

Fresco Clinical Research Grant Request for Applications (RFA)

The Marlene and Paolo Fresco Institute for Parkinson's and Movement Disorders at NYU Langone Health (FI-NYU) is seeking applications to advance our understanding of clinical care for Parkinson's disease (PD) and to encourage clinician scientists to pursue research into advancing clinical care with specific relevance for Parkinson's patients. Our **Clinical Research Grant Program** is focused on clinical outcomes of innovative and best care practices for Parkinson's disease at Movement Disorder Centers that have been designated Fresco Network Centers ("Center").

The Fresco Network (FN) is supported by the USA-Italy Bridge program to improve patient outcomes by bringing together the best clinical practices. In our efforts to realize this goal, this grant program will be administered by the FI-NYU but it will fund research conducted in Europe exclusively. The Fresco Clinical Research Grant will provide support for up to three years of funding for a research plan whose Principal Investigator (PI) is part of a Fresco Center. We will also accept applications reflecting research collaboration between FN Centers or between an FN Center and a non-FN institution.

Each FN can participate to one project only and cannot submit more than one proposal.

Focus Areas

Applicants may request research support for any of the following focus areas:

1. Population health-related projects. Research focused on clinically-defined segments of the Parkinson's disease patient population. Population health projects should be interdisciplinary, focus on modifying behavior outside the clinic, and may have a policy or public health component. Proposals must include the following elements: a defined target group, a well-designed protocol that defines primary and secondary outcomes and includes a valid control, and an impact statement.
2. COVID19-related projects. Research focused on drawing insight from the COVID19 experience to inform future care decisions thus providing generalizable insights for ordinary Parkinson's care. Examples include but are not limited to treatment of pneumonia in patients with Parkinson's disease, insight from the telemedicine experience, and insights drawn from limitations to care during modified pandemic operations.
3. Identification and translation of innovative care processes nationally and internationally. Research designed to inform the dissemination of best practices already adopted within a Fresco Network center to the broader Parkinson's care community. Projects may focus on collecting evidence to support replication of a care process at independent centers and validation of outcome impact through systematic evaluation, or other rigorous research-based expansion or replication efforts. Note that projects must include a well-designed experiment including systematic, outcome-focused data collection to be eligible under this RFA.

All projects are expected to lead to high impact publications.

Eligibility

This RFA is open to FN Center investigators only, independently or in collaboration with other FN or non-FN Centers. Furthermore, researchers or medical doctors under the age of 40 before the day of submission ("Applicant") from a Fresco Center, a Center's parent institution or affiliated institutions are eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator.

Award Details

FI-NYU will award one Fresco clinical research grant. Applications must meet the following criteria:

- The Applicant must meet eligibility criteria and apply to conduct research in one of the specified focus areas.
- The Applicant must dedicate 20% (one day a week) or more of their full-time effort to the research.
- Applications will be evaluated based on assessment of the following criteria:
 - Alignment of the proposed research to the identified focus area;
 - Academic and scientific excellence of the proposed research; Achievable, rigorous research plan for three years or less with high probability of impacting clinical care of Parkinson's disease and leading to new avenues of clinical and pre-clinical investigation;
 - Track record of the research team in completing high-quality, high-impact research, and authorship of well-regarded scientific papers;
 - Institutional environment conducive to the proposed research program.

Applicants may request up to \$200,000 (USD) and funds will be dispersed on an annual basis to each center subject to continued satisfactory performance as assessed from annual progress reports submitted by the awardee to FI-NYU. The funds can be used to provide salary support as well as research supplies or other research needs, excluding travel expenses to congresses. No indirect costs or overhead will be paid from the grant. The first payment will be sent upon return of the executed grant award agreement. If the proposed work can no longer be carried out by the awardee for reasons including the departure of the named investigator from the Center, FI-NYU reserves the right to require the return of any unpaid grant funds.

Awardees will be required to submit annual progress reports and an institutional financial statement to FI-NYU. The annual report must be sufficiently detailed for FI-NYU to assess the progress against milestones, research findings, and use of funds.

Application and Submission Information

Section	What to include:	Page Limit
Research Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific aims (1 page). 2. Background and significance of the proposed work, including its relevance to and potential impact (1-2 pages). 3. Detailed explanation of experiments proposed, hypotheses to be tested, and anticipated results and annual goals for each center involved (3-4 pages). 	7
Budget	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Narrative budget justification (salary support, and all other expenses); 2. Annual budgets. 	2
Applicant and research team	Brief descriptions of the applicant and members of the research team.	2
Institutional Support Letter	<p>The institution must provide a statement that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Description of research facilities, equipment, resources, and training available to support the proposed research. 2. Approval of the budget. 	2
Biosketches	Applicant's and collaborators' biosketches should include education records, research positions, relevant publications, and other relevant professional history (see NIH format).	4
Letters of support	Include any letters of support to strengthen the application. If necessary, such letters should address possible concerns about feasibility, access to facilities or ability to meet recruitment goals.	

Submission Dates and Times

Application Deadline: March 29, 2021 6 pm EST. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications before the due date. Applications should be submitted in English. Applicants are responsible for reviewing their application for accuracy and completeness prior to submission.

Submit applications to: FI-Neuroscience@nyumc.org and Monica.Norcini@nyulangone.org and cc: Luis.Duarte@nyulangone.org



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Review and Selection Process

All applications will undergo scientific and administrative reviews by a committee appointed by the NYU-FI leadership that will also consider overall funder priorities. The evaluation will be based on the criteria noted above.

Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

We anticipate announcing awards within three months from the submission deadline.