

Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI)
2021 Genomics of ASD: Pathways to Genetic Therapies

Coordinator: Tiffany Worboy, Director, Foundation Relations (tworboy@emory.edu)
Website: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/2021-genomics-of-asd-pathways-to-genetic-therapies-request-for-applications/>

Submission Limitations: None
Foundation Deadline: July 6, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EDT

*Please contact your RAS unit ***and*** Tiffany Worboy to inform them of your intent to submit*

Overview

Grants awarded through this request for applications (RFA) are intended to advance our understanding of the genetic basis of ASD and the molecular and cellular consequences of genetic risk, and to provide a foundation for the development of treatments for select genetically defined forms of the condition.

Over the past decade, the scientific community has identified more than 100 highly penetrant risk genes for ASD, owing in part to analyses of SFARI-sponsored cohorts such as [SPARK](#) (Simons Foundation Powering Autism Research for Knowledge), [Simons Searchlight](#) and [Simons Simplex Collection](#) (SSC). Although these genetic findings have allowed for a better understanding of the biological underpinnings of ASD, much remains to be done to elucidate the complexity of ASD genomics and to use this knowledge to develop new genetic therapies.

In this RFA, we seek proposals in three broad areas of ASD genomics:

- (1) risk gene discovery and systems biology;
- (2) functional analysis of variants associated with ASD risk genes; and
- (3) gene-targeted therapies.

Successful proposals with a focus on the first two areas will likely involve large-scale analyses.

Level and Duration of Funding

The annual budget is between \$200,000 and \$400,000, inclusive of 20 percent indirect costs, for a period of two (2) or three (3) years. Progress will be critically evaluated at the end of each annual funding period before support for the upcoming year will be approved. Allowable indirect costs to the primary institution for subcontracts are not included in the total budget threshold (see grant policies).

We strongly encourage investigators to tailor their requested budgets and duration to levels appropriate for the scope of their specific aims. For example, data analysis projects that do not require the generation of new data are expected to have lower budgets than those generating new data. We recommend that investigators include realistic budget estimations in their initial grant application. It is at the foundation's discretion to modify final budgets as needed.

Eligibility

- All applicants and key collaborators must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or the equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility.
- Principal investigators (PIs) who do not have substantial ASD clinical expertise should include a close collaborator with such expertise on their grant application.
- SFARI recognizes the importance of diverse viewpoints for scientific advancement. As such, SFARI strongly encourages the inclusion of researchers who span institutions, career stages and groups historically underrepresented in science.
- Applications may be submitted by domestic and foreign nonprofit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, and units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government. There are no citizenship or country requirements.

Instructions for Submission

Applications must be completed electronically and submitted using forms provided at proposalCENTRAL. Please log in as an applicant, go to the grant opportunities tab, scroll to “Simons Foundation,” and click “Apply Now” for the “2021 Genomics of ASD: Pathways to Genetic Therapies – RFA.”

- For assistance, please contact Tiffany Worboy in the Office of Foundation Relations (tworboy@emory.edu).

Informational Sessions for Potential Applicants

To answer questions about this RFA, SFARI will hold an informational Zoom meeting on May 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. ET. Interested applicants can register [here](#).