



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BASIL O’CONNOR STARTER SCHOLAR RESEARCH AWARD
2018 PROGRAM

AWARD DETAILS

Named for the first March of Dimes chairman and president, the Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Award (BOC) is designed to support young scientists embarking on their independent research careers. Applicants’ research interests should be consonant with those of the March of Dimes’ mission: **The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.** The March of Dimes defines a birth defect as any abnormality of structure or function, whether inherited or acquired in utero, and presenting in infancy or early childhood. Reproductive health of women and men as an underlying basis of birth defects, i.e. preconceptional events, perinatal course, and premature births are appropriate subjects for research support. Relevance is interpreted broadly to include fundamental cell biology (embryogenesis, cell lineage, organ differentiation), genetics and genomics, molecular and clinical pathogenesis of disorders of importance to mothers and infants, biomedical engineering and imaging, and social and behavioral aspects. Each application should be accompanied by a Letter of Support from a Nominator (see below).

The award is \$150,000 for 2 years, including 10 percent indirect costs to sponsoring institutions.

To view a list of currently funded grants under this program, please go to the [Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Award Grant List](#).

KEY DATES

January 2017.....	Application portal opened
March 15, 2017.....	Nomination deadline
May 2017.....	Invitation to submit application
July 17, 2017.....	Full application due
December, 2017.....	Review and Notification
February 1, 2018.....	Award start date
January 31, 2020.....	Award end date

ELIGIBILITY

The Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award is intended to be an initial independent grant to young investigators. Eligibility is thus restricted. PhD applicants should be four to eight years past their degree and must hold a full-time faculty position at their current institution. For MD or MD/PhD applicants, the same 4-8 year timeline applies, but begins upon completion of the last year of clinical training required for medical specialty board certification. Requests for exceptions (e.g. parental leave) should be directed to the Senior Vice President for Research & Global Programs.

Basil O'Connor applicants may not be recipients of a major grant (e.g. R01, or other grant exceeding \$200,000 a year) at the time of the application. Applicants who have transition faculty-mentored awards (e.g. K99/R00) are welcome if they have completed the mentored portion. If not, application should be deferred. Candidates may not simultaneously hold a grant for any other March of Dimes research program. Those who have previously submitted an application to the Basil O'Connor program are ordinarily not eligible for resubmission; however, exceptions will be considered on an individual basis.

NOMINATION PROCESS

The entire process must be completed online at <http://modresearchgrants.egrant.net>.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUIRED FROM THE CANDIDATE:

- Letter of Intent (template provided) for the proposed research, which includes the following information in this order:
 1. Title of proposal.
 2. Hypothesis.
 3. Preliminary data.
 4. Précis of specific aims and methods of procedure.
 5. Current financial support: list all current financial support. If there is no current support, state "NONE."

Items 1-5 may not exceed 3 pages.
- Candidate's biographical sketch

INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM THE NOMINATOR:

- Deans, Chairs of Departments, or Directors of Institutes/Centers may submit nominations for this award, addressed to the Senior Vice President for Research and Global Programs. Included should be the Nominator's name, academic appointment, mailing address, telephone and e-mail address.
- Letter of Nomination (due by March 15, 2017) should be submitted via the online system. The nomination letter should vouch for a candidate's having an unrestricted faculty position and dedicated lab/clinical research space. Information provided should explicitly include details concerning the candidate's faculty appointment, independence, laboratory space, startup package, and core facilities available. This information will be scrutinized closely.

ASSESSMENT

1) The academic background and potential of the candidate himself/herself. 2) Resources available as judged by the nominator's letter. 3) The proposal: once completed, it should place the candidate in position to be competitive for a R21 or R01.

QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions to researchgrantssupport@marchofdimes.org