A. MOD invites all qualified scientists with faculty appointments or the equivalent, at universities, hospitals and research institutions (not for profit or profit), to submit applications for research grants relevant to our mission. This encompasses basic biological processes governing differentiation and development involving both human and animal model systems, genetics and genomics of these processes, clinical studies, reproductive health and environmental toxicology. Social and behavioral studies are encouraged concerning cognitive and behavioral risks that affect outcomes of pregnancy, the perinatal period, and subsequent child development. The latter may involve family units and those genes, toxicants and social determinants that adversely affect language or behavior.

To view a list of currently funded research grants, please go to: [Research Grant List](#).

B. **PROCEDURE TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT**

Potential applicants should submit electronically required administrative information and a Letter of Intent via the MOD’s online system at [HTTP://RESEARCHGRANTS.MARCHOFDIMES.ORG](http://researchgrants.marchofdimes.org).

**Letter of Intent template 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 each current grant or contract for the conduct of this research. If there is no other support, state “NONE.”
   
   Items 1-5 should not exceed 3 pages.

6. If the applicant is already a recipient of a current MOD research grant or a Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Award, include a summary of progress (not to exceed 1 page).
If the applicant previously submitted a full proposal that was reviewed but not funded, a response to
the critique is not necessary in the LOI. However, relevant remarks may be included, but must be
incorporated *within* the 3 pages.

The online Letter of Intent process must be completed by April 30, 2016.

C. REVIEW PROCESS

Letters of Intent will be evaluated by a scientific advisory committee, and full applications solicited from
those selected. This decision will be transmitted no later than July 15, 2016, with deadline for the full
application by September 15, 2016. Funding will be initiated on June 1, 2017.

D. BUDGET

The budget may include salary support for the Principal Investigator or other faculty, but ordinarily is
expected to provide salary support for technical help. Grants are usually awarded for a three-year period,
but may be for less if appropriate.

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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. Deviations from 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.