



Jesse's Journey
(The Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy)

2020/21 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND FUNDING CONDITIONS

Jesse's Journey (The Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy) is accepting Letters of Intent for research proposals for funding consideration.

Our purpose is to fund the most promising research leading to effective treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy with the greatest chance of translating to clinical practice in a timely, and affordable manner.

Since 1995, the organization has granted 13.1 million dollars to projects worldwide.

GRANT CYCLE TIMELINE:

Submission portal opens:	September 15, 2020
Letters of Interest deadline:	October 15, 2020
Notification of LOI results:	November 20 – 23, 2020
Full application portal opens:	November 23, 2020
Full application deadline:	January 18, 2021
Notification of funding decision:	March 31, 2021
Funding start date:	Spring, 2021

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION OF FUNDING MECHANISM:

Jesse's Journey (The Foundation for Gene and Cell Therapy) is a partnership of science and families dedicated to discovering treatments and a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Further information about Jesse's Journey, our mandates, and our activities can be found on our website at www.jessesjourney.com.

The organization invites research proposals of a **translational** or **clinical** nature focused on treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. **The organization places particular emphasis on the project's clear relevance to Duchenne and with the highest potential to be translated into clinical practice. Successful proposals are expected to be of high scientific merit, demonstrate a probable and preferably timely path to clinical implementation that is cost-effective, and have the most significant impact on boys living with Duchenne, particularly in areas of large unmet need.** Also, research groups funded by Jesse's Journey are highly encouraged to be open to collaboration with other investigators and open to exploring additional partnerships with other foundations.

Projects may be 1-3 years in duration. Historically, we have funded up to a maximum of \$100,000 CDN per annum (\$300,000 CDN total). Starting this year, the organization will no longer have a maximum limit on the funding amount. Larger projects are welcome and encouraged, including Phase I-III clinical trial proposals provided they are of outstanding scientific quality and merit, meet the organizations mandate described above, and would otherwise have no clear funding pathway for advancing the work. A detailed budget justification must be provided.

All applications will be reviewed by the organization's Research Funding Advisory Committee (RFAC) and our Family Advisory Committee (FAC). The RFAC is comprised of researchers and clinicians not otherwise affiliated with Jesse's Journey, and scientists who sit on the organization's Board of Directors. The FAC includes family members and individuals with Duchenne from various ages, stages, and locations across Canada.

CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY:

1. The Principal Investigator must be formally affiliated with an eligible host organization (university, college, Biotech/Pharma, hospital, research institute or other qualifying not-for-profit organization). The Principal Investigator must have a doctoral degree (including MD, Ph.D. or equivalent), and have formal research training.
2. Proposals from both Canadian and International applicants are welcomed. Funding will be awarded in Canadian dollars.
3. **Applications are limited to only one (1) application from any given individual Principal Investigator.** Co-Investigators may participate in more than one application.
4. The Principal Investigator or Co-Investigators are not eligible to receive salary support from Jesse's Journey. Indirect/overhead costs not to be included.
5. Graduate students, medical students, post-doctoral researchers, and other trainees are not eligible to hold a research grant from Jesse's Journey as a Principal Investigator; however, they may apply as co-applicants or receive salary support.
6. Applicants must describe their project in a layman summary (e.g. grade 9 level) to be reviewed and scored by the organization's Family Advisory Committee. These are non-scientists with a particularly good grasp of the disease's critical elements but very little to no knowledge of the science.
7. An acceptable application must describe the potential benefits for individuals living with Duchenne and include a clear timeline and proposed budget.
8. Acceptable applications will describe work to be carried out in compliance with standards established by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and comparable national institutes in other countries regarding personnel, safety, the

ethical treatment of human and animal research subjects and the publication of interim or end-point data.

9. Progress and results of investigations should be accessible to other researchers and/or have an intention to present to recognized scientific or medical journals for publication.
10. At such time that scientific findings resulting from successfully funded applications are presented and/or published by the investigator(s), the investigator(s) must recognize/cite Jesse's Journey as a source of grant funding for this work.
11. The open exchange of information among investigators is encouraged.
12. Jesse's Journey will consider funding of investigations intended to produce private, patentable information or knowledge. However, the investigator must clearly and satisfactorily justify why this knowledge must be patented in order to be beneficial to the end goal of treatment/cure for Duchenne.
13. Investigators will be required to submit interim and final reports (as outlined in a granting agreement) to Jesse's Journey for review of research progress. This must also include layman summaries (e.g. grade 9 level) that will be shared publicly with our Duchenne families, supporters, and/or to support our fundraising efforts.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Jesse's Journey's application process involves two stages of submission and review:

1) Letters of Intent: LOI's will be rigorously reviewed by the organization's Research Funding Advisory Committee and the Family Advisory Committee. All projects will be scored and shared between committees before final decisions are made. Proposals will be assessed based on defined criteria and conditions, as described above.

Only a subset of applicants successful at accomplishing this first stage will then be invited to submit a full application.

2) Full Applications: Invited full applications will be rigorously reviewed once again by the organization's Research Funding Advisory Committee and an outside expert reviewer(s) specific to each application.

Final decisions on successful applications will be made by the Board of Directors.

HOW TO APPLY:

Log on to the secure grant portal website (link will be posted on the Jesse's Journey website beginning September 15, 2020). Complete and submit the Letter of Intent application by the **October 15, 2020 deadline**. For additional information, please contact the Jesse's Journey office at (519) 645-8855 or info@jessesjourney.com

Please direct any questions to:

Nicola Worsfold, Director of Research & Advocacy, Jesse's Journey

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