

INTRODUCTION:

- Please read and follow these instructions carefully; incomplete or noncompliant applications will not be reviewed. An application will be considered incomplete if it is not prepared and submitted according to instructions, or if the information it contains is insufficient to permit an adequate review.
- The LAM Foundation requires submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). After review, high-scoring LOI applicants will be invited to submit full proposals.
- All LOIs and proposals must be prepared and submitted through [ProposalCentral](#). Contact information for ProposalCentral support may be found at [here](#).
- The LAM Foundation's funding priorities for 2025 may be found at [Funding Opportunities - The LAM Foundation](#).

DEADLINES:

- All times referenced in the application process and throughout ProposalCentral are given in Eastern Time (GMT-5).
- LOIs are required. The LOI submission portal opens May 5, 2025, with a submission deadline of June 16, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Those submitting LOIs will be notified on July 1, 2025, whether a full proposal is invited.
- The deadline for submission of full proposals is September 15, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- ProposalCentral will not allow submission of LOIs or proposals past the deadlines.

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

- Funding limits:
 - Pilot and Feasibility Research Awards: Projects may request a maximum of \$50,000 for up to one year of support.
 - The objective of this type of award is to provide funds to encourage the development and testing of new hypotheses and/or new methods in research areas relevant to LAM. The proposed work must be hypothesis generating or hypothesis testing, reflecting innovative approaches to important questions in LAM research or development of novel methods, and providing sufficient preliminary data to justify the Foundation's support. Results from Pilot and Feasibility Grants should have the potential to lead to the submission of applications for funding from other agencies (e.g., NIH). The award is not intended to support the continuation of programs initiated under other granting mechanisms. An applicant may be an MD, DO, PhD, DVM or equivalent postdoctoral researcher, postgraduate medical trainee, junior faculty or established investigator. The LAM Foundation encourages applications from investigators new to LAM research who could contribute their knowledge and expertise.
 - Clinical Research Awards: Projects may request a maximum of \$50,000 for up to one year of support.
 - The purpose of this grant is to generate hypothesis-driven, clinically focused patient-

centered research that could improve our understanding of novel therapeutic areas of interest, test interventions, or develop clinical research methodologies. The grant is designed to enable research that has the potential to improve an unmet clinical need relevant to the care of LAM patients. A successful application must be feasible within 1 year and should have a high probability of generating tangible results, such as larger clinical trials, new approaches to or methods to analyze clinical trials, or new data that could be utilized in a natural history database. An applicant may be an MD, DO, PhD, DVM, or equivalent postdoctoral researcher, postgraduate medical trainee, junior faculty, or established investigator.

- The project period for all projects must be January 15, 2026 – January 14, 2027.
- All materials must be submitted in English, in Arial size 11 font, with ½ inch margins.
- Only one LOI may be submitted by the same research laboratory or research group.
- Questions? Contact Jenn Vinton, Grant Coordinator, research@thelamfoundation.org.

Guidance contained in this RFA includes the following sections; some may only be required in full proposals. ***Please start an LOI in ProposalCentral to see the simplified requirements.*** (Ctrl+Click for hyperlink):

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Check Information/Institution Contacts

- This section contains information on the lead institution, defaulting to the institution of the Principal Investigator (PI). If the institution is incorrect, you may click on the "Change Institution" button and search for the correct institution.
- The PI's institution may already have contacts listed under their profile. Contacts that are required on all grants are marked with an asterisk (*) and cannot be removed. These contacts are generally institutional and financial officials, or grant and contract personnel. Ensure that the institution's Technology Transfer official is included.
- If you need to add a contact you may do so by entering their email information in the space provided and clicking the "Add" button.
 - If the PI is a postdoctoral researcher, postgraduate medical trainee, or junior faculty, their supervisor, mentor, lab director, or advisor must be added.

Organization Assurances:

- If the proposed research involves human or vertebrate animal subjects, tissues, or materials, the project must be approved by the applicant's IRB or IACUC **before** proposal submission. Approval or exemption are the only allowable statuses, and documentation must be uploaded to this

page. Proposed projects involving human or animal subjects which omit this documentation will not be considered for funding.

- Applications involving vertebrate animal subjects are also required to include an animal care plan as part of the IACUC documentation in this section.
- Funded projects must comply with all policies, rules, and regulations governing clinical trials, including those of the federal regulatory agencies, the respective university and institution, and The LAM Foundation itself.
- Awardees must notify The LAM Foundation of any amendments to the original research protocol (including the patient consent form) occurring prior to the commencement of or during the research project.
- IRB/IACUC approvals that expire during the project must be renewed for subsequent payments to be distributed.

Key Personnel

- All personnel who contribute substantively and measurably to the scientific development or execution of the project must be listed in this section, such as co-investigators, project leaders, collaborators, consultants, other significant contributors, staff scientists, or postdoctoral researchers.
- Applicants who are trainees (postdoctoral and research fellows, graduate students, medical trainees, etc.) must include their supervisor, mentor, lab director, or advisor.

Lay Summary, Scientific Abstract and Keywords

- **Lay Summary**
 - Please enter a lay summary of your proposed project in non-scientific terms that a general audience will understand. Since this summary will be available to the public, do not include any proprietary or confidential information. Do not summarize past accomplishments or cite literature in this section.
 - Limit the Lay Summary to 500 words which must be text only.
 - The Lay Summary must include description of the:

▪ Significance	▪ Approach
▪ Innovation	▪ Patient Impact
- **Abstract**
 - Please enter an abstract in concise, scientific terms that a technical audience would understand. Since this summary may be available to the public, do not include any proprietary or confidential information. Do not summarize past accomplishments or cite literature in this section.
 - Limit the Abstract summary to 500 words which must be text only.
 - The abstract must include description of the:
 - Rationale
 - Specific aims
 - Primary methodology and principal organism, tissue, or data being used

- Long-term objectives
- Impact of the project to patients with LAM

Research Plan and Supporting Attachments

- **Research Plan**
 - The Research Plan template uploaded in ProposalCentral is required, without alteration.
 - Page limits:
 - Research Plans for both Pilot Feasibility and Clinical Research proposals must not exceed four pages, including figures and legends.
 - Research Plans that exceed page limits will not be reviewed, including those that remove headers, use fonts smaller than Arial 11, or margins smaller than 0.5 inches.
 - The LAM Foundation has adopted NIH's recent guidelines for enhancing reproducibility through rigor and transparency, and reviewers will assess whether the applicant has appropriately addressed these areas.
 - Describe the objective of your proposed project and state the hypothesis to be tested to achieve the objective.
 - Please describe in detail how your proposed project meets The LAM Foundation's scientific areas of interest for 2025. These priorities may be found at [Funding Opportunities - The LAM Foundation](#).
 - Give the specific aims of the project, prioritized chronologically, and an estimate of the time you expect will be necessary to complete each aim.
 - State the rationale for the project and explain its significance, i.e., how the anticipated results will help solve important problems in the field. This section should clearly provide the reader with succinct information on the research you are proposing, why it is important and how it will advance the neuromuscular disease research field.
 - Summarize the key results and major conclusions from published, in preparation, and/or unpublished studies that specifically relate to your proposed project. Applicants should describe the strengths and weaknesses of the prior research cited to support the application. It is expected that this consideration of general strengths and weaknesses could include attention to the rigor of the previous experimental designs, the incorporation of relevant biological variables, and authentication of key resources. For example, basing one's proposed research on previous publications that lacked statistical power, were not blinded, lacked detail on the sex of animals, or authentication of cell lines would be considered a weakness of the application if it does not identify these weaknesses and propose ways to improve going forward. Likewise, conclusions drawn from prior research that used a small sample size may not adequately support the next research phase, such as moving to a higher species of animals or humans.
 - Describe the experimental design and any novel techniques or approaches required to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed project. For a new methodology, state its advantage over existing methodologies. Applicants should describe how they will achieve robust and unbiased results when describing the experimental design and proposed methods.

- Sample sizes should be delineated and justified using power analyses. Sex as a biological variable should be factored into research designs in vertebrate animal and human studies. Strong justification from the scientific literature, preliminary data, or other relevant considerations must be provided for applications proposing to study only one sex.
- Succinctly state the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures in achieving the project's specific aims. Discuss how data will be analyzed and interpreted. Please point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be taken for their protection.
- Pilot and Feasibility Award Research Plans must describe published or preliminary data to justify the feasibility of the proposed project.
- **Attachments:** Figures and legends containing additional data may not be uploaded as attachments and will be deleted.
 - **Required:**
 - Research Plan: Template required
 - References: No template required, no page limit. Please make every attempt to be judicious in compiling a relevant reference list; it need not be exhaustive.
 - Facilities:
 - No template required
 - List all facilities available for conducting the proposed research project, including laboratory space, clinical facilities, animal facilities, computer facilities, office space, clerical staff, and major equipment available.
 - Identify by name and address any facilities that are not part of the sponsoring institution and describe the arrangements made for using those off-site facilities.
 - Biographical Sketch (PI): Template required
 - Budget Justification:
 - No template required.
 - Each line item in the budget, for each year, must be detailed in the Budget Justification. Reviewers will compare the budget and justification, noting any discrepancies.
 - Photograph of the PI: Color professional photograph, including just the face and shoulders. The photograph will be used on The LAM Foundation's website, should the application be funded.
 - File format: .jpg or .png
 - File dimensions: At least 1200x1200
 - File size: At least 1500KB (1.5MB)
 - **Optional/Required if applicable:**
 - Biographical sketches for key personnel and other significant contributors, if included in the project, must be attached, following the same guidelines for the PI's biographical sketch described in the required attachments section.
 - Letters of collaboration or support

- Please note: IRB or IACUC documentation must be uploaded as attachments in the Organizational Assurances section.

Budget Period Detail and Summary

- Request support in US dollars only.
- The LAM Foundation does not allow indirect/facilities and administrative (F&A) costs.
- Funding limits: Both the Pilot and Feasibility and Clinical Research Awards, up to one year of support, maximum \$50,000
- **Budget Period Detail:**
 - Enter the start and end dates of the one-year budget period (1/15/2026 – 1/14/2027). You must complete each section of the detailed budget.
 - **Personnel:**
 - Must be listed by name, role, and percentage of effort devoted to the project. The PI's specific role in the proposed research must be described in the budget justification.
 - The institutional base salary is the PI's total base salary, and fringe benefits are the proportionate percentage of the PI's benefit cost. The LAM Foundation does not have a salary cap.
 - Consultant fees are included in Other Expenses rather than Personnel.
 - **Supplies:**
 - There is no maximum cost for supplies.
 - The total request should include all supplies purchased for this specific project but may not include expenses such as shipping, printing, or office supplies.
 - Consumable supplies may be entered as a total amount and need not be grouped by type.
 - Animal purchase and a prorated percentage of housing and care costs are allowable in this category.
 - **Travel:** No travel will be funded.
 - **Other expenses:**
 - If fees for consultants are requested, their names and institutional affiliations must also be given. Consultants may not be from the same institution as the PI.
 - Equipment, whether capital or not, must be listed in this section. In the budget justification, identify the manufacturer and model number.
 - Publication costs are allowable.
- Budget Summary: Automatically completes once you have completed the Detailed Budget sections.
- No budget justification is included in this section; it is a required attachment in the Research Plan and Supporting Attachments section.

Other Support

- All sources of current and pending research support for the PI must be identified in this section,

including all support received from The LAM Foundation. This includes all sources, federal, non-federal, commercial, and institutional. Do not include prizes or gifts.

Publications

- This section populates with the PI's ORCID information or may be added manually to the PI's professional profile in ProposalCentral for future use and to populate this application.

Signatures Required

- The PI and signing official(s) must each log in to ProposalCentral, type their name in the text box, and click the green "Sign" button.
- If the PI is a postdoctoral researcher, postgraduate medical trainee, or junior faculty, the supervisor, mentor, lab director, or advisor's signature is also required.
- These digital signatures are used **instead of** an uploaded PDF of a wet signature page. Once all signatures have been completed the proposal may be submitted.