



## **2015 Helmsley Breakthrough Initiative Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Grant Awards:**

#### **1. What is the Helmsley Breakthrough Initiative?**

The Helmsley Breakthrough Initiative (HBI) of The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust is an initiative that supports early-stage studies and pilot projects in the field of type 1 diabetes (T1D) that have a strong rationale but little or no preliminary data.

#### **2. How many grants does the Trust plan to award?**

For 2015, the Helmsley Charitable Trust expects to support up to 10 principal investigators. Grants will be awarded to nonprofit research institutes. The intent is to fund the most promising innovative ideas with potential to reveal new avenues to prevent or treat T1D.

#### **3. What is the range of funding available for this grant initiative?**

The entire Initiative will be supported for 12 months with grants totaling up to \$1,000,000 USD for direct research costs. An additional 10 percent can be requested to support institutional indirect costs. Depending on the number of samples and analyses required, each project will include a proposed budget of \$50,000 to \$150,000. Studies of one or a few individuals will fall at the low end of this range, and studies with larger cohorts will fall at the high end of this range. The exact amount of each grant will be determined during the organization of the working group. Please note, however, that the Trust reserves the right to recommend a grant amount below or above this range. All Trust decisions are final.

#### **4. Who is eligible to receive a grant?**

U.S., Canadian, Australian, or European nonprofit institutions performing biomedical research may receive funding. Principal Investigators must hold an MD or PhD or equivalent and hold an appointment in a research facility. Grants cannot be made to individuals.

#### **5. Can physicians unaffiliated with a nonprofit participate?**

Physicians unaffiliated with a nonprofit institution may have identified individuals with T1D whose study may shed light on the disease. These physicians should seek collaborators at academic or research centers. Grants will be awarded to the nonprofit research institute; co-investigators and subcontracts to other entities can be included in the proposal.

**6. Can institutions submit multiple applications?**

Yes. However, Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be sufficiently unique to warrant more than one proposal.

**7. What topics fall outside the scope of this funding opportunity? (question added 6/18/2015)**

Much about T1D may be learned by studying related diseases. However, the goal of this funding opportunity is to stimulate the study of unique clinical cases of T1D. Related diseases that fall outside the scope of the opportunity include, but are not limited to, type 2 diabetes, maturity-onset of diabetes of the young (MODY), and Wolfram syndrome.

**Grants Process:**

**8. What is the process for reviewing the applications?**

The 2015 Helmsley Breakthrough Initiative has three phases: submitting an Expression of Interest, the coordination of a scientific working group and submitting full grant proposals.

**9. Must the application be in English?**

Yes, all documents must be in English. If necessary, supporting documents must be translated.

**10. How will EOIs be evaluated?**

An Advisory Committee and Trust staff will review the EOIs and each will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Novelty and value of samples and analyses;
- Potential that the early-stage studies will develop into research projects that inform etiology, pathogenesis or new therapeutic avenues;
- Alignment with the EOI's stated goals; and
- Synergy and complementation within the working group.

**11. How will the full proposals be evaluated?**

Invited applicants will submit full grant proposals. Full grant proposals will include:

- Applicant's contact information;
- 500-word lay summary of project;
- 1500-word scientific proposal that describes samples and experiments;
- Information related to receiving all patient, safety and ethical approvals, including appropriate consent and approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB);
- Appropriate plan to share and distribute data to the research community;
- Expected outcome and impact; and
- Full budget and justification.

## 12. What types of due diligence will the Trust perform?

The Trust's due diligence on an applicant will depend on the type of entity (domestic or international). Generally, the Trust seeks to assess whether an organization is in good standing, fiscally healthy, sustainable and that the proposed project will use Trust funds for a charitable purpose.

### **Online Application:**

## 13. How do I access a saved application?

To access a saved application, please click on the link on our website. You will be prompted to log in using your unique password. This will bring you to the homepage for the user. At this time you will be able to access any saved documents.

## 14. How do I upload documents to the application?

To upload documents to the application, you must go to the last page of the form. On this last page you will see a drop-down box with a list of all required documents. First, choose each document individually: Search your location for the document to attach, then select upload. *You must attach all required documents to the online application, otherwise your proposal will not be reviewed for funding.*

## 15. What is the eligibility quiz at the beginning of the online application?

The eligibility quiz included at the beginning of the EOI is a screening tool that the Trust will utilize to assess your organization's *qualification* to apply for funding. As a funder with a program that focuses on T1D, we want to ensure that your organization is an eligible organization with experience working with this targeted population.

## 16. What if my organization is based outside of the U.S., Canada, Australia or Europe?

Your organization is unfortunately not eligible for this funding opportunity at this time.

**For technical assistance with the online application, please contact [grants@helmsleytrust.org](mailto:grants@helmsleytrust.org). Please do not contact this address with science- or program-related questions.**

**If your question is not answered by the FAQs or the Call for Expressions of Interest, please email a succinct query to [T1Dresearch@helmsleytrust.org](mailto:T1Dresearch@helmsleytrust.org). Your relevant query will be answered in a timely manner unless it has already been answered in the above FAQs. Phone calls will not be accepted.**