

## **Non-Rodent Large Animal Model Award - Targeted Call for New Proposals**

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### **Executive Summary:**

Most early preclinical research work focuses on small animal models, predominantly rodents, which have an eye structure significantly different from the human eye in terms of size, structure, histology, and gene expression. For translational research it is important to provide access to eyes that more closely resemble the size, structure and histology of the human eye, particularly models with large aqueous and vitreous humor volumes, a cone-rich region, and ciliary processes around the photoreceptors.

The landscape of large animal IRD resources has been changing with the development of more canine models, cat models, and chicken models. Additionally, naturally occurring non-human primate models for several IRD have recently been identified. With this changing landscape, the Foundation is committed to ensuring the required resources for therapeutic intervention using large animal models are supported.

### **Goal:**

Provide funding support to individuals or teams for the identification of, development, characterization and support of relevant large animal models of IRD or dry age-related macular degeneration (dAMD) that are poorly modeled in rodents for which canine models do not currently exist, such as Stargardt disease and Usher syndrome.

### **Eligibility:**

Applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.M.D., D.V.M., D.O., or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or equivalent at a domestic or foreign non-profit organization, or public or private institution, such as a university, college, medical school, hospital, research institute, or laboratory.

**Individuals from underrepresented racial, ethnic and gender groups, as well as individuals with disabilities, are always encouraged to apply.**

## **Key Dates:**

LOI Deadline: October 26, 2023

Invitation for Application: January 2024

Application Deadline: March 6, 2024

## **Applying:**

The following sections must be entered into the designated [application portal](#) fields:

**IMPORTANT: Select “Individual Investigator Research Grant - Letter of Intent” and in the Application Manager. Select “CMM Non-Rodent Large Animal” under FFB Research Priority Area to submit a Non-Rodent Large Animal Model Letter of Intent.**

- 1. Title of Project**
- 2. Why this research is important to and will make a significant difference in achieving the Foundation’s mission.**
- 3. Overall research, goals and hypothesis to include the Specific Aims and rationale proposed for FFB Grant funding (it is recommended that the specific aims are listed, and rationale stated)**
- 4. Stage of Development**
- 5. Overall Description of Application or research proposal**
  - o No more than 3 figures/tables are permitted but not required. Figures/tables can be uploaded on the Figures Upload page. doc or pdf acceptable**
- 6. Reference list**
- 7. Curriculum Vitae for each Principal Investigator. 5-page NIH biosketch format is acceptable. Curriculum Vitae is not included in word limits.**

**A budget is not required for the Letter of Intent.**

Use the Print Application tab to preview your application in pdf format. Your signature will be added to the pdf when the Submit Application page is completed.

Email confirmation of submitted application will be sent immediately from [blindness@onlineapplicationportal.com](mailto:blindness@onlineapplicationportal.com) . Add this address to your safe sender list to avoid emails being sent to your SPAM folder

**Award:**

\$500,000 total over 3 years. Total Award Maximum: \$500,000. Annual budget must not exceed award total. The award may be used to support the salaries of research trainees (graduate students, postdoctoral or clinical fellows), technical staff and research supplies. Partial support for the Principal Investigator's salary is permitted but is not to exceed **20% of the total annual award. The Foundation Fighting Blindness does not provide funds for equipment or indirect administrative costs. A budget is not required for the Letter of Intent.**

**Letter of Intent Submission:**

Applicants must submit the completed LOI electronically by 10/26/2023 11:59PM EST via the FFB Application Portal. Access the Foundation's Application Portal through the Foundation Fighting Blindness Website:

<https://www.onlineapplicationportal.com/blindness>.

**\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT: Select "Individual Investigator Research Grant - Letter of Intent" and in the Application Manager. Select "CMM Non-Rodent Large Animal" under FFB Research Priority Area to submit a Non-Rodent Large Animal Model Letter of Intent.\*\*\*\***

**Automated acknowledgement of receipt of LOI will be sent upon submission.**

The Letters of Intent will be reviewed for scientific quality and relevance to FFB's mission and current research priorities. Letters addressing the targeted area identified above and showing clear relevance to translational studies that can accelerate the path toward clinical trials will receive priority consideration. If your Letter of Intent is selected, the FFB will contact you to

request a full application by January 12, 2024. Full applications will be due on March 6, 2024.

**PLEASE USE YOUR OWN E-MAIL ADDRESS IF POSSIBLE WHEN SUBMITTING THE LETTER OF INTENT SO THAT WE CAN INFORM YOU IN A TIMELY FASHION IF YOUR APPLICATION HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR SUBMISSION OF A FULL PROPOSAL. IN ADDITION, PLEASE ADVISE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF CHANGES IN E-MAIL ADDRESSES.**