Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), also called acute inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy and Landry’s ascending paralysis, is an acute or subacute symmetrically paralyzing disorder reflective of underlying demyelination and sometimes axonal damage of the peripheral nerves.

Although rare, GBS can be devastating, leading in some cases to respiratory failure and, rarely to long-term major disability. Eventually, most patients return to a normal or near normal lifestyle, but may have a protracted recovery until they are again able to walk. The causes of and better treatments for GBS as well as other chronic inflammatory neuropathies, such as chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculopathy (CIDP), are in need of investigation. There is a role for multiple lines of research, including determination of better education methods for the medical and lay communities about these disorders, clarification of their pathogenesis, as well as development of better treatment options.
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Grants are supplied for a period of one year. The application process utilizes two steps more fully described below. Initially a letter of intent is requested that summarize the research plan. If the applicant is thereafter notified, a complete application is then requested. In keeping with guidelines of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and Grant Committee, applications are not accepted from members of this committee or their immediate associates. Foundation Global Medical Advisory Board members who are not on the Grant Committee are permitted and invited to submit an application.

LETTER OF INTENT

Applicants should submit a one-page Letter of Intent by November 1. The Letter should contain the following information: title of the project, name and title of investigator(s) along with their contact information (department and institution name, address, phone number, and email address) and a synopsis of the proposal not to exceed 300 words. The letter should be typed in 12 point, Times Roman font, with 1” margins. A PDF file should be submitted to the organization by email. Notification by email to submit or not submit a full application will be made by December 10.

THE COMPLETE APPLICATION

If notification to submit a full application is received, the following structure should be followed.

Format

The application should be typed, double-spaced, in 8 1/2” x 11” format with no less than a 1” borders in 12-point Times Roman font. Submit a PDF of the proposal to grants@gbs-cidp.org. The top of each page should contain in the header on one line, the principal investigator’s initial and last name, and an abbreviated title of the project. Pages should be numbered sequentially at the lower right corner in the footer.

Cover Page

This should list the principal investigator(s) and title(s), organization affiliation(s), tax-exempt number if applicable, and contact name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address and title of the research project. If funding is sought for a component of a research project, list the project and that part for which funding is sought.

Synopsis

Page 2, on the upper half, should be used for a synopsis in scientific language of the research project. It should include (1) objective or rationale for study (2) methods and (3) potential outcomes and implications. On the lower half of the same page, provide the Impact Statement in lay language, at a level suitable for the non-scientist/physician with a college background.

Detailed description of proposed study

The description should not exceed five pages. If funds are to support a specific component of a larger project, the component should be explained in detail, as well as how it relates to the larger project. Recommended subject headings include:

- Specific Aims: or Objectives, background information, rationale for study and any preliminary results to support the proposal, if available;
- Methods: Use language that will be comprehensible to experts in inflammatory neuropathy or neuromuscular conditions but not necessarily familiar with the methodology, use only acronyms and abbreviations that are clearly explained;
- Data Analysis: how the data will be analyzed and expected statistical or other methods that will be used;
- Timeline for the project.

Budget

Designate whether funding is for the entire project or a component of a project. No funds will be provided for overhead, indirect costs, etc. The budget should be itemized accordingly. If funding is sought for a component of a project, provide relevant information regarding funding for the rest of the project, including anticipated or known sources.

Appendices

The Appendix should list the following items, each on a separate page: 1) Bibliography; 2) Biosketch of the Principal Investigator(s); and 3) Job descriptions of each relevant staff member.

APPLICATION PROCESS SCHEDULE

All correspondences can be submitted by either regular mail or email. Investigators invited to submit a full application should be aware of the following schedule for reviewing grants:

November 1 Letter of Intent
January 31 Full Application Deadline by Midnight
March 15 Grant Committee Reviews Full Applications
April 15 Presentation by Grant Committee to Board of Directors for Approval
May 30 Announcement of Awards
June 1 First installment payout to Awardee(s)
December 1 Second installment payout contingent of receipt and approval of progress report

If an application is approved for funding the applicant should submit institutional approval for animal or human subject studies prior to disbursement of grant funds.

Letters of intent, and if requested, full proposals should be sent as a pdf file to: grants@gbs-cidp.org