

The frequently asked questions (FAQs) aim to cover topics related to the Arthritis Foundation Delivering on Discovery Request for Proposal (RFP).

ONLINE SUBMISSION QUESTIONS

Where do I submit my proposal?

Proposals must be submitted online through proposalCENTRAL. New users first need to create a user account on proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/>). For all users, log in and select "Create New Proposal" or click on the "Grant Opportunities" tab. Filter the Grant Maker by "Arthritis Foundation" and click on "Apply Now" next to the "Delivering on Discovery" program. Once all sections are complete and the attachments are uploaded, the "Submit" button will be activated.

How do I create a proposalCENTRAL user account?

Go to [proposalCENTRAL](https://proposalcentral.altum.com/) and click "REGISTER" under "First Time Users." Fill in the required fields, check the boxes to agree to proposalCENTRAL's "Terms of Service and Acceptable Use Policy" and then click "Save."

Can someone else (assistant, staff member, etc.) submit my proposal for me?

Yes, you can add users with administrator access to proposalCENTRAL so that someone other than the Principal Investigator (PI) can edit and submit the proposal. To add another user, go to Section 3, "Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal," and complete the required fields.

Is validating my proposal the same as submitting it?

No. "Validating" the proposal checks for errors and omissions and will alert you to missing requirements of proposal. If the proposal is complete, you must then click "Submit."

Where is the "Submit" button?

The "Submit" button is located in the last section of the proposal. You will be unable to submit if you have not provided all the required information. If the problem persists, please contact pcsupport@altum.com.

Is there a confirmation email when I submit?

A confirmation email is sent upon submission of the proposal. Please contact pcsupport@altum.com if you submitted your proposal and have not received a confirmation email within 10 minutes. Make sure that spam filters allow emails from pcsupport@altum.com.

Am I required to send any documentation by mail or email?

No, all proposal documents, including signature pages must be submitted electronically through proposalCENTRAL.

PROPOSAL QUESTIONS

What are the delivering on discovery priorities?

The following scientific discovery themes are priorities:

- Understanding causation (genetics, infectious, injury, environmental, other)
- Prevention (behavioral interventions, clinical interventions, other)
- Faster diagnosis (biomarkers, telemedicine, other)
- Healing bone and cartilage damage
- Reducing and eliminating inflammation
- Measuring and improving treatment efficacy (biomarkers, pain, fatigue, other)

What disciplines are encouraged to apply? Beginning or advanced scientists?

Everyone is encouraged to apply. There are no exclusions.

The Arthritis Foundation is seeking to engage creative minds across scientific disciplines — including those who have not previously taken part in arthritis research — to work on solutions that could lead to breakthrough advances to find a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases. Receiving advisement across scientific disciplines and/or partnering across disciplines can result in research that accomplishes a specific scientific goal that otherwise would not be realized by any single discipline. Anyone or any team with a bold idea that shows great promise can submit one or more proposals. The Arthritis Foundation is committed to seeking out and funding not only established researchers in science and technology, but also young investigators, entrepreneurs and innovators. This will strengthen the pipeline of research ideas to find a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases. LOI submission is not required to respond to this RFP.

What writing level is encouraged for the RFP -?

Follow the proposal instructions and templates. It is important that ideas are communicated clearly for a diverse audience to understand.

Are international investigators allowed to submit a proposal?

Proposals submitted by international investigators must be designed to benefit people with arthritis in the United States. International investigators are encouraged to collaborate with U.S.-based investigators.

May I submit more than one proposal?

Anyone or any team with a bold idea that shows great promise can submit one or more proposals.

What is the award amount and project duration?

Proposals are not restricted to a predetermined cost limit. The requested budget must be justified and appropriate to the scope of the research proposed. The duration of the award is flexible based on the scope of the proposal. The proposed research must be completed no later than August 31, 2020.

Are indirect costs allowed?

Yes, indirect costs are not to exceed 8% per year are allowed.

How many proposals will be funded?

An estimated \$5,000,000 in multi-year awards may be approved for new Delivering on Discovery projects based on the evaluation criteria provided in the RFP. There is not a predetermined number of awards to be funded.

When will funding notifications be available?

Award notices will be available August 2015.

Who is on the selection committee?

The reviewers will be subject matter experts who do not have conflicts of interest and will be selected based on the subject matter content contained within the proposals received.

Will I receive feedback regarding my proposal?

Upon request, the Science Department will send score information, critiques and award notifications via email.

Did I need to submit an LOI to be eligible to respond to this RFP?

LOI submission is not required to respond to this RFP.

If I submitted an LOI, how can I learn if it's in alignment with the priorities of the RFP?

If you submitted an LOI and would like to know if it is in alignment with the Scientific Strategy, please contact the Arthritis Foundation Science Department at AFScience@arthritis.org.

Is basic research eligible to be funded under this RFP?

Each submission will align with one or more of the below stages of the scientific discovery continuum ([Arthritis Foundation Scientific Strategy 2015-2020](#), Figure 1).

- Basic science
- Clinical studies
- Population health surveillance and studies
- Systematic reviews/synthesis
- Points of care/decision making

Do I need to be part of a large team to apply? Or can I be an individual?

Anyone or any team with a bold idea that shows great promise can submit one or more proposals.

If there are synergistic proposals submitted, the Arthritis Foundation will contact investigators to encourage collaboration. Applicants may be contacted by the Arthritis Foundation with suggestions to collaborate with a specific organization or to add a specific expertise to their team. Proposals may receive a request to resubmit a revised proposal incorporating the suggested changes for the purpose of accelerating finding a cure and for responsible use of funds.

What Arthritis Foundation funding mechanism is appropriate for scientific research proposal submissions from young investigators?

The Delivering on Discovery RFP is the appropriate mechanism. The Arthritis Foundation is committed to seeking out and funding not only established researchers in science and technology, but also young investigators, entrepreneurs and innovators. This will strengthen the pipeline of research ideas to find a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases.