



ANNOUNCES

THE 2010

GINA M. FINZI MEMORIAL STUDENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To foster an interest, among students, in the areas of basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological, or behavioral research relevant to lupus under the sponsorship and supervision of an established, tenure-track Principal Investigator who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution.

Fellowship Award Amount: \$2,000

Contact:

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APPLICATION DEADLINE: **March 5, 2010 at 5 p.m. EST**
AWARD DATE: **May 5, 2010**



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ABOUT THE GINA M. FINZI MEMORIAL STUDENT SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program is a memorial tribute to Gina M. Finzi, the late daughter of former LFA President Emeritus Sergio Finzi, Ph.D. The goal of this national student research program is to foster an interest, among students, in the areas of basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological, or behavioral research relevant to lupus under the sponsorship and supervision of an established, tenure-track Principal Investigator who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution. Since 1984, the Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program has supported the work of nearly 200 young investigators.



ELIGIBILITY

Although undergraduate students may apply, preference will be given to graduate or medical students who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or will have done so prior to their official acceptance of the award. Please note that awards cannot be postponed for use in a later year.



APPLICATION MATERIALS & ONLINE SUBMISSION

Click here to visit the Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program homepage: <http://www.lupus.org/finzifellowships>.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. (LFA) utilizes an electronic grant submission process. All interested grant applicants must submit their full application packages through proposalCENTRAL: <https://proposalcentral.altum.com/Login.asp>.

Applicants are encouraged to register and complete a professional proposalCENTRAL profile as soon as possible. Applicants should ensure that their grants and contracts office has registered their institutional and signing officials with proposalCENTRAL.

A proposalCENTRAL helpline is available to answer questions from applicants, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. EST. Customer support is available via phone at 1-800-875-2562 or by email at pcsupport@altum.com.



REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF GRANT APPLICATION

- Complete online application packages (with all required attachments and supportive documentation) must be submitted by 5:00 P.M. EST on March 5, 2010 via Altum's proposalCENTRAL online system. Hard copies will not be accepted under any circumstances. However, in order for a submitted application to be considered complete, each applicant must mail a CD containing electronic copies of all required application documentation to the Research Program Manager by 5:00 P.M. EST on March 5, 2010.
- The online application must include the following components:
 - a) Cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead), including:
 - Name, date, address, and original signature of the applicant
 - Project title and dates of proposed project
 - Status of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and/or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval
 - Statement that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
 - b) Grant Application cover page, including:
 - Project title
 - The following must be provided for the applicant, sponsor, as well as the institutional official and signing official: name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address
 - Dated original signatures from the applicant, sponsor, and institutional signing official
 - Dates of proposed project
 - IRB and/or IACUC approval date, as well as Human Subjects Assurance Number and/or Animal Welfare Assurance Number (If these are not available at the time of application submission, they will be required upon acceptance of the award and prior to disbursement of any funds to the sponsoring institution)
 - Institutional grant administrator's (if different from the institutional official and signing official) name, highest degree, title, email address, direct phone and fax numbers, and institutional street address

- c) Research proposal abstract and lay summary:
- Scientific abstract (250 words or less)
 - Lay summary of proposal for LFA's use in press releases (250 words or less)
- d) NIH-formatted Biosketches from the applicant, sponsor, and any other research personnel that will have a major role in the design, execution, analysis, interpretation, or writing related to the proposed studies (these should include Positions and Honors, Peer-Reviewed Publications, as well as Current and Pending Research Support)
- e) A statement from the sponsor about the applicant and his/her academic achievements and future professional aspirations, as well as about his/her potential to implement the proposed studies (note that this statement will be viewable by the applicant)
- f) A letter of recommendation from an investigator (other than the applicant's sponsor) who knows the applicant well and can appropriately comment on the applicant and his/her academic achievements and future professional aspirations, as well as on his/her potential to implement the proposed studies (note that this letter of recommendation must be submitted electronically by the individual who wrote it and will not be viewable by the applicant)
- g) A single-spaced proposal narrative (with one-inch margins, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font) of at least five pages (excluding the abstract and literature cited pages but including figures), including each of the following sections:
- Specific aims
 - Background
 - Significance to lupus research or treatment
 - Methods and experimental design
 - Preliminary results, if any
 - Literature cited, with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 30 references to peer-reviewed journal publications and a limited number of abstracts



SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- Online application packages must be submitted in their entirety via proposalCENTRAL and must be accompanied by all required documentation, including a cover letter from the applicant (printed on institutional letterhead), statement from the sponsor, a letter of recommendation (from an individual other than the sponsor), and dated original signatures from the applicant, sponsor, and institutional signing official (on the grant application cover page), no later than 5:00 P.M. EST on March 5, 2010. No application materials will be accepted after this deadline. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted.
- Notification of grant awards will be made in writing by May 5, 2010.



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Each proposal will be reviewed according to the new 9-point NIH review system and will be reviewed by members of the current LFA Medical-Scientific Advisory Council.

Each proposal will receive an overall impact score (1-9) based on the current NIH grant review criteria, as determined by the reviewers' assessments of the following aspects of the proposal:

1. Significance
2. Investigators
3. Innovation
4. Approach
5. Environment

See this web page for more detailed information regarding the above categories:

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer_review_process.htm.

Due to the large number of applications received, the LFA cannot provide applicants with reviews of Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship grant applications.



USE OF FUNDS & CONDITIONS OF AWARD

1. Funds from this award must be utilized to support research-related activities of the fellow in the laboratory of the sponsor identified in the grant application. Funds from this award cannot be used for any other reason, including indirect costs.
2. The proposed research must be in the areas of basic, clinical, translational, epidemiological, or behavioral research relevant to lupus and must be conducted under the sponsorship and supervision of an established, tenure-track Principal Investigator who directs a laboratory dedicated at least in part to the investigation of lupus at a U.S. academic, medical, or research institution.
3. A final progress report (originally signed and dated by both the fellow and sponsor) documenting the nature and outcomes of the research conducted must be submitted electronically to the LFA Research Program Manager by August 31, 2010. A formatted progress report form will be provided to fellows simultaneously with award letters.
4. All publications (including peer-reviewed journal articles, abstracts, as well as national and/or local media coverage) resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by this fellowship award must acknowledge financial contributions from the LFA's Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program. In addition, copies of such publications must be provided to the LFA within 30 days of final production. Moreover, all publicity and information disseminated by the fellow's or sponsor's home institution about such research must acknowledge financial contributions from the LFA's Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program.
5. Each applicant must indicate on his/her cover letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by the applicant) that all proposed research will be conducted according to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Also, each fellow's institution must agree to hold the LFA harmless from any and all claims which may arise from research-related activities funded either wholly or partially by the LFA's Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program.

6. Fellows proposing to conduct research on animals must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IACUC documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the care and use of animals in research. Fellows proposing to conduct research involving human subjects must provide the LFA with a letter (printed on institutional letterhead, as well as originally signed and dated by an appropriate university official) from the sponsoring institution's IRB documenting current approval of the proposed research and its compliance with NIH guidelines for the use of human subjects in research. IRB and/or IACUC approval are not required upon the date of application submission, but are required upon LFA's offer of the award. No award funds will be disbursed until written IRB and/or IACUC approval have been received by LFA.
7. Each fellowship is for one-time use only and cannot be postponed, extended, modified, renewed, or transferred to another individual or institution. In addition, no additional funds will be provided beyond the amount stipulated in the award letter. Moreover, eligible applicants desiring LFA funds beyond the dollar amount or period of time stipulated in the award letter are encouraged to submit a new application in response to a future Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program funding opportunity announcement.
8. Each award payment will be provided, in the form of a check, to a designated institutional grant official authorized to receive, deposit, and appropriately manage funds from such a check at the sponsoring institution. Under no circumstances will a check be made payable or available to a fellow, sponsor, or other individual associated with the proposed research.
9. Any patentable discoveries resulting from research funded either wholly or partially by the LFA's Gina M. Finzi Memorial Student Summer Fellowship Program must be reported to the LFA Research Program Manager as soon as any relevant decisions to pursue a patent are made. A patent application resulting from any such research-related activities cannot be made without the prior written consent of the LFA.