**EOI GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS 2021 - 2022**

This guidance document should be used by all researchers applying for either a Translational Research Grant or an Incubator Grant.

**HOW TO APPLY**

* Applicants should firstly complete and submit the 2021-2022 Expression of Interest form (EOI).
* Any subsequent invitation to submit a full longer application **shall be by invitation only**. This will be sent to those invited to do so.
* EOI applications can have one additional page for figures, tables and diagrams that are referred to in the application.
* Please do not submit any other documents with your EOI application such as a cover letter as they will not be considered. Please do submit one page describing where a successful scientific result from your proposed research could lead to next.
* All EOI’s are to be submitted by email only to: info@msdactionfoundation.org
* All EOI queries should be directed to the same email address.
* Deadline for EOI applications is 5pm on November 19th 2021.
* Applicants should apply for the true cost of the research in Euro.

The Expression of Interest form (EOI) does not require detailed budget information but an estimate of the project cost should be given. Grant funding can be used for:

● Personnel (including on-costs)

● Equipment that is unique to the project and is essential for the project to proceed.

● Direct research costs for the purchase of research materials required to conduct the proposed research. Use as a guide: [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/\_files\_nhmrc/file/grants/admin/nhmrc\_direct\_research\_costs\_1209.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/grants/admin/nhmrc_direct_research_costs_1209.pdf%20)

● Animal costs that are a direct requirement of the research project.

● Travel costs that are only directly related to achieving the objectives of the grant.

● MSDAF will not cover institutional overheads. Joint funding schemes may cover a portion of overheads.

* **Translational Research Grants** are funding for projects with significant potential to move through the translational pipeline towards treatment. This includes pre-clinical and clinical research to develop new treatments. We will fund projects up to €100k/year for up to 2 years maximum (This may include joint funding from another body). MSDAF will look more favourably on research projects of a shorter timeline that come in at a lower cost.
* **Incubator Grants** focus on small scale projects investigating bright new ideas with the potential to generate scientific results that may attract larger scale funding. We fund

projects up to a maximum of €100k. Smaller amounts with high potential and shorter timelines will be prioritised. Only where a clear commitment to apply to lever larger funding is apparent.

If an Incubator grant is being sought, we would strongly encourage the researcher to highlight how they anticipate the receipt of seed funding is going to leverage greater funding.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Expressions of interest will be reviewed by our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Our Boards of Directors (BOD) will shortlist projects subject to available funding and alignment with our objectives and priorities. Our BOD will be guided by scientific reviews. Chief/Principal Investigators for short-listed projects will be invited to complete a Full Application Form

The Board of Directors of MSDAF will make the final decision on what research proposals to submit to the HRCI/HRB Joint Funding Scheme based on the recommendations of our international peer reviewers.

Applicants should carefully consider how their research project aligns with our Foundation's objectives;

1. ‘To support research that will lead to positive clinical outcomes and quality of life for patients suffering from Multiple Sulfatase Deficiency’.
2. Our ‘Research Strategy 2021’

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT**

We will acknowledge receipt of every EOI. We will attempt to do this by email within two working days of receiving it. If you do not receive an Acknowledgement of Receipt of your EOI, please follow up with a “Request for Confirmation of Receipt of EOI”. Do not re-send the entire EOI, as sending multiple copies can lead to confusion. The same will apply to full applications.

The EOI Acknowledgement of Receipt will include an application number which should be used on all future correspondence including a possible full application. The Foundation manages all correspondence by this unique number. Acknowledgements will be sent to the Chief/Principal Investigator nominated on your EOI form. Multiple and duplicate emails cannot be sent.

**FEEDBACK**

Feedback will only be given, if requested. Any feedback that may contain scoring will protect the identity of those scoring the proposals. Our board’s decisions will be final. Please understand we are an all voluntary run organisation. We depend on the goodwill of peer reviewers to evaluate full research proposals. As a result, we cannot guarantee extensive feedback. We will however always try our best to engage the most suitable best peer reviewers we can find.

Please Note: Feedback on EOI’s will be limited and may be informal as these forms will not go through a full peer review process.