THE LAM FOUNDATION
A BREATH OF HOPE

2026 Request for Applications (RFA)

INTRODUCTION

- Questions? Contact Jenn Vinton, Grant Coordinator, research@thelamfoundation.org.
- 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 here.
- The LAM Foundation welcomes **all innovative proposals with scientific or clinical merit** and the potential for **breakthrough or provocative findings**. **All topics will be considered**, although priority areas include:
  - **Discovering New Treatments for LAM:**
    - Identification of new therapeutic agents or repurposing of existing agents with strong potential to benefit patients with LAM in the near term, alone, or in combination with mTOR inhibitors (sirolimus or everolimus)
    - Investigating new therapeutic targets
    - Sex as a biological variable in LAM disease
  - **Patient Quality of Life:** Projects with the potential to significantly improve quality of life for individuals with LAM disease

DEADLINES

- All times referenced in the application process and throughout ProposalCentral are given in Eastern Time.
- ProposalCentral will not allow submission of LOIs or proposals after the deadlines.
- **May 1, 2026**: LOI submission portal on ProposalCentral opens
- **June 15, 2026**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time: LOIs due
- **July 1, 2026**: LOI applicants notified whether a full proposal is invited
- **September 15, 2026**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time: Full proposals due

FUNDING MECHANISMS

Pilot-Feasibility Research Awards	Clinical Research Awards	Patient Quality of Life Awards
Projects may request up to $50,000 for one year of support.	Projects may request up to $50,000 for one year of support.	Projects may request up to $25,000 for one year of support.
This pilot award provides 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.	This clinical pilot award generates 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. Successful applications must be feasible within one year; must utilize human subjects or human subjects' tissue or data; 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.	This award supports studies designed to deliver meaningful improvements in patient quality of life. Proposed research may use qualitative or quantitative approaches, but must demonstrate scientific rigor, clearly justify an unmet need, and articulate both immediate and anticipated real-world outcomes. Inclusion of the patient voice in proposal development is essential.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Allowable Principal Investigators (PIs) for all award mechanisms listed above:
  - **Qualified Applicants**: MD, DO, PhD, DVM, or equivalent professional degree.
  - **Career Level**: Postdoctoral researchers, graduate medical trainees, junior faculty, and established investigators are all eligible.
  - **New Investigators**: The Foundation encourages applications from investigators new to the field of LAM research who can offer fresh knowledge and expertise.
- Proposals will be reviewed, critiqued, scored, and voted upon by scientific and patient reviewers, whose input will be equally regarded.
- The project period for all must begin January 15, 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.

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 its specific, simplified requirements***. (Ctrl+Click for hyperlink):

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.

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.

Check Information/Institution Contacts

- This section contains information on the lead institution, defaulting to the PI's institution. If the institution is incorrect, click the "Change Institution" button to 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, please upload documentation of the project's IRB and/or IACUC status at the time of proposal submission. All Clinical Research Award proposals must utilize human subjects or human subjects' tissue or data. Proposed projects involving human or animal subjects which omit this documentation **will not be considered** for funding.
- 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.

Rationale/Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Lay Summary, Scientific Abstract

- **Lay Summary**
  - Please enter a lay summary of your proposed project in non-scientific terms that a general audience will understand. All reviewers, including patients, will critique the Lay Summary and other proposal sections, and vote on proposals.
  - 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 1,000 characters, which must be text only, including a description of the:
    - Significance
    - Innovation
    - Approach
    - Patient Impact and Relevance
- **Scientific Abstract**
  - Please enter a concise scientific abstract for the proposed project. 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.
  - Describe proposed experimental approaches, methods, anticipated results, and potential impact of the proposed research. Successful Clinical Research projects will utilize human subjects or human subjects' tissue or data.
  - Limit the Scientific Abstract to 3,000 characters, which must be text only, including a 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

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 medical trainees, etc.) must include their supervisor, mentor, lab director, or advisor.

Research Plan and Supporting Attachments

- **Research Plan**
  - The Research Plan template uploaded in ProposalCentral is required, without alteration.
  - ***Page limits***:
    - All Research Plans may not exceed four pages, including figures and legends.
    - Proposals that edit the Research Plan template to circumvent page limits **will be administratively withdrawn**. This includes those that remove headers, use fonts smaller than Arial 11, or margins smaller than 0.5 inches.
  - The LAM Foundation has adopted NIH's guidelines for enhancing reproducibility through rigor and transparency, and reviewers will assess whether the applicant has appropriately addressed

these areas.

- ***Pilot-Feasibility and Clinical Research Plans***:
  - Describe the objective of your proposed project and state the hypothesis to be tested to achieve the objective.
  - Describe in detail how your proposed project meets The LAM Foundation's scientific areas of interest for 2026, which may be found on page one of this document, as well as on The LAM Foundation website.
  - 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 lung 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, including the strengths and weaknesses of the prior research. 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 issues 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. Point out any procedures, situations, or materials that may be hazardous to personnel and the precautions to be taken for their protection.
  - Describe published data and/or include preliminary data to justify the feasibility of the proposed project.
- ***Patient Quality of Life Research Plans*:**
  - Describe in detail how your proposed project will significantly improve quality of life for individuals with LAM.
  - Explain how the patient voice was integrated into the development of your proposal,

including any direct input, collaboration, or feedback mechanisms that informed the study's design. If patients are directly involved as research participants, describe the extent to which they've contributed to plans for post-study evaluation as well as any precautions to be taken for their protection.

- State the rationale or hypothesis for the project and explain its significance, impact, and innovation. This section should clearly provide the reader with succinct information about the research you are proposing, why it is important, and how it will advance the field of LAM through direct benefit to patient quality of life.
- Give the objectives/specific aims of the project and an estimate of the time necessary to complete each aim.
- Summarize the key results and major conclusions from other studies that inform your proposed project, including the strengths and weaknesses of the previous work. If no existing literature is available, please state this. Proposals lacking prior studies as a foundation will not be penalized in the review process.
- Describe the study's design, scientific rigor, and any novel techniques or approaches required to accomplish the specific aims of the proposed project. State how the project's outcomes will be meaningful and relevant to patient-identified needs and priorities. Discuss how data will be analyzed and interpreted.
- Succinctly state the potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed processes in achieving the project's specific aims.

- **Attachments**: Figures and legends containing additional data may not be uploaded as attachments and will be deleted.
  - ***Required*:**
    - Research Plan: Template required (Proposals that edit the template to circumvent page limits, including removing headers, **will be administratively withdrawn**.)
    - References: No template required, no page limit. Be judicious in compiling a relevant reference list; it need not be exhaustive.
    - Facilities:
      - No template required
      - Provide a comprehensive overview of the resources available to support the successful execution of the proposed project. This may include, but is not limited to, laboratory space, clinical and/or animal research facilities, computational infrastructure, office space, administrative or clerical support, specialized software, and access to patient populations, as applicable.
      - 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): If an applicant *has* submitted to NIH through SciENcv, please upload a PDF of that biosketch and supplement. If an applicant *has not* submitted to NIH through SciENcv, the template in Proposal Central is required. Applications using other biosketch formats will not be considered.
    - Budget Justification:

- No template is required.
- Each line item in the budget 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 above 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**:
  - Pilot-Feasibility and Clinical Research proposals may request up to $50,000 for one year of support.
  - Patient quality of life proposals may request up to $25,000 for one year of support.
- **Budget Period Detail*:***
  - Enter the start and end dates of the one-year budget period (1/15/2027 – 1/14/2028). 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 fills 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.

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.