

Galactosemia Foundation
Request for Applications
2027 - 2028 Biennial Research Grant

Section 1. Overview Information

Funding Opportunity Purpose

The Galactosemia Foundation (the Foundation) provides funding for a broad range of scientific and medical research projects related to classic galactosemia. The goal of this research initiative is to improve the lives of people with galactosemia. Please see our website for more information on Galactosemia.

Funding Opportunity Details

Any submission addressing classic galactosemia is welcome; however, for this round of funding, the Foundation is especially interested in receiving submissions related to the following topics (in alphabetical order):

- Bone density/health concerns (both male/female):
 - Advances in treatments, supplementation, pharmaceutical interventions and relationship with metabolism
 - Underlying mechanisms that influence on bone health
- Cognition concerns:
 - Cognitive changes and deficits (including onset, prevalence, relationship to age and viable treatments)
 - Longitudinal studies comparing natural history data on the same subjects over extended periods of time/their lifespan
- Diet-related concerns:
 - Galactose content related to liberalization of diet, outcomes and quality of life
 - Enzyme activity for residual enzyme production
 - Associated deficiencies and their impact on body systems
- Gastrointestinal concerns:
 - Gut-brain relationship
 - Underlying issues in gut microbiome impacting associated complications - causes and treatment options
- Motor/neurological concerns:
 - Seizures, tremors, movement disorders (including of onset, prevalence, relationship to age and viable treatments)
 - Neurological changes and markers throughout the lifespan (including onset, prevalence, relationship to age, viable treatments)
- Pharmaceutical and supplementation concerns:
 - Advancements in interventions including off-label usage to treat various conditions
 - Supplementation and treatments to support brain health (i.e., myelin, neurotransmitters, processing, etc.)

- Premature ovarian insufficiency/failure (POI/POF):
 - Advances in hormone therapy or related treatments to address POI/POF throughout life (pre-puberty through menopause)
 - Advances in fertility options
 - *Women's physical and mental health-related issues*
- Psychological, neuropsychological and mental health concerns:
 - Identification and treatment advances
 - Anxiety/depression prevalence and prevalence of related neuropsychological diagnoses
- Treatment guidelines and prognosis/diagnosis concerns:
 - Updated assessment and management guidelines for patients throughout the lifespan
 - Identification of biomarkers that influence outcomes, in particular neurological, cognitive, speech-language, and motor outcomes
 - Genetic factors that influence severity
 - Underlying mechanisms that influence various related concerns

The Foundation is interested in projects that answer an outstanding question or address an unmet need of our community. We are particularly interested in advancing identification and treatment of complications related to classic galactosemia and variability of outcomes. These may include, but are not limited to treatments or cures as well as advancing our knowledge of the sequela of classic galactosemia through the lifespan.

Key Dates

RFA posting date: August 5, 2026

Stage 1 submission deadline: September 25, 2026

Stage 1 results announcement: November 15, 2026

Stage 2 submission deadline: January 15, 2027

State 2 results announcement: April 2027

Award disbursement: May 2027

Completion of grant: June 2028

Section 2. Award Information

Funding Instrument

- Grant

Project Type

- New
- Progression of prior work
- Expansion of ongoing work to include addressing classic galactosemia

Project Categories

- Research
- Clinical
- Education
- Collaborative efforts or meetings

Award Duration

- Funding is typically for support of 1-year projects

Award Budget

- Awards are typically made for amounts between \$10,000 and \$50,000.
- 1-year partial awards are also available (see Cost Sharing below).
- Authorized uses of grant monies will include direct costs as set forth by the funding guidelines. **Indirect costs are not allowed.** Unauthorized expenses include:
 1. Salaries, travel, and/or housing related to sabbatical leave
 2. Purchase or rental of office equipment (i.e., computers, furniture, etc.).
 3. Expenses normally covered by the indirect cost of the grantee's institution.
 4. Fees for tuition.
 5. Membership dues, subscriptions, books, or journals.

Institutional overhead is not allowed. All monies awarded must be for direct costs.

Section 3. Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Organizations

- Higher Education Institutions (public/state/private)
- Nonprofit Organizations (with or without 501(c)(3) IRS Status)
- For-Profit Organizations (small or large non-U.S.)
- Non-U.S. entities (completely foreign or components of U.S. Organizations) as defined in the NIH Grants Policy Statement

Program Directors/Principal Investigators (PD(s)/PI(s))

- The PD/PI must have documented support from their organization.
- Previous research experience is desired but not required. Historically, funded projects have been led by medical doctors, doctorate level researchers, registered dietitians, and PhD candidates.
- The PD/PI does NOT need to have a background or previous experience with galactosemia.
- Partnerships, especially bringing together galactosemia expertise with other relevant fields, are highly encouraged.
- If there is more than one PD/PI, please identify the individual who will be the lead on executing the project and with whom the Foundation should communicate.

Cost Sharing

Applications will not be accepted for projects for which funding has already been distributed by another source unless the anticipated costs of the project exceed the awarded funds. In this case, the Galactosemia Foundation may provide partial funding up to the remaining reasonable estimation of total costs not to exceed \$50,000 as described above in Award Budget.

Number of Applications

Applicants may have more than one submission, provided that each is scientifically distinct.

Section 4. Application and Submission Information

Application Process

Stage 1 application guidelines may be found on our [website](https://www.galactosemia.org/research) or may be requested by emailing research@galactosemia.org.

Stage 2 applications are to be submitted by invitation only. Stage 2 application invitations are based on results from the Stage 1 process.

Content and Form of Application Submission

The Galactosemia Foundation enacted a two-stage in 2019 to help expedite the selection process for award candidates. Stage 1 should be brief and not exceed two pages. Previous receipt of a grant does not constitute a commitment to continue funding in future years. Submission of an application in Stage 1 does not constitute automatic approval into the Stage 2 process. If you do not submit an outline/proposal for Stage 1, you will not be considered for Stage 2. Review of this first stage will be done by Galactosemia Foundation Research Team and board representative(s). Notification of the outcome of Stage 1 will be sent out by the Research Team.

Stage 2 applications must follow the submission guidelines carefully. Invitation into Stage 2 does not mean you will automatically be funded.

All applications must be received by midnight, US Eastern Time, on their respective due dates. Applications must be submitted in English, in PDF format, and with a standard font type that can be photocopied (i.e., Times New Roman, Arial, etc.). Font shall not be smaller than 11 point. The application must be signed by the applicant, the department chair (or comparable), the financial officer or appropriate representative from the office of sponsored programs. Applications that do not have formal approval at time of submission will not be accepted.

Section 5. Application Review Information

Review Process

Stage 1 applications will be reviewed by the Foundation Research Team and/or board members focusing on potential impact and Foundation priorities. The decision for which applications to

invite for Stage 2 will be at the discretion of the Research Team and there is no quota for Stage 2 applications.

Stage 2 applications will be reviewed by external expert peer reviewers and the Research Team. All peer reviewers will be required to agree to a non-disclosure agreement and vetted for conflict of interests. Additionally, individuals who submit during this cycle will not be used as a reviewer for other proposals during this same cycle. The external expert reviewers will review each proposal individually using the criteria listed below and will be focused on scientific and technical merit.

After, the external peer review process, the Research Team determines which of the Stage 2 applications will be considered for funding nomination based on their review and the results of the external peer review. The Foundation's governing board will decide which of the nominated applications will be selected for funding. These decisions are primarily based the results of the review process, Foundation funding priorities, and available funds. Award of a grant is at the discretion of the Foundation.

Stage 2 Review Criteria

Introduction

Does the proposal provide adequate background information? Are the goals/purpose of the research clearly stated? Is there an attached literature review? Is any related preliminary work clearly described?

Significance

Does the study address an important problem facing the galactosemia community? Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original and innovative?

Design and Methods

Does the project have clear, realistic goals and objectives? Is the target population clearly defined? Are the proposed activities well thought out and able to meet the objectives? If applicable, is the recruitment strategy, potential risk, and methods for maintaining patient confidentiality described? Is there an appropriate plan for data analysis? If applicable, are survey tools or questionnaires provided?

Institutional Support and Staffing

Does the PD/PI have adequate background and/or an adequate mentor to complete the project? Is there adequate staffing? Is there institutional support? Do the proposed experiments take advantage of the scientific environment or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

Anticipated Problems

Does the applicant anticipate problems and provide strategies to consider alternative tactics?

Budget

Is the budget realistic? Do the line items meet the criteria established by funding guidelines?

Information sharing

Is there a plan to share information obtained by this project?

Timeline

Is the timeline realistic? Research projects are expected to be completed within the time frame selected for the research as proposed on the application, but not to exceed 12 months, unless a no-cost extension is approved in advance by the research team.

Section 6. Award Administration Information

Award Notices

Submissions from Stage 2 that have been approved for funding will be notified via email. Recipients must comply with the funding restrictions established by funding guidelines. The Foundation reserves the right to terminate funding to any project for any reason at the sole discretion of the board.

All recipients and representatives of the sponsored offices will be required to sign a financial agreement prior to receiving the first half of their funding.

The transaction of funds is the responsibility of the Foundation Treasurer. The Research Team should be notified of any issues with the transaction of funds as this may impact or delay a project.

The recipients of a grant will receive half of the awarded amount initially at the start of the project and receive the remaining half of the awarded amount after a mid-year report has been submitted to the team.

Financial agreements will be managed by the Galactosemia Foundation Treasurer.

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit semi-annual progress reports, financial reports, and a final research report consisting of a summary in lay language of the research accomplished must be provided within 90 days of conclusion of the research project. This final report is in addition to any interim progress reports submitted. The reports shall be sent to the Research Team via email at research@galactosemia.org. Additionally, recipients are required to present their research

findings at our biennial Galactosemia Foundation Conference. Details of that process will be made available to all award recipients. At times, the Foundation may request the PD/PI to provide a laymen update that may be posted on the GF Newsletter or related postings.

Section 7. Foundation Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. Questions may be sent to the Research Team via email at research@galactosemia.org.

Questions regarding the administration of the Foundation may be submitted via email to outreach@galactosemia.org.