



**Arthritis Foundation Science Department
Delivering on Discovery
Request for Proposals (RFP)**

DELIVERING ON DISCOVERY

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was informed by more than 200 letters of interest received by the Arthritis Foundation in September 2014. The Arthritis Foundation is requesting proposals for scientific projects that show promise to achieve a faster cure for arthritis and related diseases. The Arthritis Foundation is particularly interested in expediting movement between basic research to patient-centered research to population-based research to point of care; and improving clinical decision making and health outcomes at point of care through the use of new products, tools, and technologies for people across the lifespan with arthritis and related diseases. When appropriate, develop your proposal with involvement of people with arthritis and their caregivers.

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

Each submission will align with one or more of the below scientific discovery themes that emerged from the letters of interest submitted.

- 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)

WHO MAY SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

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.

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. 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.

AMOUNT OF AWARD

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.

The award may be used to cover the cost of salaries, consumable supplies, equipment, travel, and other items to conduct the proposed research. Indirect costs not to exceed 8% per year are allowed.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The Arthritis Foundation requires proposals to be submitted electronically, through proposalCENTRAL (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com>). The proposal should be written on the provided Arthritis Foundation Template in size 10 Arial font, and single-spaced in English. Margins must be 1" all around. Proposal submissions that are incomplete, late or do not adhere to formatting requirements may not be reviewed. The **signed signature page** (with original signatures from the applicant and signing official) must be *scanned and uploaded* into the online proposal in the Appendices section.

For questions regarding the Delivering on Discovery RFP instructions or 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. For technical assistance with proposalCENTRAL, please call 1.800.875.2562.

SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals will first be administratively reviewed for responsiveness to the RFP template. Proposals that do not fully respond to the RFP template will be administratively withdrawn and will not be reviewed or scored. Proposals that do meet the requirements will undergo an accelerated peer review process in which proposals are scored according to scientific merit and responsiveness to the RFP. The proposal template is designed to be in alignment with the evaluation criteria. Each proposal will be reviewed by three subject matter experts (i.e., scientist, engineers, clinicians, and people with arthritis, etc.) who do not have conflicts of interest for the following evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Description
Significance (25%)	The proposal is in alignment with <i>Pillar 1: Delivering on Discovery</i> of the Arthritis Foundation Scientific Strategy 2015-2020 , Figure 2.
Innovation (25%)	The proposal challenges existing paradigms and presents an innovative hypothesis and/or addresses a scientific gap, accelerates translational research, removes barriers and/or catalyzes the development of the field of arthritis and related diseases. The proposal develops or employs novel concepts, approaches, methods, tools, and/or technologies.
Scientific Approach (25%)	The proposal purpose should be clearly stated. The scientific rationale, methods, and implications must be presented in a logical manner. Each delivering on discovery proposal should take a systematic approach to gather scientific information and produce one or more deliverables. Each proposal should include the measurement of metrics that matter to be accountable and effective while strengthening our mission-driven culture and maximizing return on philanthropic investment. When appropriate, indicate how the proposed study will engage people with arthritis or collaborate with other organizations in the scientific discovery continuum.
Plan for Translation (25%)	A key to delivering on discovery is that each team — no matter the stage of scientific discovery — has a plan for translation of scientific knowledge into the products people need to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases. The proposal will describe what success looks like. Assuming success the proposal will include a plan for accelerating the translation of the scientific discovery to the point of care.

As supplemental material, applicants are encouraged to include selected content in the appendices as a reference for reviewers. However, appendices are not required to be read by the reviewers and will not directly influence the evaluation.

NOTIFICATION

Accelerated peer review will take place during the months of May through July 2015. Award notices will be available August 2015. Upon request, the Science Department will send score information, critiques and award notifications via email. 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.

Milestone	Date
RFP Release	March 31, 2015
Submission Deadline	May 12, 2015 (5:00 PM Eastern)
Administrative and Peer Review	May – July 2015
Funding Notification	August 2015
Funding Will Begin	September 2015

FUNDING SOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Funds of the Arthritis Foundation are obtained principally from donations. The amount available for scientific awards each year is determined by the success of the fundraising efforts. Funds for awards are also derived from partnerships established by the Arthritis Foundation, with other groups with interest in scientific topics funded in the Arthritis Foundation scientific portfolio. Awardees are expected to give back to the Arthritis Foundation by donating and raising funds, disseminating scientific findings, and participating in other activities in support of the mission of the Arthritis Foundation (including engagement in local, regional, and national events). Please see our patent and intellectual property policy for guidance in how Arthritis Foundation awardees' success is reinvested in scientific discovery. Awardees are expected to notify the Arthritis Foundation of accomplishment made possible by the Arthritis Foundation funding. The award mechanism will be delivering on discovery contracts. Each contract will be negotiated on a case by case basis. This approach to scientific discovery reinforces that scientific funding from the Arthritis Foundation is an investment, not a gift.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Personnel compensated in whole or in part with funds from the Arthritis Foundation are not considered employees of the Foundation. Institutions shall be responsible for issuing the appropriate Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax filings for all individuals receiving compensation from Grantor's funds hereunder, and shall be responsible for withholding and paying all required federal and state payroll taxes with regard to such compensation.

SCIENTIFIC CONDUCT AND INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD APPROVAL

The Arthritis Foundation does not assume responsibility for the conduct of the investigation or the acts of the investigator since both are under the direction and control of the awardee and subject to the awardee's medical and scientific policies. Awardees must safeguard the rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities by reviewing proposed activities through an Institutional Review Board (IRB) as specified by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office for Protection from Research Risks (OPRR). In addition, awardees must adhere to current U.S. Department of Health and Human Services guidelines regarding financial conflict of interest, recombinant DNA, biohazards, research misconduct, and vertebrate animals.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SOLICITATION

The Arthritis Foundation reserves the right to reject any and all proposals received in response to this solicitation, and is in no way bound to accept any proposal. Issuance of this request for proposals does not constitute an award commitment on the part of Arthritis Foundation, nor does it commit the Arthritis Foundation to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposal.

Counterparts. This Application may be executed in counterparts in the event of multiple applicants, each of which shall be deemed an original, but which together shall constitute one and the same Application. This Application, to the extent signed and delivered by means of electronic reproduction (e.g., portable document format (.pdf) or other scanned version), shall be treated in all manner and respects as an

original and shall be considered to have the same binding legal effects as if it were the original signed version thereof delivered in person. At the request of the Foundation, the Applicant shall re-execute original forms thereof and deliver them to the Foundation.

POLICY

Name: **Use of Animals in Biomedical Research**

Recommended by: **Research Advisory Council**

Adopted/Revised: **November 17, 2007**

Approved by: **Board of Directors**

The Arthritis Foundation is committed to the support and encouragement of biomedical research in order that new knowledge may be discovered, which will lead to more effective treatment and diagnosis and eventually to the cure and prevention of all forms of arthritis and the rheumatic diseases.

The Arthritis Foundation recognizes the absolute necessity to use animals in medical research in order to avoid the direct testing of new research on humans, before safety and effectiveness have been established by biological models. The advantages provided by animals include models of disease processes, great variability, genetic control, rapid reproduction of generations, and large numbers of subjects, which can be economically kept. The Foundation strongly opposes excessive and inflexible restrictions of the use of laboratory animals in research.

Prior to supporting the research in which animals are used, the Arthritis Foundation must be assured of adherence to the following principles and conditions.

1. Animals shall be used in biomedical research only when no other means of obtaining scientifically sound, valid and useful results are available.
2. The minimum number of appropriate animals required to obtain and validate results shall be used.
3. The acquisition, care and use of animals must be in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
4. Certifications must be received from research facilities prior to being approved for a research grant that the facility(ies), its researchers and employees adhere to the Animal Welfare Act, National Research Council *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, and any appropriate U.S. Department of Agriculture or National Institutes of Health regulations and standards.
5. In cases requiring the death of an animal, only the most appropriate and humane form of euthanasia shall be used consistent with the purpose of the research.

POLICY

Name: **Patent and Intellectual Property**
Recommended by: **Research Committee**
Adopted/Revised: **November 16, 1996**
Approved by: **Board of Trustees/House of Delegates**

The following Patent and Intellectual Property Policy of the Arthritis Foundation will be adhered to by, and is binding on, all Grantee Institutions, their assignees, and Awardees as defined herein. Acceptance of the award by the Grantee Institution and Awardee constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions outlined herein.

I. DEFINITIONS

1. The term "Foundation Supported Intellectual Property" as used in this policy means all data, information, inventions, formulas, techniques, processes, concepts, systems, protocols, programs or devices (electrical, electronic or mechanical), whether or not patentable, or subject to copyright or trade secret protection, that are created, made, developed, or perfected by the Grantee Institution, its assignee, or Awardee with support by the Arthritis Foundation.
2. The term "Grantee Institution" as used in this policy means the parent institution in which the Awardee holds a position, which is responsible for administering the award, and is signatory for all matters relating to the award, including use of human subjects, animals, recombinant nucleic acid, safety, and Patent and Intellectual Property Policy of the Arthritis Foundation.
3. The term "Awardee" as used in this policy means the principal investigator or primary recipient of an Arthritis Foundation award or grant.

II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

4. Notification, Cooperation and Confidentiality

The Grantee Institution or its assignee and Awardee will notify the Research Department of the Arthritis Foundation at the earliest practical time of any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property and will further notify the Arthritis Foundation whether the Grantee Institution or its assignee intends to pursue patent application or copyright protection of the Foundation Supported Intellectual Property. The Grantee Institution or its assignee will consider seriously and in good faith, any comments or objections the Arthritis Foundation may have concerning such patent application or copyright protection and agrees to the provisions as stated in paragraph 9, below. The Foundation agrees to keep all such patent application or copyright protection information confidential and not to release any information relating to such patent application or copyright protection while prosecution is pending.

5. Ownership Rights

If the Grantee Institution has a patent or intellectual property policy or procedure that requires employees, private contractors or agents to assign their ownership rights to the Grantee Institution or its assignee and such policy or procedure is binding on the Awardee, then the Grantee Institution may pursue patent protection for any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property. If the Grantee Institution

does not have such a policy or procedure, if there is no Grantee Institution, or if the Grantee Institution or its assignee chooses to suspend or abandon the pursuit of a patent or other legal protection for any reason, or is unsuccessful in the commercialization of any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property, then the Awardee and the Grantee Institution or its assignee, as applicable, will assign, if the Arthritis Foundation requests such assignment in writing within 90 days of notification, all of whatever right, title and interest they may have in the Foundation Supported Intellectual Property and in any patents or patent applications or copyright protection thereon to the Arthritis Foundation, provided, however, that if the invention results in part from federally-sponsored research, any such assignments to the Foundation require the prior approval of the federal granting agency. In the absence of such approval, Grantee Institution shall not be required to assign such inventions and rights to the Foundation. However, the Awardee and the Grantee Institution or its assignee shall have a perpetual, royalty-free right to use Foundation Supported Intellectual Property for educational, research, and academic purposes. The costs of prosecution of any patent application or copyright protection shall be borne by the party prosecuting same.

6. Distribution of Income

If the Grantee Institution or its assignee obtains and retains the rights to the Foundation Supported Intellectual Property as stated in paragraph 5 above, then the distribution of any income derived from such property, including any equity dispositions, shall be according to the policies of the Grantee Institution. When income exceeds \$250,000, there shall be a distribution of income or equity distribution to the Arthritis Foundation reasonably related to the Foundation's proportion of support, unless such distribution is prohibited under applicable federal or state law. Whenever income is received by a Grantee Institution which would otherwise be sharable with the Arthritis Foundation under this Policy, but the Grantee Institution determines that distribution of such income is prohibited by applicable federal or state law, the Grantee Institution shall notify the Arthritis Foundation of (i) the amount of income received and the periods during which it has been received; (ii) the proportion of the Arthritis Foundation's support in the creation, etc. of the Foundation Supported Intellectual Property, or the Grantee Institution's most reasonable estimate thereof and the basis for such estimate; and (iii) the specific provision of federal or state law which the Grantee Institution believes prohibits distribution of a proportionate part of the income to the Arthritis Foundation.

7. Licenses

Any licenses made by the Grantee Institution or its assignee for any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property shall include terms similar to the following, as appropriate to the licensee, obligating the licensee to use its best efforts to commercialize any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property:

The licensee agrees to exert its best efforts to commercialize or cause to be commercialized the [Foundation Supported Intellectual Property] as rapidly as practical, consistent with sound and reasonable business practices and judgment. In the event that the licensee has failed to commercialize the [Foundation Supported Intellectual Property] within a number of years determined to be reasonable for the [Foundation Supported Intellectual Property], the Grantee Institution or its assignee upon conferring with the Foundation shall have the right to convert an exclusive license to a non-exclusive license or to terminate a non-exclusive license. If the licensee has an ongoing and active research, development, manufacturing, marketing or licensing program as appropriately directed toward the production and sale of the [Foundation Supported Intellectual Property], the same would be deemed to be sufficient evidence that the licensee has commercialized the [Foundation Supported Intellectual Property].

8. Publicity

The Arthritis Foundation reserves the right to publicize Arthritis Foundation supported research. The Foundation will provide the Grantee Institution and the Awardee prior notice and an opportunity for comment on any such public acknowledgment. The Arthritis Foundation name and logo, however, may not be used in association with any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property without prior approval of

the Foundation.

9. Use by Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation may have the use of any Foundation Supported Intellectual Property the ownership of which was retained by the Grantee Institution or its assignee under paragraph 5 above, notwithstanding the grant of any exclusive license under paragraph 7 above, without payment of royalties or fees, but solely for use within the Foundation for research and non-commercial purposes by its Awardees via materials transfer agreement or confidential disclosure agreement.