

2021 Uplifting Athletes Young Investigator Draft Grant Request For Proposals

Last Updated: November 17th, 2020

Application Deadline: January 11th, 2021 11:59 p.m. EST

Uplifting Athletes
8 Atkinson Drive
P.O. Box 574
Doylestown, PA 18901
grants@upliftingathletes.org

Please visit upliftingathletes.org/RFP for the most recent version of the Request for Proposals.



Abstract

Uplifting Athletes (UAI) is seeking rare disease patient advocacy organizations who A) have identified a promising young investigator to be nominated for the 2021 Young Investigator Draft and B) are willing to provide a match of \$10,000, or greater, so that the nominated researcher will receive an unrestricted grant of at least \$20,000.

Project Overview

The Young Investigator Draft is the result of Uplifting Athletes' ongoing commitment to cultivating resources that accelerate scientific advancements for rare disease treatments and potential cures while facilitating the next generation of rare disease researchers. The Young Investigator Draft grants fund research that is collaborative and translational in order to positively impact treatments and potential cures for the entire Rare Disease Community. The Young Investigator Draft stage provides a platform to celebrate these scientists, spread awareness of their efforts, and highlight the importance of their research, along with its impact on the Rare Disease Community.

Project Goals & Target Audience

Researchers spend upwards of 40 percent of their time chasing money through grants to support their research. At Uplifting Athletes, we aim to be a part of the solution by working through reputable patient advocacy organizations that place an emphasis on supporting research within the disease state of their patient community. We work with these organizations to recognize investigative researchers who are conducting research to identify, advance, and improve treatments and, one day, develop cures for those patients.

Organizations that apply should meet the following criteria:

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) with a specific focus on rare disease(s) and who places an emphasis on research within that disease state
- Located in the U.S. or Canada
- Patient advocacy organization that is willing to match Uplifting Athletes \$10,000 grant to the nominated Young Investigator
- Has an established Medical and/or Scientific Advisory Board with advanced knowledge of disease(s) that are the focus of the advocacy organization

The Goals of the Young Investigator Draft

We have two goals.

1. To fund aspiring rare disease researchers
2. Share the unique platform we have developed with patient advocacy organizations and researchers. Furthermore, the Young Investigator Draft hopes to engage with patient-focused advocacy organizations that place an emphasis on research within their disease state. Uplifting Athletes wants to work with advocacy organizations that place a priority on research and support researchers that have an understanding of the needs of the patient community and are working to resolve those unmet and underserved needs. Uplifting Athletes will provide the platform of the virtual Young Investigator Draft stage to celebrate, and elevate, these investigative rare disease researchers.

New This Year

Uplifting Athletes continuously strives to do what is best for the Rare Disease Community through the Young Investigator Draft. With that in mind, we have evolved two important aspects of the Young Investigator Draft.

First, we have expanded the criteria of who qualifies as a “Young Investigator” to provide opportunities to researchers that may not be “young” to medicine or medical research but are “young” to the world of rare disease research.

The second addition this year, will be the introduction of the Underrepresented Researchers in Medicine (URM) Initiative. We are inspired to assess how Uplifting Athletes can play a role in diversity, equity and inclusion in medicine. The URM Initiative will guarantee that at least one (1) underrepresented researcher will be selected through the Young Investigator Draft. The URM initiative includes broadened outreach through partnerships with organizations that work with underrepresented researchers to expand the pool of underrepresented researchers who are nominated.

Important Dates

Application Open Date	November 16th, 2020 at 12:00 PM EST
Application Close Date	January 11th, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST
Finalist Announced	February 2021
Award Notice	March 2021
Project Start/End Dates (estimated)	April 2021 - April 2022

The Uplifting Athletes Young Investigator Grant

The Young Investigator Grant is a 1-year award designed to support scientists in the early stages of a rare disease research career, such as postdoctoral or clinical fellows. Outstanding mentorship and demonstration of a career plan that shows commitment to rare disease investigation are critical components of a successful applicant.

The grant will be for a minimum of \$20,000 USD (\$10,000 USD from UAI and matching \$10,000 USD from nominating advocacy organization) and will be issued to the institution of the young investigative researcher with the caveat that the funds are to be used at the sole discretion of the identified young investigator to move their research forward.

Restrictions:

- Funds from UAI may not be used for indirect costs (including tuition remission).
- The grant may not be renewed
- No-cost extensions are strongly encouraged.
- Funds must be granted to nonprofit institutions/organizations operating in the U.S. or Canada. Researchers need not be United States citizens.
- It is expected that Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval will be sought when studies in humans are planned. Animal care committee approval is required for animal studies.

Who Qualifies as a Young Investigator?

Applicants must meet the following criteria to qualify for the Uplifting Athletes Young Investigator Grant:

Note: Please contact Uplifting Athletes before applying if eligibility questions remain after reviewing these guidelines.

- A clinical or basic researcher (MD, DO, Ph.D., or international equivalent) working in the U.S. or Canada, who is currently in the last two years of his/her final subspecialty OR postdoctoral training at an academic medical institution AND (1) within 10 years of obtaining his/her doctoral degree at the time of grant submission OR (2) within 5 years of initiating rare disease research.
- Be planning, or actively engaged in, an investigative career in rare disease research. An institutional commitment for a faculty appointment at the time of grant submission is not required, but the applicant should be working in a rare disease laboratory or clinical research setting.
- Have a mentor in the proposed research field from the sponsoring institution. The mentor must assume responsibility and provide guidance for the research.
- Eligible applicants are allowed to hold only one grant from Uplifting Athletes at a time.

Principal Point of Contact

For questions or concerns about any aspect of the Request For Proposal, please email grants@upliftingathletes.org.

How To Apply

Please follow the “Application” section of the RFP and please submit one PDF file containing the requested information to grants@upliftingathletes.org before the application deadline on January 11th, 2021 at 11:59 PM EST.

Review Process

All proposals submitted to grants@upliftingathletes.org will be reviewed by our Young Investigator Draft Scientific Advisory Committee. The committee will determine a pool of finalists in February before selecting seven (7) young investigators to be honored at the 2021 Young Investigator Draft. The grant awardees will be announced live at the 2021 Young Investigator Draft.

Reporting Requirements

We ask that a report be issued to Uplifting Athletes one year following the grant award to detail progress made with the research and ultimately how the grant impacted the researcher and their work.

About Uplifting Athletes

A nonprofit organization founded in 2007, Uplifting Athletes inspires the Rare Disease Community with hope through the power of sport. Uplifting Athletes fulfills its mission through a network of college football student-athlete led chapters, Uplifting Ambassadors and Team UA participants that support our charitable programs: Uplifting Leaders, Uplifting Experiences, Rare Disease Research, and Rare Disease Awareness.

FAQ's

How does the grant matching work? What will qualify as a match?

Advocacy Organizations have two ways to qualify for the \$10,000 match.

- 1. The Advocacy Organization may provide the funds to Uplifting Athletes for the matching gift amount and Uplifting Athletes will process the grant at no cost.*
- 2. The Advocacy Organization can make a matching donation directly to the research institution of the nominated researcher using the guidelines and parameters provided by Uplifting Athletes.*

What happens if your organization and researcher are selected?

If your organization and young investigator are selected, you will be notified by phone or email in February 2021 . You will be asked to verify all information provided in the application.

What expectations do we have of the Advocacy organization with respect to the promotion leading up to and the day of the event?

We will ask that you share the information about the Uplifting Athletes Young Investigator Draft with your network and we will provide social graphics and content to distribute.

Who will review the grant application?

The grant submissions will be reviewed by the Uplifting Athletes Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) and will use a rubric to assess each application. The rubric will be released alongside the RFP so that patient advocacy organizations and researchers will know what the SAC is looking for.

Where does the money go?

Each Uplifting Athletes Young Investigator Draft recipient will receive access to the full \$20,000 grant award through their research institution. At this time, we do not pay indirect expenses on the grants given to researchers and the money is earmarked to be used at the sole discretion of the grant recipient to move their rare disease research forward.

Can an advocacy organization submit more than one application?

Yes. We ask that you submit one application per researcher nomination. All applications will be reviewed independently.

Application

It is the intent of Uplifting Athletes that this application is completed by a representative of a Patient Advocacy Organization in collaboration with the researcher being nominated for the grant award.

Patient Advocacy Organization Section

- 1. Name:**
- 2. Website:**
- 3. Point of Contact Name:**
- 4. Point of Contact Email:**
- 5. Point of Contact Phone Number:**
- 6. Disease(s) represented :**
- 7. Has the applying Advocacy Organization provided research funding to this Young Investigator in the past 12 months?**
- 8. Has your Scientific Advisory Board or Medical Advisory Board reviewed the details of the research project specified? If requested, please be prepared to provide verification of your review process.**
- 9. Medical/ Scientific Advisory Board Members (Please List):**

10. From an Advocacy Organization perspective, why should Uplifting Athletes select this Young Investigator? (Please limit to one page max)

11. Please provide any additional information that you feel may be relevant to the review committee. (Please limit to one page max)

Young Investigative Researcher Section

- 1. Project Title:**
- 2. Young Investigator Name:**
- 3. Current Institution:**
- 4. Phone Number**
- 5. Email address:**

6. **Summary** Outline the planned research. **(Please limit to one page max)**

7. **Background** Include the problem, its significance, prior or concurrent studies conducted, and any preliminary work the investigator has already completed on this subject. **(Please limit to one-half page max)**

- 8. Hypothesis** A statement outlining the question to be answered or the premise to be investigated. **(Please limit to one-half page max)**

- 9. Methods** Include a precise description of the methods of data collection, analysis and research model to be used. Specify the planned number of patients or experiments or observations to be evaluated to prove or disprove the hypothesis with power analysis. (Please see memorandum for additional details. Note: A grant submitted without this information will not be eligible for review.) Methods should be described in sufficient detail to allow peer reviewers to critically appraise their scientific merit. **(Please limit to two page max)**

10. References List scientific references if pertinent.

11. Biographical Sketch

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES.**

NAME:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement (Please limit to one-half page max)

B. Positions and Honors

13. Which category or categories would this research impact? Please check **ALL** that apply.

- Rare Muscular and Neurological Diseases
- Rare Autoimmune Diseases
- Rare Cancers
- Rare Blood Disorders
- Rare Genetic Disorders
- Other _____

14. The Association of American Medical Colleges recognizes that there are underrepresented groups in medicine and include “those racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population.” Those groups include Black/African American, Native American (American Indian, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian), and Latinx (Mexican American, Puerto Rican American)

Do you identify with one or more of these underrepresented groups as defined by the (AAMC)?

- Yes
- No

Criteria for Evaluation of the Proposals Refer to RFP for more detailed information.	Points Possible	Points Awarded
Patient Advocacy Organization Evaluation Financial Health (ability to match \$10,000 grant) -10 Points Possible Medical Advisory Board Assessment - 10 Points Possible Comments:	20	
Researcher Evaluation Relevant Education & Training - 10 Points Possible Environment - 5 Points Possible Related Publications - 5 Points Possible Comments:	20	
Scientific Approach Feasibility & Assessment of Project Summary - 25 Points Possible Comments:	25	
Impact and Innovation Significance Of Proposed Project Within: Specific Disease State - 15 Points Possible Rare Disease Community - 5 Points Possible Comments:	20	
Intangibles If there are aspects of the PAO or nominated researcher that are not reflected in other aspects of the rubric please take this section to award up to 15 points to the nomination	15	
Total	100	