The International FOP Association’s Competitive Research Grant Program

The IFOPA offers the FOP Competitive Research Grant (CRG) Program to help accelerate development of safe and transformative therapies for fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva (FOP).

Research Focus

Research grants should be focused on discovery and advancement of new therapeutic approaches to FOP with a disposition toward approaches likely to have near-term clinical or translational relevance.

Mechanism of Support

The program awards one-year grants ranging from $25,000 to $100,000. There is approximately $100,000 available each year, allowing for either multiple grants of less than $100,000 or a single grant for the full amount. Researchers may receive a second year of funding based on their progress and milestones achieved in the first year, as well as the availability of continued funding. Grant funds may not be used for indirect costs.

Applications that are scored favorably, but not funded during the initial awards cycle, may be funded as additional money becomes available.

Proposals involving meaningful collaboration among investigators with complementary capabilities are encouraged. Awards can be split among investigators’ institutions as needed.

Eligibility

FOP researchers with a doctoral degree (MD, PhD or equivalent), at any stage of their career, and working in any country are eligible to apply.

Scientific Advisory Board

Applications are reviewed by a voluntary advisory board that has relevant and appropriate expertise related to FOP to evaluate proposals, and is free of conflict of interest.

Vicki Rosen, PhD, Chair
Department of Developmental Biology
Harvard School of Dental Medicine

Michael Whyte, MD
Division of Bone & Mineral Diseases
Washington University School of Medicine

Karen Lyons, PhD
Department of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
UCLA/Orthopaedic Hospital Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Michael Zasloff, MD, PhD
Department of Surgery
Georgetown University Medical Center

Ernestina Schipani, MD, PhD
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Michigan

2016 Grants

AllostERIC inhibiTORS OF ALK2 FOR FOP therapy
Principal Investigator: Alex Bullock, PhD
Co-investigators: Paul Brennan, PhD and Frank von Delft, PhD
Institution: Oxford University, United Kingdom
Award Amount: $26,421

Development of antisense oligonucleotide therapy for FOP
Principal Investigators: Oana Caluseriu, MD and Toshifumi Yokota, PhD
Co-investigator: Rika Maruya, PhD
Institution: University of Alberta, Canada
Award Amount: $35,070

Experimental therapy to prevent secondary heterotopic ossification following surgical intervention in FOP
Principal Investigators: Paul B. Yu, MD, PhD and Dong-Dong Xia, MD
Institution: Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, United States
Award Amount: $46,446

2015 Grants

Assessment of small agents in FOP primary fibroblast cultures to explore new therapeutic targets
Principal Investigators: Gerard Pals, PhD and Marelise Eekhoff, MD, PhD
Institution: VU University Medical Center, The Netherlands
Award Amount: $55,000

The role of exercise in the progression of FOP
Principal Investigators: Paul B. Yu, MD, PhD and Yue Shen, MBBS
Institution: Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, United States
Award Amount: $28,000

Validation of novel diagnostic and targeted prophylaxis for FOP related heterotopic ossification
Principal Investigators: Yuji Mishina, PhD and Benjamin Levi, MD
Institution: University of Michigan, United States
Award Amount: $41,800