



2021 Bridge to Success Award for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators (Cycle 1)

ISSUE DATE:	April 26, 2021
APPLICATION DUE DATE:	June 7, 2021 by 11:59 ET
AWARD SELECTION NOTIFICATION	By October 29, 2021
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=35083
CONTACT:	AASM Foundation 2510 N. Frontage Road Darien, IL 60561 Phone: 630-737-9724 E-mail: foundation@aasm.org

The AASM Foundation is committed to developing the careers of sleep and circadian investigators by increasing support for sleep researchers. To meet this goal, the AASM Foundation has established research career development awards (CDA) to assist sleep researchers at various stages of their career.

The Bridge to Success Award for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators is an AASM Foundation CDA targeted to mid-level and senior investigators in sleep and circadian science research who need 'bridge' funding while re-applying for research support. Through this award, the AASM Foundation aims to assist investigators whose large grant proposal, such as an RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a merit award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a research or implementation grant from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), or an equivalent large grant from another federal agency, was submitted but not funded. The Bridge to Success Mid-Career/Senior Investigator Award will help an independent

investigator stay in the field of sleep and circadian research while reapplying for external funding. While this award is intended for established investigators, individuals applying for their first independent grants (e.g., first R01) after a career development award (e.g., K-award) are also eligible to apply.

FUNDING INFORMATION

The Bridge to Success Award for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators provides funds for one year and can be for up to \$100,000 per award (includes direct and indirect costs). 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

The following individuals are eligible to apply:

- Individuals with the following education and training are eligible to apply:
 - Sleep scientists (MD, DO, DDS, DMD, DNP, DNSc, PharmD, PhD, or equivalent) who submitted at least one NIH grant proposal (or the equivalent in the VA or other federal system) during 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.
Note: The proposal must have been for a grant suitable for a mid-career or senior investigator, such as an R01, VA Merit Review.
- Individuals may apply for multiple AASM Foundation awards however, the same proposal (i.e. projects with budgetary and scientific overlap) may not be submitted for multiple requests for applications in a given cycle.
- Individuals who are the Principal Investigator on an open or previous AASM Foundation research award at the time of the application deadline are eligible to apply if they can demonstrate that there is no budgetary or scientific overlap between their open award and the new project they are applying for funding. If there is budgetary and/or scientific overlap between projects, the applicant must indicate their plan to close their open award in the event their new application is selected for funding (e.g. relinquish the current award or complete the current award to start the new award).
- The unfunded application, summary statement and priority score (if available) reflecting that the application is unlikely to receive funding and a revision will be necessary, and reviewer critiques must be provided with the application
- Individuals who receive funding through the Bridge to Success mechanism must plan to resubmit their 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 principal investigator 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 principal 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.
- International individuals who meet all the eligibility criteria are eligible to apply; however, payment of award funds must be accepted by the institution in US dollars.

INELIGIBILITY

The following individuals are not eligible to apply:

- Applicants with two or more current, large, federally funded grants (e.g., >1 RO1 or equivalent) are not eligible to apply for bridge funding through this mechanism. Applicants with one current, federally funded grant must provide clear justification for why the bridge funds are needed to continue the program of research.
- Individuals who have a financial conflict of interest or have the potential to incur significant financial benefit from the proposed work and beyond the work itself are not eligible to apply.
- Individuals who are seeking funding from AASM Foundation research awards to support ongoing projects that are currently funded by another awarding body or supplement ongoing work (e.g. enrolling additional subjects into an ongoing trial) are not eligible to apply.

***Note:** The principal investigator will be required to make a statement to this effect prior to execution of the contract.*

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. **Investigators:** The principal investigator's accomplishments in advancing sleep health and key personnel are well-suited for the project.
3. **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).
4. **Environment:** Institutional support and availability of equipment and other physical resources for the planned research.
5. **Appropriateness:** A clear and feasible plan on how the Bridge to Success Award for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators will facilitate the resubmission of a competitive application, what will be achieved with the Bridge funds and how it will sustain the applicant's career in the sleep field.

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

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 for Mid-Career/Senior Investigators to provide funding for sleep and circadian researchers who are 1) transitioning to a mid-career level and have applied for their first large federal grant that was not funded, and bridge funding will ultimately help establish their career as an independent sleep and circadian scientist, or 2) are established investigators that have applied for a large federal grant that was not funded, and bridge funding will help sustain their research and contribute to their retention as a sleep and circadian scientist.

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

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 2021 BRIDGE TO SUCCESS AWARD FOR MID-CAREER/SENIOR INVESTIGATORS \(CYCLE 1\) 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. Project information E. Signed Applicant Sponsoring Organization Page	D. 300 words, max
<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"/> Statement of Need	2 pages, excluding citations
<input type="checkbox"/> Project Personnel A. Primary investigator: Biosketch and other support (required) B. Key personnel: Biosketch and other support (optional)	Biosketch: 5 pages per individual Other support: No page limit
<input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support A. 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"/> Research Subjects 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, including the 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.