

2019 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Hearing Health Foundation (HHF) requests applications to explore new avenues in specified topic areas of hearing and balance science.

Since its inception in 1958, HHF (formerly known as Deafness Research Foundation, DRF) has supported hearing and balance research elucidating etiology, diagnosis and treatment, genetics, normal and abnormal function, mechanisms, and the development of animal models. As the largest nonprofit funder of hearing and balance research, HHF awards Emerging Research Grants (ERG) to stimulate data collection that leads to a continuing, independently fundable line of research. **Funding shall not exceed \$30,000 for the one-year project period, and only research proposals in the topic areas below will be considered for the 2019 ERG cycle:**

General Hearing Health (GHH):

Only early career investigators will be considered for GHH, which includes these areas of special interest:

- Physiology of hearing and balance
- Epidemiology of auditory and vestibular disorders
- Human otopathology
- Diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of hearing loss and balance disturbance
- Human genetics and mouse models of peripheral and central auditory/balance dysfunction
- Innovation in cellular and molecular therapies
- Auditory and vestibular implants, hearing aids

Central Auditory Processing Disorders [(C)APD]:

A range of conditions within the ear and brain that affect the processing of auditory information. Areas of interest include testable models; genetics, etiology, diagnosis, and treatment; the development of screening tools and diagnostic tests including behavioral, physiological, and neuroimaging; and related language, music, learning, and communication issues.

Hearing Loss in Children:

Research focused on congenital and acquired childhood hearing loss and its etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. Additional areas of interest include auditory neuropathy; behavioral, cognitive, developmental, and psychosocial consequences; the impact of early intervention; the education of children with hearing loss; and pediatric cochlear implants and auditory brainstem implants.

Hyperacusis:

Research exploring the mechanisms, causes, and diagnosis of loudness intolerance. Additional areas of interest include the creation of animal models; genetics; etiology, diagnosis, and treatment; brain imaging, biomarkers, and electrophysiology; the distinctions between hyperacusis and tinnitus; and the interaction between auditory nerve and trigeminal nerve information.

Ménière's Disease:

Investigating the inner ear and balance disorder. Areas of interest include the mechanisms of endolymphatic hydrops including mechanisms of cochlear fluid regulation; genetics; the creation of animal models; the imaging of hydrops; and etiology, diagnosis, and treatment.

Ototoxic Medications:

Investigating drugs such as antibiotics (e.g., gentamicin) and chemotherapy agents (e.g., cisplatin) to reduce their potential to harm the structures of the inner ear resulting in hearing loss, tinnitus, and/or vertigo.

Tinnitus:

Research in understanding the perception and reaction to sounds in the ear in the absence of an acoustic stimulus. Areas of interest include peripheral and central mechanisms; roles of ion channels, ototoxicity, and genetics; subjective and objective assessment; etiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention; and the imaging of tinnitus.

Usher Syndrome:

Characterized by hearing loss and retinitis pigmentosa and the most common cause of combined blindness and deafness. Areas of interest include etiology, diagnosis, and treatment; genetics; the role of identified genes in hearing and vision; the creation of mouse models; and the development of molecular and cellular therapies.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST:

- Possess an M.D., Ph.D., Au.D., or equivalent degree; be a postdoctoral or clinical/research fellow; or have a faculty appointment.
- Conduct research at an institution within the U.S.
- Apply for funds only for the proposed project.
- Indicate how the proposed project addresses a question or set of questions that are new, or apply a new approach to an established question or set of questions.
- For grants in the General Hearing Health category, only early career scientists may apply. Senior investigators may submit applications in any of the other seven categories.
- For grants in subject/disease-specific areas (e.g., [C]APD, Tinnitus, Hyperacusis, Ménière's Disease, Hearing Loss in Children), both early career and established senior investigators may apply. Please note that early career will be given priority for funding in these areas.

APPLICANTS ARE INELIGIBLE IF THEY ARE:

- Graduate or medical students.
- Applies to early career investigators only:
 - » Individuals concurrently receiving support for the proposed project of >\$75,000 per annum in direct cost from any other combined source(s) during award period.
 - » Funding of pending awards during HHF award period may necessitate returning the balance of HHF award.
 - » Individuals who have received one or more years of HHF/DRF support within the previous seven years.
 - » Recipients of a prior or current major independent research award within the past five years (e.g., RO0, RO3, R21, RO1, VA Merit, DoD, or equivalent).
- Applying for research continuation or bridge funding.

To learn more about eligibility for the ERG program, please visit hhf.org/how-to-apply.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES:

- Please visit hhf.org/how-to-apply for instructions on submitting an application.
- **Full application opens:** August 31, 2018.
- **Full application deadline:** January 15, 2019.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Research projects outside the topics listed cannot be considered.

