



## PETER JOSEPH PAPPAS RESEARCH GRANTS

### Step 1 – Letters of Intent

The Preeclampsia Foundation is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established in 2000. Its purpose is to improve the outcomes of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy by educating, supporting and engaging the community, improving healthcare practices, and finding a cure. The Preeclampsia Foundation envisions a world where hypertensive disorders of pregnancy no longer threaten the lives of mothers and their babies. For more information, visit [www.preeclampsia.org](http://www.preeclampsia.org).

### THE PREECLAMPSIA REGISTRY

The Preeclampsia Foundation maintains The Preeclampsia Registry™, a dynamic database of current and candidate research participants. The first to focus solely on hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, the Registry captures self-reported and clinical information (medical records), as well as family and pregnancy history, biospecimens (i.e., DNA), and whole exome sequenced data. It is a dynamic database because it continues to enroll participants *and* tracks them longitudinally, but also because participants have consented to be approached with additional research questions and opportunities. Overseen by an Institutional Review Board, the Registry ensures participants' privacy and rights in medical research. The Registry only shares de-identified information with approved scientists, researchers, and clinicians; de-identified information has had all personal identifiers such as name, address, and other information that identifies the participant and/or the participant's family removed. It currently includes over 8,000 participants, adding more each day, from every state in the nation, as well as dozens of countries around the world. A copy of the latest dashboard providing a quick snapshot of its participants and more information about the Registry is available by emailing [Registry@preeclampsia.org](mailto:Registry@preeclampsia.org). Use of the Registry entails modest cost recovery fees. Read more about The Preeclampsia Registry [here](#).

### PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The purpose of the Peter Joseph Pappas Research Grants, a program of the Preeclampsia Foundation, is to accelerate research that will ultimately eliminate delivery of pre-term babies as the primary intervention for severe preeclampsia, HELLP syndrome, and related hypertensive disorders of pregnancy by 2050. Intermediate goals toward this end could be realized by proposals that include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding pathophysiological pathways and subtypes of preeclampsia
- Mechanisms for improved diagnosis
- Better prediction of who may be severely affected
- Therapeutic interventions to halt, reverse, or prevent the placental and/or organ dysfunction associated with the condition
- Supporting preconception and inter-conception health to improve perinatal outcomes

Although not mandatory, *preference* will be given to proposals that use or build upon data available through the Registry (self-reported, whole exome sequencing, and clinical data), or that will contribute additional *in silico* data or biological materials that can be added as patient-specific (*identified*) information to the Registry's repository.

### AWARD AMOUNT

Individual grant proposals should be in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 for a two-year project. Applications

above that range will be considered with substantial justification. It is the intent of the Foundation to award more than one grant each year, providing up to a *total* of \$200,000 for all projects. Thus, proposals that request less than \$100,000 are more likely to be favorably viewed, allowing us to fund more than one project.

## ELIGIBILITY

Awards will be made to Principal Investigator(s) (PI) associated with accredited universities or *bona fide* research centers anywhere in the world. No other groups or individuals are eligible.

The PI(s) must hold a faculty appointment and should:

1. Hold the rank at the level of assistant professor or above;
2. Show evidence of institutional support with respect to research space and salary;
3. Have an established track record of relevant publications;
4. Hold a current National Institutes of Health grant or have a recent history of national funding;
5. Co-PIs are permitted.

## KEY DATES

This is a two-step application process. Letters of Intent (LOIs) submitted by the deadline will be reviewed for relevance and interest to the Preeclampsia Registry Advisory Council (PRAC) and the Preeclampsia Foundation's Board of Directors. Proposals of interest will be invited to submit full applications. *Midnight (ET) is considered the deadline for each of the following key dates.*

1. Letters of Intent are to be submitted electronically via e-mail to [PJPGrants@preeclampsia.org](mailto:PJPGrants@preeclampsia.org) no later than **Friday, September 1, 2023**.
2. Invitations to approved LOIs will be issued **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**.
3. Full applications are to be submitted electronically no later than **Monday, October 9, 2023**.
4. Proposals will be reviewed, and funding decisions will be announced **Thursday, December 14, 2023** for commencement in 2024.
5. Funding period: years 2024-2025. Carry over is allowed with permission.

## REGULATIONS

1. Funds must be used for the purposes stated in the application. Major deviations, such as budget changes of greater than 20% between approved categories or changes in purpose or direction of research must be approved by the Preeclampsia Foundation's CEO, under consultation with the PRAC.
2. Budgets must include fees for open-source publishing and any fees associated with using The Preeclampsia Registry (contact [Registry@preeclampsia.org](mailto:Registry@preeclampsia.org) for fee schedule).
3. Overhead Cost Allocation (OCA) associated with the grant activity cannot exceed 5% of the total proposal (including overhead and fringe).
4. Unencumbered balances at the end of the grant period or when an incumbent resigns will be returned to the Preeclampsia Foundation.
5. Requests for extension of time will be considered if requested prior to the expiration date.
6. Data Use Agreement will be executed for any proposals interfacing with The Preeclampsia Registry.
7. 10% of any proceeds from intellectual property resulting from this research will be ceded to the Preeclampsia Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

8. Interim and final electronic progress reports will be required. Second half of funding will be released upon receipt of a satisfactory interim report. The final report should include the scientific findings and specific use of funds. Both interim and final reports should be no longer than two single-spaced typed pages. Please submit one electronic copy of any resulting publications.

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Funded studies must clearly fit within the mission of the Preeclampsia Foundation and the goals of the Peter Joseph Pappas Fund. Adherence to the mission and the purpose of this award must be clearly demonstrated in the application.
2. Research involving animal subjects, human subjects, or recombinant DNA must be approved by the appropriate institutional review board (IACUC/IRB/IBC). Investigators are encouraged to submit this application simultaneously, but it is not a requirement. Note that no funds will be distributed until IACUC/IRB/ IBC approval is obtained.
3. Post-doctoral fellows or similar trainees are not eligible to apply as PI(s), but some of this award (see regulation #2 above) can support junior level researchers participating in the project.
4. Funding requests will be judged primarily on scientific merit. However, other factors – including alignment with the goals of the Peter Joseph Pappas Fund and the mission of the Preeclampsia Foundation – will be considered.
5. All equipment purchased will belong to the PI(s).
6. No funds will be awarded for salary of PI(s), travel, secretarial support, or tuition.
7. If necessary, overhead up to a maximum of 5% can be included in the budget.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Applications will be screened for scientific merit by a competitive peer-review committee and meritorious applications will be recommended to the Preeclampsia Foundation's Board of Directors for a final decision.

## **APPLICATIONS WILL BE JUDGED ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Is the project relevant to preeclampsia?
2. Does the project incorporate cross-team collaborations?
3. Is this a new project, not previously funded?
4. Does the project have potential impact on human health?
5. Does the project use data or biological materials from The Preeclampsia Registry or will it generate new data and/or biological materials that can further enrich The Preeclampsia Registry?

## **PREPARATION OF LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)**

1. The LOI should be a brief informative letter on your institution's letterhead addressed to Preeclampsia Foundation / Peter Joseph Pappas Research Grants Review Committee.
2. Letters should be maximum of two (2) pages in 11-point type.
3. Include your full contact information (address, phone, email).
4. Summarize your proposed idea, title, objectives (aims), methods, key personnel, and a general budget identifying major spending categories (more specific budget will be needed with the application).

5. Include how your project fits the Preeclampsia Foundation’s mission and the award’s purpose.
6. Describe usage of The Preeclampsia Registry (data or biological materials) and how the study will enrich the Registry.
7. Identify what gap this will fill in preeclampsia research, citing [this report](#) as much as possible.
8. If also requesting funding from other sources, mention this briefly as well any funding already secured.
9. Email the LOI to: [PJPGrants@preeclampsia.org](mailto:PJPGrants@preeclampsia.org) (email) with “PJP2024\_[last name]” in the subject line. Letters must be received via email no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on September 1, 2023.

#### **PREPARATION OF FULL PROPOSAL**

After review of LOIs, applicants may be invited to submit full proposals. Application guidelines will be provided at that time.