



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
BASIL O’CONNOR STARTER SCHOLAR RESEARCH AWARD
2019 PROGRAM

AWARD DETAILS

Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards (BOC) support young scientists committed to the mission of the March of Dimes. [March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies.](#) We invite impactful research that will advance our basic understanding of, or lead to improved treatment of any serious medical condition that afflicts pregnancies or newborns. Applications focused on preterm birth and birth defects are prioritized. Areas of investigation should have the potential to be leveraged from discovery to functional studies leading to clinical translation. The eventual goal to cure or greatly mitigate conditions that adversely impact the health of expecting women and babies is desired. Named for the first March of Dimes chairman and president, this grant is awarded to outstanding investigators embarking on their independent research careers.

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

Each application should be accompanied by a Letter of Support from a Nominator (see below).

KEY DATES

February 2018.....	Application portal opened
March 30, 2018.....	Nomination deadline
May 2018.....	Invitation to submit application
July 17, 2018.....	Full application due
December, 2018.....	Review and Notification
April 1, 2019.....	Award start date
March 31, 2021.....	Award end date

ELIGIBILITY

The Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Research Award is intended to be an early grant to young investigators who have recently embarked on an independent research career. Eligibility is thus restricted. PhD applicants should be four to nine years past their degree, must hold a full-time tenure-track faculty position (or equivalent) at their current U. S. based institution, and must have received their first tenure-track appointment no more than four years prior to the submission deadline. For MD or MD/PhD applicants, the same timelines applies, but the four to nine year window begins upon completion of the last year of clinical training required for medical specialty board certification. Requests for exceptions (e.g. parental leave) may be submitted to the Director of Research.

Applicants who have transition faculty-mentored awards (e.g. K99/R00) are welcome if the mentored portion has been completed by the time of submission. If not, application should be deferred. Candidates may not simultaneously hold a grant for any other March of Dimes research program and may not hold a major grant exceeding \$200,000 per year before the BOC award start date (e.g. R01). 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 30, 2018) 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 (assigned to the candidate), startup package, and access to core facilities. 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 building on the results of the project. 4) Clinical relevance to research priorities of the March of Dimes.

EXPECTATION

All awardees are expected to attend a local and national March of Dimes events during the award and alumni sessions for the two years following. Details will be available at the time of award.

QUESTIONS

Please direct any questions to researchgrantssupport@marchofdimes.org