



## AMERICAN SIDS INSTITUTE RESEARCH GRANTS REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTENT

The American SIDS Institute invites qualified investigators to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a research grant related to sudden unexpected infant death (SUID). Applicants must have a faculty appointment or the equivalent at a U.S.-based university, hospital, research institution, or medical examiner office. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, pathology, physiology, neonatology, cardiology and epidemiology. The intent of this funding opportunity is to support innovative research leading to subsequent extramural grant funding regarding SUID or related causes of sudden unexpected death. Priority will be given to research proposals related to one of the top ten research priorities identified by the Global Action and Prioritization of Sudden Infant Death (GAPS) Project. These include:

1. Physiological mechanisms leading to death and how they interact with behavioral risk factors, e.g. prone (front)-sleeping.
2. The role of genetic factors in SUID.
3. Social and cultural factors affecting parental choices in sleep practices and responses to risk reduction campaigns.
4. Role of abnormal or immature brain anatomy and physiology.
5. Systematic collection and sharing of death scene data from SUID and non-SUID deaths to allow better case control studies
6. How infants control oxygen desaturation and arousal to allow a better understanding of SUID mechanisms.
7. Mechanisms for SUID at different ages.
8. Developing and evaluating new ways to make safe sleep campaigns more effective.
9. Identifying specific biomarkers to differentiate between natural causes, accidental asphyxia, and SIDS.
10. Better understanding of the risks of sharing any sleep surface with an infant, notably how it interacts with other factors, including feeding practices, to make it more or less risky.

Proposals related to the study of sudden unexpected intrauterine death, sudden death in children, or sudden death in epilepsy may also be responsive. However, applicants will need to clearly explain how their proposal will advance the understanding of SUID. Although priority will be given to human studies, animal studies may be responsive if justified based on an animal model relevant to the research priorities listed above. Proposals for the development of new physiologic monitoring equipment or devices to facilitate safe sleep position or reduction of other sleep environment-related risks will not be considered.

### AMERICAN SIDS INSTITUTE FUNDING MECHANISMS

Investigators may request approval to submit either a Small Grant Award or a Scholar Award. For both awards, the highest priority will be given to investigators who have had a full-time faculty or equivalent professional appointment for <5 years.

#### Small Grant Award

Small grant awards are intended to be self-contained studies with a well-defined targeted hypothesis, or providing pilot data for a subsequent larger study. Budgets may include technical salary support, but investigator salary support and indirect costs may not be requested. Awards will be for 2 years, and limited to a total of \$70,000.

Scholar Awards are limited to investigators who completed their professional education or training <5 years ago. The goal is to advance a career as an independent SUID-related investigator. Priority will

be given to applicants with prior research experience, although not necessarily in the same field. Preliminary data are desirable, but not required. Budgets may include up to 20% for investigator salary support in addition to technical salary support, but indirect costs may not be included. Awards will be for 2 years and limited to a total of \$150,000.

## **LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) PROPOSAL**

The proposal is limited to 3 pages, and needs to include the following:

1. Title of proposal and name of P.I.
2. Specify whether requesting a Small Grant or a Scholar Award, and include the rationale for the funding mechanism requested.
3. Statement addressing how the research project fits into the applicant's career goals.
4. Specific aims and hypotheses.
5. Background
6. Preliminary data (if available)
7. Approach.
8. Anticipated outcomes and how this research will advance the knowledge base of SUID

**ADDITIONAL CONTENT** (in addition to the 3-page proposal):

1. Current CV
2. Letter of support from the research or administrative supervisor, including assurance that the applicant will have sufficient protected research time for successful and timely completion of the project.

## **SUBMISSION OF LOI**

The LOI including the proposal and other required items should be submitted as email attachments to the American SIDS Institute at: [research@sids.org](mailto:research@sids.org).

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LETTER OF INTENT: SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

Submitted LOI will be evaluated by the American SIDS Institute Research Advisory Council. In addition to scientific merit, reviewers will also consider:

1. Responsiveness to requirements for the requested funding mechanism
2. For Scholar Grant applicants, potential for establishing the investigator as an independent researcher related to SUID and the GAPS priorities
3. Potential for subsequent extramural research funding
4. Potential for subsequent peer-review publication

Applicants with well-defined, high priority LOI proposals will be invited to submit a research grant application for the specified funding mechanism.

## **AMERICAN SIDS INSTITUTE CONTACT**

We encourage inquiries and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

Email: [bmcentire@sids.org](mailto:bmcentire@sids.org)

Telephone: 239-431-5425