



2019 Bridge to Success Award for Early Career Investigators (Cycle 2)

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| ISSUE DATE: | September 9, 2019 |
| APPLICATION DUE DATE: | November 25, 2019 by 11:59 pm CT |
| AWARD SELECTION NOTIFICATION | By April 10, 2020 |
| PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: | 1 year |
| AMOUNT OF AWARD: | Up to \$100,000 per award |
| LINK TO APPLICATION: | https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_5880?SA=SNA&FID=35038 |
| CONTACT: | AASM Foundation 2510 N. Frontage Road Darien, IL 60561 Phone: 630-737-9724 E-mail: foundation@aasm.org |

The Bridge to Success for Early Career Investigators awards are designed to provide 'bridge' funding to promising early-career sleep scientists who have applied for a career development award such as a K-award grant from the NIH, a Career Development Award from the VA, or an equivalent career development grant from another federal or non-federal entity. Individuals who previously submitted an application for review, but whose applications are unlikely to be within the funding range, are eligible to apply.

Through this award, the AASM Foundation aims to assist investigators at a critical juncture in their career where bridge funding can determine whether a promising sleep scientist stays in the sleep field or moves to a different career track. The funding provides support during the period of time needed for revision and resubmission of a promising application or for collection of preliminary or pilot data in response to reviewer critiques.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Bridge to Success Award for Early Career Investigators provides funds for one year and can be for up to \$100,000 per award. The funds can be used for research expenses such as salary support (commensurate with current stipends or salaries), supplies,

participant costs and institutional overhead. There are no restrictions on the distribution of expenses, however, indirect costs are capped at 8%. The award is a contract between the AASM Foundation and the awardee's institution. A sample contract is available [here](#).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for Career Development Awards offered by the AASM Foundation can be found [here](#).

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- Sleep scientists (MD, DO, PhD, or equivalent) who have applied for a multi-year career development award from the NIH, VA or another awarding body in the field of sleep or circadian science within the past two years that was scored in the peer-review process but fell below (or is likely to fall below) the funding agency's pay line.
- The unfunded application, summary statement and priority score (if available) reflecting that their application is unlikely to receive funding and a revision will be necessary, and reviewer critiques must be provided with the application.
- We encourage applicants to be members of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.
- Applicants must identify a research mentor with the skills, knowledge and resources to provide mentorship to the applicant in sleep and circadian research.
- Individuals who have an open AASM Foundation Strategic Research Award Category I or II as the principal investigator are not eligible to apply for career development awards (except for the Bridge to Success award for mid-career/senior investigators).
- Individuals who have received independent research funding of more than \$150,000 are not eligible to apply. This does not apply to post-doctoral/ fellowship level training grants primarily covering the applicant's salary (e.g. NRSAs).
- Individuals may apply for multiple AASM Foundation Career Development Awards (CDAs) but may only hold one active CDA at a time.

Note: *Individuals who have an AASM Foundation CDA are encouraged to apply for other AASM Foundation Awards; however, the investigator must demonstrate that there is no budgetary or scientific overlap between the projects.*

- Individuals who receive funding through the Bridge to Success mechanism must plan to resubmit their K/CDA or equivalent application within one year of receipt of initial funding from the AASM Foundation, and this timeline must be included within the application
- Since these grants are intended as bridge support, if the NIH/VA or equivalent award is received, the applicant must notify the AASM Foundation and the following would apply:
 - If external funds are received prior to distribution of AASM Foundation funds, AASM Foundation funds would not be released, and the award would be closed out with the AASM Foundation.
 - If external funds are received after distribution of AASM Foundation funds, the investigator would be permitted to submit updated documents (i.e., a new budget, justification and project timeline) and would be allowed to retain the funds if the award recipient can provide evidence for non-overlap.

Please note that the AASM Foundation will not fund ongoing projects that are currently funded by another awarding body, and the investigator or organization will be required to make a statement to this effect prior to execution of the contract. These awards are also not intended to supplement ongoing work, for example, for enrolling additional subjects into an ongoing trial.

AWARD REVIEW CRITERIA AND PROCESS

An award review committee, appointed by the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, will evaluate and score all submitted applications. Factors that will be taken into consideration include:

1. **Significance:** Significance of planned research in addressing important questions related to sleep, sleep disorders or sleep health.
2. **Experience and Appropriateness of Mentors:** Plan for mentorship will facilitate applicant's success and key personnel are well-suited for the project.
3. **Career Development Activities and Goals:** Planned research and mentorship will fill gaps in applicant's knowledge, skillset, and abilities.
4. **Approach:** Planned research (overall strategy, methodology, and analyses) is scientifically sound, plan addresses protection of human subjects from research risks and inclusion/exclusion of individuals justified (if applicable).
5. **Environment:** Institutional support and availability of equipment and other physical resources for the planned research.
6. **Appropriateness:** A clear and feasible plan on how the Bridge to Success Award will facilitate the resubmission of a competitive application, what will be achieved with the Bridge funds and how it will enhance the applicant's career trajectory.

Only materials submitted within the application will be used in the evaluation of applications. The AASM Foundation Executive Committee will submit funding recommendations to the AASM Foundation Board of Directors based on the Award Review Committee scores. The AASM Foundation Board of Directors will make the final funding decisions

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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| Payment #1 – Upon execution of contract | 90% |
| Payment #2 – Upon receipt and approval of Final Report | 10% |

If unique circumstances are explained in the budget justification of the applicant's proposal, the Board of Directors will consider requests for an alternate payment schedule, with a maximum variance of 10%.

Note: *Once awarded, reallocation of funds of <10% do not require approval.*

DELIVERABLES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The AASM Foundation intends the Bridge to Success Award to provide funding for researchers who have applied for a career development award that will not be funded and who plan to submit a revised application. In addition, the AASM Foundation expects that the research and training planned during the Bridge to Success award period will facilitate the applicant's career development in academic sleep medicine and sleep and circadian research.

Applicants are expected to address the specific aims as described in the application. Major modification of the proposed aims requires AASM Foundation Board of Directors or Executive Committee approval.

The expected results and deliverables should be clearly stated in the application. The applicant must submit progress and final reports during the project period, describing project activities and results, as outlined below. Failure to meet the deliverables or submit progress or final reports may result in termination of project funding.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

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| Progress Reports | Every six months |
| Final Report | Within 90 days of award completion |

Outcomes evaluation is an essential component of this award. All proposals must identify the goals and appropriate outcomes measures of the research. The outcomes should align with the goals and objectives stated in the applicant’s proposal for this award. The AASM Foundation intends that the research funded by this award will lead to the publication of original research in peer-reviewed journals.

HUMAN/ANIMAL SUBJECT PROTECTION PLAN

If using human or animal subjects, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and use Committee (IACUC) approval. The IRB or IACUC letter of approval for the specified project must be on file with the AASM Foundation office prior to the execution of the contract. No funds will be released for the project without receipt of written approval by an IRB or IACUC. Failure to obtain IRB or IACUC approval will result in retraction of the award.

APPLICATION

Step 1: AASM Foundation Grant Request registration

To apply for this award, you must register on [AASM Foundation Grant Request](#). Please refer to the [AASM Foundation Grant Request User Access Guide](#) for guidance on setting-up an account.

Step 2: Complete application

[ACCESS THE 2019 BRIDGE TO SUCCESS FOR EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS \(CYCLE 2\) APPLICATION](#)

Full applications must be completed and submitted through [AASM Foundation Grant Request](#). Instructions for required forms are available via the online submission system. The Application Checklist below shows required attachments to be uploaded.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

| Form | Page/Word Limit |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Face page A. Primary investigator B. Institution C. Institution contact D. Mentor(s) E. Project information F. Signed Applicant Sponsoring Organization Page | E. 300 words, max |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Research Plan and Goals A. Abstract B. Research plan and goals | A. 200 words, max B. 6 pages, excluding citations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Personnel A. Primary investigator: Biosketch and other support (required) B. Mentor: Biosketch and other support (required) C. Key personnel: Biosketch and other support (optional) | Biosketch: 5 pages per individual Other support: No page limit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PI Career Plan | 2 pages, excluding citations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring Plan | 2 pages, excluding citations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support A. Mentor letters of support B. Other letters of support (Department chair or fellowship program director) C. Additional letters of support | 1 page per letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budget and Budget Justification A. Budget B. Budget justification | B. 2 pages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Subjects/Animal Research Protection Plan | 3 pages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Previous Application A. Response to reviewer critiques B. Original NIH, VA, or equivalent grant application C. Summary statement/critique of the previously submitted application, and priority score (if available) | A. 3 pages B. No page limit C. No page limit |

AWARD QUESTIONS

We encourage potential applicants to contact us early in the application process with questions. Eligibility questions may need to be reviewed by a member of the AASM Foundation Executive Committee, so please allow for at least a 1-week response time for eligibility questions. For all other inquiries, please allow a minimum of two business days for a response. Please note that questions received within 48 hours of an application deadline may not be answered before the deadline.