

INTERNATIONAL SPINAL RESEARCH TRUST AND CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION



Letter of Intent Guide For Translational Regeneration Awards in Chronic Spinal Cord Injury

Application Deadline: March 7, 2021 at 5:00 pm GMT

Late applications will not be accepted

Mission Statement

The first joint scientific call for proposals between the International Spinal Research Trust (ISRT - UK) and the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation (CDRF - USA) to fund research applications on paralysis caused by traumatic spinal cord injury.

Overall Summary

- This request for applications (RFA) is for grants supporting the restoration of function, primarily through novel circuit formation in chronic traumatic spinal cord injury (SCI). The focus is on bench to bedside to bench translational research aimed to improve the lives of people living with spinal cord injury. Junior faculty, including those supported by independent, non-mentored fellowships, are highly encouraged to apply.
- Applicants may submit only one application in which they serve as primary investigator.
- Grants of up to £ 250,000 total over 2-3 years will be awarded.

Applicants should consider the following:

- 1) Collaborative projects.
- 2) Input from clinicians and/or clinical researchers to promote an understanding of the feasibility of eventual clinical translation and alignment of pre-clinical and clinical outcome measures.

Additional information

- Open access publications are encouraged and funds may be allocated within the budget for this purpose.
- Open data sharing is required and a plan for data sharing will be required at the full grant application stage. Any data repository may be used as long as FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reusability - Wilkerson et al., 2016, DOI: 10.1038/sdata.2016.18) share principals are observed. Investigators are strongly encouraged to set up data in a way that supports data sharing. The Open Data Commons for SCI (an option for data sharing) has general guidelines for preparing data for sharing, which can be applied to other data bases (<https://scicrunch.org/odc-sci/about/tutorials#prepare>).

Letter of Intent Guidelines

Responsible party

The first-named applicant will assume responsibility of the Principal Investigator/grant-holder, to whom any correspondence will be directed. Any researcher supported by an ISRT grant is expected to be actively engaged in the project.

Eligibility

United Kingdom and international investigators are eligible to apply.

This award is not designed for:

- Projects that are solely focused on mechanism of action.
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Applicants must hold a faculty position.

Review Process

LoI Applications will be reviewed and ranked in a peer review process, using the criteria stated below. The top 20 LoIs will be invited to submit a full grant application. Applicants will be informed of the outcome by the end of April.

Status updates unfortunately will not be available prior to that time.

Review Criteria

Primary Review Criterion

Relevance

What is the relevance of the application to this specific request for proposals: the formation of novel neural circuits in chronic spinal cord injury. The scientific rationale for the application of a proposed approach in chronic spinal cord injury should be justified beyond simply applying an approach used in acute SCI to chronic SCI.

Secondary Review Criteria

Importance/Innovation

- Does the proposed project have the potential for translation to humans? Are the outcomes aligned with priorities for individuals living with SCI?
- Is the project innovative or of critical importance in the advancement of the translational approach?

Research Plans

- Are the Aim(s) and hypothesis(es) clear and aligned but not dependent on one another?
- Will the proposed outcomes and methods address the Aim(s) and hypothesis(es)?
- Is the project feasible within the time frame and budget?

Presentation

- Is the LoI understandable and free from errors?

Budget

- Is the preliminary budget reasonable for the proposed work?
- Does it meet the stated budget criteria?

Submission deadline is 17.00 GMT, 7th of March 2021. Late submissions will not be accepted.

To request an application form e-mail research@spinal-research.org