

Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Program

Non-Stanford Applications - Full Proposal Policy

ELIGIBILITY

Research must be related to the specific mission of the Stanford MCHRI Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Awards Program which is to improve the neurocognitive outcomes and behavioral symptoms of 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome (22q11.2DS). The program specifically seeks to identify strategies with potential for patient impact within 5 years, however short-term and long-term therapeutic approaches and basic science proposals will be considered for funding if the scientific rationale is compelling.

This program will support a wide range of scientific approaches in the following areas listed below. Research proposals relevant to neuropsychiatry and neurodevelopment in 22q11.2DS, and with potential for clinical impact, will be prioritized.

- Basic and clinical translational research relevant to neurodevelopment and neuropsychiatry in 22q11.2DS, including but not limited to: neuroscience, genetics and genomics, psychiatry, neuroimmunology, metabolism, gut-brain axis, data science, bioinformatics or computational methodologies utilizing existing data, and novel therapeutics (up to a maximum of **\$150K/year**)
- Basic and clinical translational research addressing the wider spectrum of symptoms in 22q11.2DS, including but not limited to: immunology, cardiology, endocrinology, developmental biology, genetics and genomics, and novel therapeutics (up to a maximum of **\$150K/year**)

Eligible applicants must be faculty members at an eligible organization and have a contract of employment for the duration of the award. Eligible organizations include US and non-US, public and private higher education institutions and academic medical centers. A multi-PI approach is strongly encouraged for this initiative where at least two of the lead investigators bring expertise from different disciplines to the project. Collaborations between basic and physician scientists are particularly encouraged. Applications may include co-investigators from other research institutions. Single-PI applications will be considered if the scientific rationale is compelling.

This program will fund innovative projects in the following categories:

- **Category A:** Research at Stanford University (up to 4 awards)
- **Category B:** Research external to Stanford University (up to 3 awards)

APPLICATION

The applicant must submit the following in a single PDF document:

- Cover page (using format provided)
- Lay Summary
- Research Proposal
- Research Team
- IRB Approval Documentation
- Letter of Support

Lay Summary:

- Outline the importance and clinical need for the proposed research, using plain language aimed at a general audience. Describe how the proposed research would generate new knowledge of the neuropsychiatric disorders associated with 22q11.2DS and the potential therapeutic impact or benefit to people with 22q11.2DS in the short or long term.

Research Proposal:

- Concise description of the project aims, hypothesis, background, preliminary studies (if available), study design and methods, potential limitations, research team expertise and capabilities, and research timeline.
- Proposals should include a plan for statistical analyses and a brief description of sample size and statistical power calculations.
- Proposals should clearly articulate the relevance to 22q11.2DS and potential for patient impact.
- The proposal should be a maximum six pages text, not including references, and no more than five additional pages of attachments or appendices.

Research Team:

For all members of the proposal submit:

- NIH Biosketch (including Personal Statement) from the applicant, each co-investigator and collaborator.

IRB Approval (Approved Before Application):

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval of the proposed research is required (if necessary) prior to application submission. IRB approval letter from the applicant's research organization must be attached with the application.

Letter of Support:

One-page letter of support from the applicant's Departmental Chair outlining commitment to the research proposal, indicating approval of the budget and that the applicant has access to the facilities, equipment and resources required to undertake the research. The letter of support should be signed and on headed paper.

Biostatistical Consultation

A biostatistical consult is *required* for all human-based studies and those with power calculations. Applicants are encouraged to seek statistical advice from the appropriate team at their research organization.

Budget Worksheet

The applicant must submit a MCHRI Budget Worksheet (using format provided), including all current and potential other sources of funding for the proposed study. The Stanford University Infrastructure Charge is not applicable to external applicants.

Video Presentation:

The applicant must submit a video presentation providing a summary of the research proposal and study design, including a lay summary. The recording should be submitted in mp4 format, and can be made using e.g. Powerpoint record slide show function, or a Zoom meeting recording. The recording should be a maximum of 5-minutes in duration.

AWARD

Up to \$150,000 / year for up to two years. Unexpended funds will be returned to the MCHRI after the performance period (see No-Cost Extensions below).

Award may be used for:

- Research personnel
- PI salary (no more than 0.5 FTE)
- Computer software (must be justified), supplies or other materials/ services relevant to the project
- Travel, symposia, or seminars which are an integral part of the proposal

Award may NOT be used for:

- Other travel, conference fees, tuition, or classes
- Membership dues, journal subscriptions, books
- Office supplies, ITCC communications

- Poster presentations, abstract submissions
- Computer equipment (e.g. iPads, laptops, tablets, smartphones, and other related technologies), software, or accessories
- Any other indirect research costs

NO-COST EXTENSIONS

Requests must be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the end date on the award letter. Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. Not all requests are approved. Only one extension is granted per project.

SELECTION PROCESS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proposals are reviewed by the Stanford MCHRI Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Awards Program Scientific Advisory Board. Current SAB membership is available on the MCHRI website. Assessments will be based on the NIH Investigator-Initiated Review Criteria – significance, innovation, approach, research environment and investigator team – and the relevance and potential impact of the research on the neuropsychiatric outcomes of 22q11.2DS.

International organizations: If awarded, international organizations will be required to undergo a third party 501(c)(3) equivalency determination. The vetting process may take approximately 3-4 months; international applicants should expect that the start date of the award will be 3-4 months later than the stated date in the Request for Applications (RFA).

AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The PI will take responsibility for the research idea, development methods, supervision and conduct of the study in addition to the following:

- Successful applicants will become members of the Stanford MCHRI Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research network. The

members are expected to attend regular meetings (including virtually) and demonstrate scholarly stewardship within the program through scientific collaboration and intellectual contribution to the programs shared mission.

- Submit reports in a timely manner, including an annual Progress and Financial Report, and a Final Progress and Financial Report within 30 days of the award end date.
- Provide updates in all Progress Reports on funding status from external and/or internal sources.
- Submit progress reports for up to 3 years following the award end date that will include information about grants submitted, publications, employment, and new research funding resulting from this award.
- Present the results of their research when asked.
- Acknowledge the research support of the Stanford MCHRI Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Awards Program in all publications, abstracts, presentations, press releases, and inventions resulting from this award as follows:

“The project described in this publication was supported by the Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute Uytengsu-Hamilton 22Q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Program.”

Award recipients who have not acknowledged the Stanford MCHRI Uytengsu-Hamilton 22q11 Neuropsychiatry Research Awards Program are not eligible for future awards sponsored by the MCHRI.

TERM OF AWARD

All awardees are limited to a single award of up to 2 years. Should there be a change in the awardee’s role that significantly alters their ability to carry out their responsibilities, the award will be forfeited prior to the completion of the term. However, if there have been unusual occurrences then the awardee may request a deferral or leave of absence from the award; this request will be adjudicated by

the Director of the MCHRI. If a deferral is approved, the end date of this award will be adjusted accordingly by MCHRI administration.

CONTACT

Prior to submission, applicants are welcome to contact the Program Director to discuss their research proposal, feedback from the Scientific Advisory Board, eligibility queries or other issues related to the application.

Rachael Panizzo PhD, Program Director:
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