

Discovery Research Grants 2024

Request for *Letters of Intent* for EvansMDS Strategic Funding Initiative in Myelodysplastic Syndromes

Up to \$250,000 per year for up to three
years

Letter of Intent to be submitted through [Proposal Central](#) with a
Submission Deadline of January 31, 2024

EvansMDS 2024 Strategic Funding Initiative

Founded in 1984, The Edward P. Evans Foundation is a non-profit charitable trust dedicated to funding research on Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS) through its EvansMDS initiative. We are seeking to fund the discovery of new knowledge that will lead to the development of better MDS therapies and ultimately, disease cures. Since the inception of our EvansMDS initiative, we have provided over \$142 million dollars for MDS research.

EvansMDS is conducting this competitive grant program to identify and fund research into the etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of MDS that is collaborative, transformative, and of high impact. Priority will be given to projects that directly examine key features of MDS rather than general concepts in leukemia, hematopoiesis, aging or immunology.

Discovery Research Grants (DRGs) - EvansMDS will offer several individual grants of up to \$250,000 per year for up to three years each to fund highly innovative and novel research. The following topics are of specific interest to EvansMDS. Please note that these are only suggestions - *we are most interested in whatever your most exciting ideas might be.*

- Analysis of the progression of clonal hematopoiesis to MDS and on to AML, and strategies to intervene, or prevent the pathogenesis of progression, particularly at earlier disease stages prior to MDS;
- Development of preclinical models for the practical discovery and development of new MDS therapies;
- Research to better understand germline mutations predisposing patients to MDS, age-associated clonal hematopoiesis or genetic mosaicism;
- Large scale screening and molecular modeling against existing targets for the development of new MDS therapies;
- Studies on improving the applicability or outcome of novel cell-based therapies or bone marrow transplants;
- Correlative research to better understand, direct, or clarify the impact of clinical studies showing significant promise for the treatment of MDS;
- Creating novel curated data sources for the application of machine learning to MDS analyses;
- Novel imaging modalities and algorithms for improving diagnosis, understanding pathogenesis, and directing therapy;
- Longitudinal testable, extensible models of disease based upon patient data, covering all, or a portion of, the progression from clonal hematopoiesis to AML.

Research topics of previously funded projects are available on evandsmds.org.

Letter of Intent Submission Process:

Applicants for *Discovery Research Grants* should submit a letter of intent (LOI) that will determine eligibility for full application. EvansMDS will issue a request for a full application to those investigators submitting LOIs found to be of interest.

The LOI shall consist of the following items, which will be shared with a panel of MDS experts (the Reviewing Committee).

1. **Cover Letter** (limited to one page or less) – The cover letter must include a description of the specific aims that will be addressed by the project and how achieving these will advance the prevention or treatment of MDS.
2. **Project Description** (limited to one page or less) – The project description should describe the experimental strategy that will be used to achieve the specific aims described in the cover letter.
3. **Cited References** (optional, limited to one page or less, may be included on the Project Description page).
4. **NIH-style Bio sketch** for the principal investigator (no page limit).

Eligibility:

Applicants must be established independent investigators in a tenure-track or tenured position at the Assistant Professor level (or equivalent), or higher, at a recognized 501(c)(3) university or non-profit institution in the United States. The Foundation values diversity and inclusiveness in its Discovery Research Grant Program and encourages submissions from groups underrepresented in science.

Applicants are limited to the submission of one Letter of Intent. Investigators previously funded by the Edward P. Evans Foundation are welcome to apply. Investigators who are currently funded are welcome to apply in their final year of our funding.

IMPORTANT: Letters of intent are due by **January 31, 2024** and will be reviewed by the Reviewing Committee and the Foundation. Submission will be made using [Proposal Central](#).

Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will be notified in early March 2024. The deadline for submission of the full proposals will be in early April 2024. It is intended that funding will be initiated and the research will begin by **September 1, 2024**.

Requirements:

EvansMDS asks that all of our awardees annually participate in the review of the LOIs, EYIAs, or DRGs and share their research results in-person at our MDS Summit, usually held in the late fall. Unexcused failure to participate in these meetings will result in loss or suspension of research funds.