



Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) Mid-Career Bridge Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) 2023

GRANT OVERVIEW:

In response to a growing need in the field, the MRF has established its Mid-Career Bridge Grant to support investigators who are dedicated to melanoma research. Investigators who have received their first R01 often have difficulty obtaining their second one. This award will be for established researchers with a pre-existing R01s, who have applied for a second NIH R01 grant that was scored, but not funded. To support and sustain these investigators while they generate the data for the Response to Reviewers in the revised R01 (A1) submission, the MRF is offering 1-year bridge funding of up to **\$100,000**. Additional details, including eligibility information, the review process, award administration, application materials and deadlines are provided below.

Please visit www.melanoma.org for additional information on the MRF and to learn more about our research grant program. All questions or concerns regarding this RFP as well as the rest of the MRF's Research Grant Program can be directed to the MRF Science Officer at research@melanoma.org or by calling 800-673-1290.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Applicants must hold a MD and/or PhD degree or equivalent.
- Applicants must be within 15-years of obtaining their first independent position (e.g. as an instructor, assistant professor, etc.) AND previously held a R01 during this time period.
- Applicants must have submitted a NIH R01 application within the past 6 months that was scored but not funded. The 6-month timeframe begins the date the R01 was reviewed by the NIH study section. The MRF will accept either an original R01 or a resubmission application as the underlying basis for this award.
- The scored, but not funded, NIH R01 must have achieved a percentile of 40 or lower/better on the A0 application. P01s/R21s/etc. will not be eligible for this grant mechanism.
- The applicant must be the contact Principal Investigator (PI) on the original R01 to qualify for this award.
- The application must focus on melanoma research.
- American citizenship is not required. However, the proposed research must be conducted in a non-profit research organization, medical institution or educational institution located in the United States.
- Priority will be given to those applicants who do not have other funding sources.
- Individuals cannot apply for the MRF Mid-Career Bridge Grant more than three times for the same R01.
- Applicants are eligible to respond to other MRF RFPs, as long as the research proposals are significantly different.
- Proposed research must comply with all applicable National Institutes of Health (NIH) animal and human welfare guidelines.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss any eligibility questions with the MRF Science Officer prior to submitting an application.

GRANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Unexpended funds at the end of the award term must be returned to the MRF. Further, this grant is intended to serve as bridge support for a R01 grant. If the R01 is funded during the MRF funding period, the applicant must notify the MRF and return any unspent funds.

REVIEW PROCESS, AWARD ADMINISTRATION & REPORTING:

The application submission deadlines are by **5pm ET on April 14th, August 15th, or December 15th, 2023**. Each application will be reviewed by a panel of non-conflicted scientists. Reviewers will focus on the scientific



merit of the proposed research, the quality of the response to the NIH critique and their background. Award decisions will be made within 6 weeks of receipt of the application. Upon acceptance of the award, the PI and the Institution will be required to sign an award letter accepting all of the MRF's terms and conditions.

Awards will cover research conducted over a one-year period. Funds will be disbursed twice over the course of the year. A no-cost extension of one year may be permitted with sufficient justification from the PI and approval from the MRF Science Officer. Requests for a no-cost extension must be made within 30 days of the award period expiration.

Final financial and scientific reports, detailing all activities during the award period, are to be submitted to the MRF within 60 days of the end of the award period (even if a no-cost extension is requested). The report form requests summaries and outcomes on the research, presentations, publications, patents, clinical trials, new collaborations and/or new research funding pursuant to the proposed research. Acknowledgment of support from the MRF must accompany any published report using data or findings from research conducted under this award. Any intellectual property identified pursuant to this work remains solely within the institution.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Completion of application cover page
- Specific Aims Page for the revised (A1) R01, designed to address critiques
- Complete Summary Statement from the review of the original (A0) R01
- One page Response to Reviewers addressing the critiques from the original R01
- Brief budget (\$100,000 for one year) to be used towards lab personnel, supplies, animal costs, and core facility charges. Please note:
 - Only direct costs are allowed.
 - Cost of living adjustments for personnel or non-personnel costs are not allowed.
 - When calculating salaries, use actual costs - not the salary allowed by the NIH salary cap. No more than 25% of the grant should go towards the salary of the PI.
 - Requests for major equipment will be closely scrutinized and should be carefully justified, and should not exceed 15% of the total budget.
 - Allowable travel expenses for meetings and research purposes – including to international meetings - are capped at \$2,000 per project year.
 - Brief justifications must be provided for each budget item.
- PI Biosketch using the NIH Biosketch Form (Rev 10/21) and NIH Other Support Form (including only relevant support)

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications will be accepted by **5pm ET on April 14th, August 15th, and December 15th, 2023**. All components of the application should be scanned and emailed **as one PDF document** to the Science Officer at research@melanoma.org. An application consisting of multiple attachments will not be accepted.

Decisions will be made and sent out via email within 6 weeks of receipt of the application (on or before May 26th, September 26th, January 26th depending on the cycle in which the applicant applied). Funds will be disbursed once all required paperwork is submitted to the MRF.



Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) Mid-Career Bridge Grant

Application Check List

- ✓ Please use this list as a guide to be sure you have submitted all necessary documents.

- Complete the application cover page with signed certified applicant statement (included).

- Specific Aims Page for the revised (A1) R01, designed to address critiques

- Complete Summary Statement from the review of the original (A0) R01

- One page Response to Reviewers addressing the Critiques from the Original (A0) R01

- Budget (\$100,000 for one year)

- PI Biosketch using the NIH Biosketch Form (Rev 10/21) and NIH Other Support Form (including only relevant support)

- All components of the application should be scanned and emailed **as one PDF document** to the Science Officer at research@melanoma.org. An application consisting of multiple attachments will not be accepted.



**Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) Mid-Career Bridge
Grant
Application Cover Page**

Project Title: _____

Principal Investigator (PI) Name: _____

PI Position Title: _____ **PI Institution:** _____

PI Address: _____

PI Phone Number: _____ **PI Email Address:** _____

Previous R01 Number: _____

Current R01 Score: _____

Human Subjects: ___ Yes ___ No; If Yes, Human Subjects Assurance #: _____

IRB Status: _____ IRB Date: _____

Vertebrate Animals: ___ Yes ___ No; If Yes, Animal Welfare Assurance #: _____

IACUC Status: _____ IACUC Date: _____

Recombinant DNA: ___ Yes ___ No; If Yes, Status: _____ Date: _____

Lay Abstract (3,000 characters max including spaces):

CERTIFIED APPLICANT STATEMENT:

I certify that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. I agree to accept responsibility for the scientific conduct of the project and to provide the required progress reports if a grant is awarded as a result of this application. A typed name will serve as the applicant signature.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____