

PO Box 46 | 8792 Rogues Road
Casanova, VA 20139

[T] +1 978 494-6009

evansmds.org



Research Grants 2016

Request for Letters of Intent for EvansMDS Strategic Funding Initiatives in Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Letter of Intent Application Deadline:
Jan. 31, 2016

EvansMDS 2016 Strategic Funding Initiatives

Founded in 1984, The Edward P. Evans Foundation is a non-profit Charitable Trust dedicated to funding research on Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) through its EvansMDS initiative. We endeavor to enable the generation of new knowledge that will lead to the development of effective disease therapies and better patient outcomes. EvansMDS is conducting this competitive grant program to identify and fund collaborative, transformative, high impact research into the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of MDS. Priority will be given to projects that directly examine key features of MDS rather than general concepts in leukemia, hematopoiesis, aging or immunology. For 2016, EvansMDS is offering three types of research grants:

(1) **Discovery Research Grants (DRG)** - EvansMDS will offer several individual research grants of up to \$200,000 for one year, renewable for a second year, to fund highly innovative and novel research. The focus of these awards will be on transformational basic, translational or aspects of clinical research that are directly applicable to the etiology, pathogenesis or treatment of MDS.

(2) **Translational Research Grant (TRG)** - EvansMDS will offer a translational research grant of up to \$500,000 per year, potentially renewable for a second year, to support a larger scale study that has immediate outcomes for the translation of clinical results and the potential to directly improve MDS patient care. EvansMDS anticipates that only one **TRG** award will be made. This grant is not intended as the sole funding source of a clinical trial, but rather for the support of ancillary, high impact correlative studies that will supplement the clinical clinical investigation.

(3) **Programmatic Research Grant (PRG)** - EvansMDS will offer a program research grant of up to \$600,000 per year over three years. This mechanism is designed to stimulate the development of a highly collaborative and interactive group of investigators, either at a single institution or across several institutions, studying high value targets in MDS basic, translational or clinical research. Priority will be given to programs that have the potential to identify new MDS therapies for which the collaborative nature of the research is critical to the proposed aims. The proposed **PRG** should not include administrative structures, staff or core facilities. EvansMDS anticipates that only one such award will be offered. Each subproject must be competitive with the discovery research awards described above. EvansMDS may only partially fund a program by selecting those projects deemed competitive with the individual research awards unless the whole is stronger than the sum of its parts.

Application process:

All funding initiatives require a letter of intent (LOI) that will be reviewed to determine suitability for a full application. EvansMDS will issue a request for a full proposal to investigators submitting LOIs found to be of interest.

The LOI for the **DRG** should include a one-page description of the project that details the specific aims. In addition, an NIH-style biosketch for the PI is required, along with a one-page cover letter outlining how the project will advance MDS basic, translational and/or clinical discovery research.

The LOI for the **TRG** should include a one page description of the project that details the specific aims. In addition, an NIH-style biosketch for the PI is required, along with a one-page cover letter explaining the potential of the research to improve MDS therapy and directly benefit patients.

The LOI for the **PRG** should include a one-page description of the overall program in addition to a one page description for each portion of the project. An NIH-style biosketch for each investigator, and a cover letter of not more than 2 pages outlining the potential to advance MDS therapy as well as the benefits of funding this particular research as a collaborative program, highlighting the synergistic contribution of the component projects.

Applicants for all mechanisms must be established independent investigators with a tenure-track or tenured appointment at the Assistant Professor level (or equivalent), or higher, at a Not-For-Profit institution in the United States. Applicants are permitted to apply once for each individual grant program.

Letters of intent are due **January 31, 2016** and will be reviewed by a panel of MDS experts and the Foundation. All documents must be submitted in electronic form, as pdf files, by email to grants@epefoundation.org.

Applications selected for a full proposal will be notified by **April 1, 2016**, and the full proposals will be due **April 30, 2016**. Funding will initiate **September 1, 2016**.

Investigators currently funded by the Edward P. Evans Foundation are welcome to apply.