



How to Get Your Cell Therapy Research Funded

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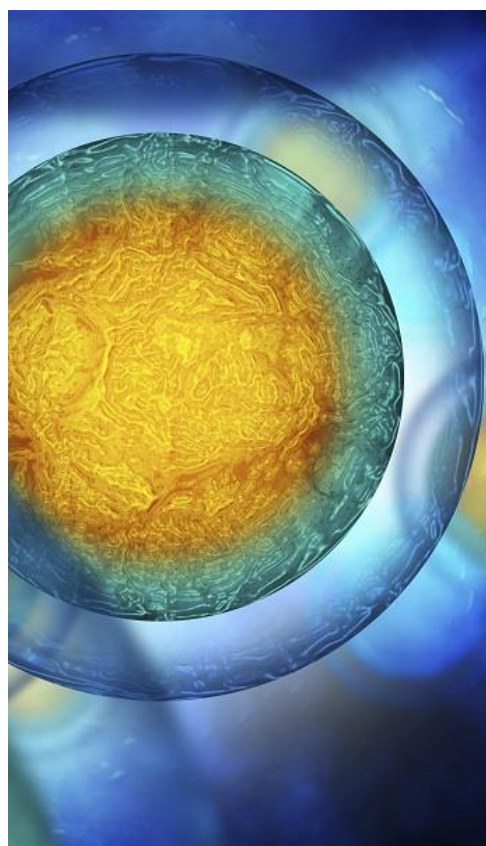
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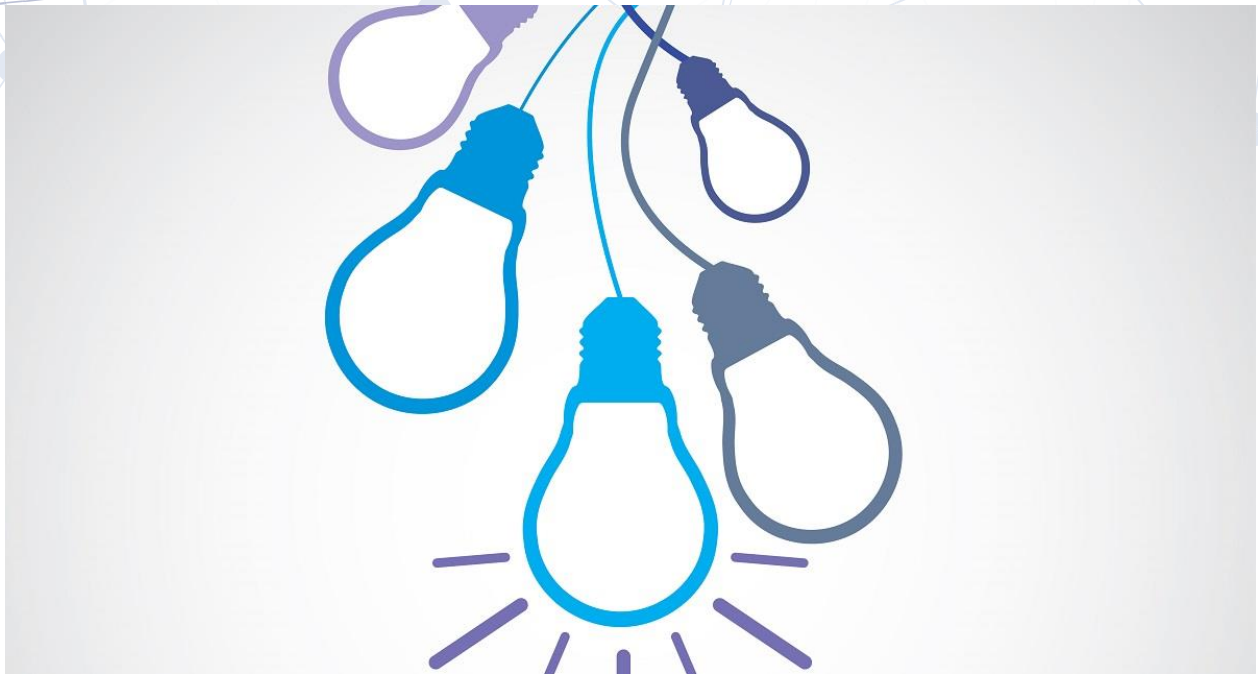
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Filling the Gap for Cell Therapy Funding

At a recent Cell Therapy Bioprocessing & Commercialization conference, Brock Reeve, executive director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, gave the audience some advice on funding early stage science. He explained that because of uncertainty in financial markets, venture capitalists and other financially motivated investors have moved away from cell therapy, leaving a gap in funding. But this gap is being filled by venture philanthropy organizations who are moving things from the academic world into the commercial market.

This eBook offers a list of potential organizations who may be able to help fund your cell therapy research. It is by no means exhaustive, but hopefully it will make searching through the hundreds of pages of information out there a little bit easier, so you can get to the important stuff, like advancements in research, drug development, treatment, and potential cures.





How do you start? The grant proposal

Share your proposal with a couple of experts in your field as well as your non-scientist friends.

The most important thing to remember is to follow the guidelines given by a specific organization to a “T”. Believe it or not, a major complaint of many organizations is that grant proposals do not follow their guidelines.

Also keep in mind that the people who read your grant proposal may not all be scientists, so it’s important to explain how your research is valid for their particular grant, give some background by placing it in context of current research and explain what potential it has to be a success. It is advised that you share your proposal with a couple of experts in your field as well as your non-scientist friends; this will be the true test if both parties can be impressed as well as easily understand what you are aiming for.

Where Can I Apply for Funding?

What follows is a listing, in alphabetical order, of the organizations that accept unsolicited proposals, along with a brief description of anything noteworthy in their application processes. Only organizations that provide grant information on their websites have been included. The list is by no means exhaustive, and there are potentially many other organizations who may provide research grants, but simply do not have that info on their websites.



Keep in mind that application styles vary widely; one size does not fit all. **The Immune Tolerance Network**, for example, accept proposals all year round and require a 5 page “concept proposal” to be submitted via email, while the **Department of Defense** has a rather elaborate online process in order to submit the Abstract of your proposal.



A-Z of Funding Sources

[Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy \(ACGT\)](#): “The only public charity in the nation exclusively funding cancer cell and gene therapy research.” It offers links on the site to those interested in applying for a grant.

[Alliance for Lupus Research](#): With several grant possibilities on the website, from a TIL grant to Pilot Grants, ALR has committed almost \$90 million to research.

[ALS Association](#): In 2015, the ALS Association announced 58 new research grants totalling over \$11 million. Its website provides contact information to get in touch with either the Chief Scientist or their Research Programs representative to find out about more information on how to apply.

[AMFAR, The Foundation for Aids Research](#): The organization is looking to help fund researchers at the Doctoral-level from “**any field outside of HIV**” including stem cell researchers. A \$1 million grant is detailed on the website which as of writing is closed for applications.



Ara Parseghian Medical Research Foundation: Offering grants of up to \$100,000 for “research that is targeted toward understanding the molecular basis of Niemann Pick Type C (NP-C) disease and developing novel therapeutic strategies to treat and/or cure the disease”. They for a letter of intent not longer than 2 pages.

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM): CIRM 2.0 was launched in 2015 to introduce “more efficient systems and programs and that place an added emphasis on speed, partnerships, and patients”. If you are completing late stage preclinical development through any stage of clinical trial activity, they have an open call for proposals and accept applications on a monthly basis; the types of awards they provide are listed on their site along with links to a portal to submit an application.

The CGD Society: CGDS funds gene and cellular therapy as treatment and potential cure for Chronic Granulomatous Disorder. There is one round of grant funding per year; call for proposals is made both in Nature journal and via their network of professional members.



Cooley's Anemia Foundation: Offering a range of annual grants, there is one specifically to “facilitate clinical trials in Cell and Gene Therapy to advance a cure for thalassemia” .

The Dysautonomia Foundation: Grants for a two year period of up to \$100,000/year for “dealing with molecular, biochemical, cellular and clinical pathologic studies relevant to function of the gene or to the pathophysiology of Familial Dysautonomia”.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency: DARPA provides an opportunity to apply to grants from its Biological Technologies Office. Opportunities are sporadic and “of particular interest are those proposals from entities (both small and large business) that have never received Government funding, or who do not normally propose to Government solicitations.”

The Faconi Anemia Research Fund: Various grants are offered and to learn more you must request a research packet which will have application forms, guidelines and other criteria. They accept inquiries from principal investigators, post-doctoral fellows or grant coordinators.



Grants.gov Website: A great resource to search over 2000 grants from just about every US Government Department. Those related to ‘cell therapy’ number more than 200, therefore it takes some time to sift through for relevance to your specific topic of research. There are also over 30,000 archived grants on the site for reference.

Immune Tolerance Network: The ITN accepts grant applications all year round, and reviews take place several times each year. The amount of funding varies from year to year. The site explains: “Applicants should note that the ITN review process differs significantly from traditional study section reviews by maintaining a much more interactive method designed to assist potential investigators in the preparation of highly focused, relevant scientific proposals.”

The Matthew Larsen Foundation for Pediatric Brain Tumors: Since 2007, the MLF has provided nearly \$2 million to support research projects. The website has regular new opportunities, as well as details of previous award recipients.



National Institutes of Health: NIH is the largest public funder of biomedical research in the world, investing more than \$32 billion a year. The website has a wealth of information on the grants on offer and the application processes.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society: The MS Society has supported 70 stem cell studies in the past 10 years. Applications are assessed on how appropriate and relevant they are to the MS Society's research goals which are clearly listed on the site. Before submitting a proposal you must register and complete a pre-application.

National Neiman-Pick Foundation: The NPD offers fellowships "to enable promising new researchers to make a career in the field of Niemann-Pick Disease, thus providing for a new generation of scientists to accelerate the pace of NPD research".

National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association: NTSAD is asking for proposals for "innovative research projects that involve basic research, translational studies or clinical studies "and areas may include stem cells and gene therapy.



NIH Loan Repayment Programs: Although not a research grant per se, the National Institute of Health funds the LRPs which will repay up to \$35,000 of your educational debt annually if you agree to engage in research relevant to NIH's mission. The application process is available online.

United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation: The UMDF offers a number of grants each year, ranging from \$25,000 - \$200,000. The website offers clear instructions on the application process.

The Wellcome Trust: A global charitable foundation based in the UK which provides a range of scientific grants. The website includes information on how to apply, as well as details to contact them directly.

All information was accurate at the date of creation on June 2016. If referencing please link to:

<http://knect365bioprocessing.com/2016/06/06/ebook-cell-therapy-research-funded-download>.

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