendix is limited to 5 pages.**

#### **Part VIII. Department Head Statement Letter**

Please note: **A Department Head Letter on institutional letterhead is required.**

##### **Content of Department Head Statement:**

1. State the applicant's current and projected status during the initial term of the award.
2. State the applicant's faculty title and from what academic institution does the applicant currently hold his/her faculty appointment. **The Department Head Statement must be explicit as to whether or not the applicant currently holds a faculty appointment, and/or if the applicant will be promoted to faculty between the time of application and award commencement.**
3. State the applicant's future path at your institution and plan for academic development.

4. State your department's financial and space commitment to the applicant's career, and to the American Lung Association's project being submitted.
5. Describe the intellectual environment and your involvement in the applicant's award.
6. Guarantee that the budget does **not** overlap with any existing or pending support of the application's collaborations (including NIH-type other support information, from all collaborating scientists).
7. State minimum percent of overall effort and guaranteed time to be protected for research.