

## **YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS 2011**

### **Request for Proposals**

The Spina Bifida Association (SBA) and the Spina Bifida Foundation (SBF) are pleased to announce a Request for Proposals to support basic or clinical Spina Bifida research by promising young investigators. SBA will award up to two (2) fellowships in 2011. The purpose of the awards will be to provide either initial or continuing financial support to a newly-independent investigator in an established research program. One fellowship, providing up to \$50,000 in support, is named the Ashley Rose Advancement in Research Award. The Ashley Rose Foundation was established by Raymond and Linda Pitek in 1997 for their baby, Ashley Rose. Another fellowship, in its third year, is for research relating to tethered cord syndrome.

### **Eligibility**

The investigator must be a citizen of the United States of America and possess an MD, PhD, DSW, DScN, or equivalent terminal degree prior to beginning the research under the award, but may not have held a faculty title of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) or higher for more than 5 years at the time the fellowship is to begin. The individual may be contemplating a fellowship or may already have begun one, but must be conducting the proposed research in preparation for a research or research and clinical career. The research program in which the fellow is to be appointed must be located in the United States of America and may be at an academic medical institution, hospital, research institute, university, or similar institution. It must be sufficiently established to provide strong support for the fellow, but need not have involved Spina Bifida research previously. The research to be conducted by the fellow may be basic or clinical research, but must be relevant to Spina Bifida. Areas of particular interest are:

- Ashley Rose Research Advancement Award – Epidemiology and causes of miscarriage related to neural tube defects preferred; other related research will be considered
- Tethered Cord Syndrome Research Fellowship – Tethered Cord Syndrome and related clinical and scientific areas

### **Award Mechanism**

The institution at which the established research program is located will be the awardee and will be expected to administer the award on behalf of the faculty or fellow, who will be the principal investigator. The award mechanism will be a grant, payable in a single installment within 30 days following written acceptance of the grant by the institution and the fellow. The grant will begin at the awardee institution's discretion between October 15 and December 31, 2011, and will be for a one-year period unless prior written approval for a no-cost extension is requested by the institution and approved by SBA.

### **Criteria for Selection**

A committee of scientists, clinicians familiar with Spina Bifida research and those affected by Spina Bifida will conduct a peer review of all eligible proposals received. Based on recommendations of the peer review committee, awards will be made by SBA. The peer review committee will consider all of the following criteria in making its recommendations:

- Strength of the science of the research proposal
- Educational preparation and demonstrated potential for research of the fellow
- Degree of intellectual and resource support committed by the established research program hosting the fellow apparent long-term interest in Spina Bifida expressed by the fellow

SBA does not anticipate issuing comments on individual proposals by the peer review committee.

### **Expectations**

Within 90 days following the termination of the grant, the fellow will submit to SBA a detailed scientific report of progress made and results obtained on the grant and related research. The report will also include an abstract of the research written in lay language. In addition, all research publications (including abstracts of presentations) resulting from the grant and related research will be forwarded to SBA as they become available. Appropriate acknowledgement of the SBA support will accompany all publications. Finally, the fellow will be expected to attend and participate in an SBA-sponsored annual National Conference or World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care. The awardee institution will submit a final financial status report of expenditures within 90 days following the termination of the grant. Form SF 425 required of NIH grantees, or an equivalent format, may be used to fulfill this requirement.

### **Allowable Costs**

Any costs directly attributable to the fellow's research as described in the proposal may be paid from the grant. Institutional facilities and administrative costs may not exceed 10% of the direct costs requested. Total fellowship funding will not exceed \$50,000 for the Ashley Rose Research Advancement Award and \$40,000 for the Tethered Cord Syndrome fellowship.

### **Proposal Requirements**

The following materials must be received electronically by SBA as separate MS Word, Excel or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) documents attached to a single e-mail on or before 9:00 pm eastern daylight time on Friday, September 2, 2011:

- Data Form / Signature Page (attached), may be submitted with signatures as a scanned document file (pdf); alternatively, may be submitted electronically with information input and then forwarded as hard copy to SBA with signatures
- Cover Letter from Fellow describing the Fellow's interest in Spina Bifida, strengths and eligibility, not to exceed two (2) pages

- Fellow's Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Support from established investigator describing the laboratory's focus and past achievements as well as the intellectual and resource support that will be available to the Fellow, not to exceed two (2) pages
- Research Plan, not to exceed five (5) pages; successful candidates have typically included Context, Hypothesis, Specific Aims, Methodology (including statistical analysis), and Anticipated Problems/Solutions
- Budget for the amount being requested; line items for direct costs, plus institutional facilities and administrative costs; all requests will be considered, but awards of no more than \$50,000 will be made for the Ashley Rose Research Advancement Award and \$40,000 for the Tethered Cord Syndrome Research Fellowship; any format may be used for the budget
- Appendices, if any (such as additional literature references or letters of collaboration from co-investigators), may be submitted, but should not be relied upon as a means of exceeding the page limitations

Send a single e-mail, with the above attachments, to: [jgiffels@sbaa.org](mailto:jgiffels@sbaa.org)

### Time Line

Friday, September 2, 2011

Proposals due by 9:00 pm EDT

Monday, October 3, 2011

Notification of awards made

Friday, October 14, 2011

Written acceptance of awards due

### Questions and Further Information

Questions and requests for further information may be addressed to [jgiffels@sbaa.org](mailto:jgiffels@sbaa.org).

### Spina Bifida Association – Young Investigator Awards 2011 Data Form/Signature Page

<b>Name and Title of Applicant:</b> <i>Please sign below</i>	
Mailing Address:	

Telephone:	
Email Address:	
Name of Institution:	

<b>Name and Title of Established Investigator:</b>	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

<b>Name and Title of Institutional Official Authorized to Sign Proposals:</b> <i>Please sign below</i>	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

<b>Name and Title of Institutional Official to be Notified of an Award:</b>	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

<b>Name and Title of Institutional Official to Whom Grant Payment Should be Forwarded:</b>	
Mailing Address:	
Telephone:	
Email Address:	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Institutional Official / Date

*Note: When this page has been signed, it may be scanned and submitted electronically as a PDF or other file with the application or it may be sent as hard copy. This page must be completed and submitted electronically (with or without signatures) with the remainder of the application by the September 2, 2011 due date, however.*