

**The Robert & Christina Silberman Charitable Trust, in Partnership with The LAM Foundation**  
**Call for Proposals: Birt-Hogg-Dubé Syndrome**

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## INTRODUCTION

- The goal of this grant funding is the advancement of understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of Birt-Hogg-Dubé (BHD) syndrome. **All innovative proposals with scientific or clinical merit**, and the potential for **breakthrough or provocative findings**, are welcome. **All BHD-related research topics will be considered**, although pulmonary manifestations of BHD is a priority area.
- The pilot award provides funds to encourage the development and testing of new hypotheses and/or new methods in research areas relevant to BHD. The proposed work must be hypothesis generating or hypothesis testing, reflecting innovative approaches to important questions in BHD research or development of novel methods, and providing sufficient preliminary data to justify a grant application. Results from this pilot project should have the potential to lead to the submission of applications for funding from other agencies. The award is not intended to support the continuation of programs initiated under other granting mechanisms.
- For the 2026 funding cycle, a maximum of one pilot research grant in the amount of \$50,000 will be awarded, to be completed in a one-year period.

## IMPORTANT DETAILS

- 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.
- Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required. After review, high-scoring LOI applicants will be invited to submit full proposals.
- LOIs, proposals, and additional inquiries should be sent to [bhdsubmissions@bhdproposals.org](mailto:bhdsubmissions@bhdproposals.org) in accordance with the requirements in this Call for Proposals.
- Allowable Principal Investigators (PIs) are as follows:
  - **Qualified Applicants:** MD, DO, PhD, DVM, or equivalent professional degree.
  - **Career Level:** Postdoctoral researchers, postgraduate medical trainees, graduate students, junior faculty, and established investigators are all eligible.
  - **New Investigators:** Applications from investigators new to the field of BHD research who can offer new knowledge, perspective and expertise are encouraged.
- Proposals will be reviewed, critiqued, scored, and voted upon by scientific and patient/family reviewers, whose input will be equally regarded.
- The project period for all must begin January 1, 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.

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**DEADLINES**

- All times referenced are in Eastern Time. LOIs and proposals submitted after deadlines will not be accepted.
- **June 1, 2026:** LOI submission window opens
- **June 30, 2026, 5:00 pm Eastern Time:** LOIs due
- **July 15, 2026:** LOI applicants notified whether a full proposal is invited
- **September 15, 2026:** 5:00 Eastern Time: Full proposals due

**LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) CONTENT**

- LOIs may not exceed one page in length and must use the template at the end of this Call for Proposals.
- **Rationale/Hypothesis:** Please describe the specific scientific, biomedical or clinical question that this project targets and provide its hypothesis or rationale. Maximum 200 words, text only.
- **Specific Aims:** List and enumerate up to four specific aims (two to three aims are typical). Be concise. Avoid detailed background and experimental methods. Omit citations. Maximum 200 words each, text only.
- **Scientific Abstract:** Please enter a concise scientific abstract for the proposed project. Describe proposed experimental approaches, methods, anticipated results, and potential impact of the proposed research. Maximum 400 words, text only.
- **Key Personnel:**
  - All personnel, in addition to Principal Investigator (PI), who contribute substantively and measurably to the scientific development or execution of the project must be listed in this section, such as co-investigators, collaborators, consultants, other significant contributors, staff scientists, or postdoctoral researchers.
  - Applicants who are trainees (postdoctoral and research fellows, research associates, graduate students, medical trainees, etc.) must include their direct supervisor, mentor, lab director, or advisor.
- Please attach **biosketches** for the PI and for relevant key personnel.

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**FULL PROPOSAL CONTENT**

- Proposals may not exceed four pages in length and must use the template at the end of this Call for Proposals.
- Please attach **biosketches** for the PI and key personnel, references for the research plan, and a list of the PI's publications.
- Items *differing* from the LOI are as follows:
  - **Specific Aims and Rationale/Hypothesis:** Included within the Research Plan.
  - **Human and Animal Subjects:** If either is involved, state whether review status is approved, pending, to be submitted, or exempt.
  - **Research Plan:**
    - Describe the objective of your proposed project and state the hypothesis to be tested to achieve the objective.
    - 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 BHD 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.
    - 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.
    - 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.
  - **Facilities:**
    - 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.

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- 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.
- **Other Support:** All sources of current and pending research support for the PI must be identified in this section. This includes all sources, federal, non-federal, commercial, and institutional. Do not include prizes or gifts.
- **Budget and Justification:**
  - Request support in US dollars only.
  - The Robert & Christina Silberman Charitable Trust does not allow indirect/facilities and administrative (F&A) costs.
  - Proposals may request up to \$50,000 for one year of support.
  - Each line item in the budget must be detailed in the Budget Justification. Reviewers will compare the budget and justification, noting any discrepancies.
- **Authorized Signing Official:** The individual authorized to commit the institution to the proposed work must sign the proposal before submission (electronic or wet signature). This is not the principal investigator.

Maximum One Page; Attach PI and Key Personnel Biosketches (See RFA for Guidance)

Principal Investigator:		Title:		Institution:					
Email:				Phone:					
Project Title:									
Rationale/Hypothesis (Max. 200 words, text only):									
Specific Aims (Max. 200 words each, text only):									
Scientific Abstract (Max. 400 words, text only):									
Key Personnel									
Name		Institution		Role		Email		Phone	

Maximum Four Pages; Attach PI and Key Personnel Biosketches, References, Publications (See RFA)

Principal Investigator:		Title:		Institution:				
Email:				Phone:				
Project Title:								
Does the proposed project involve human subjects/tissues?								
If so, IRB status:								
Does the proposed project involve vertebrate animals?								
If so, IACUC status:								
Scientific Abstract (Max. 400 words, text only):								
Key Personnel								
Name		Institution		Role		Email	Phone	
Research Plan:								
Facilities:								
Other Support:								
Budget:								
Personnel (PI's organization only)								
Name		Role	Effort	Base Salary	Requested Salary	Fringe Rate	Requested Fringe	Total
Non-Personnel Costs								
Category			Description				Requested Amount	
Supplies								
Other Expenses								
Total Request								
Budget Justification:								
Authorized Signing Official:								
Name			Signature			Date		