



Amy Research Program Grant Instructions

About the Program

The Amy Strelzer Manasevit Research Program for the Study of Post-Transplant Complications (Amy Research Program) is intended to advance the understanding of complications occurring after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) or cellular therapy. This program is dedicated to the memory of Amy Strelzer Manasevit who was the recipient of an unrelated donor marrow transplant. During her recovery from an otherwise uncomplicated marrow transplant, Amy developed complications that led to her death. The Amy Research Program is funded by the Be The Match Foundation® and administered by the National Marrow Donor Program® (NMDP)/Be The Match®.

Description of the Award

The Amy Research Program provides each awardee with a maximum \$400,000 of support over five years. Each funding year runs from July 1 through June 30. Up to two awards will be made depending on the number and quality of proposals received for the funding period 2024-2029. Any application failing to meet the requirements of the program will be judged ineligible.

Research Scope

The research proposal must address complications arising after allogeneic HCT or a cellular therapy directed at a disease traditionally treated by HCT. The cellular therapy being studied does not have to be given in conjunction with HCT. Post-transplant or post-cellular therapy complications are defined as acute and late complications, including relapse.

Proposals may describe either clinical or pre-clinical investigations. Clinical investigations include observational human research, prospective interventional clinical trials in humans, and ancillary laboratory studies performed in conjunction with a human prospective clinical trial. This year, the NMDP/Be The Match is particularly interested in studies evaluating strategies to improve outcomes following HLA-mismatched unrelated donor transplantation or cellular therapies involving unrelated donors, survivorship or supportive care. Pre-clinical investigations include laboratory-based human and/or animal studies designed to test the mechanisms, safety and efficacy of an intervention prior to or in conjunction with its application in humans. Any proposals must have only one principal investigator (PI) (the applicant) and no co-investigators.

Qualifications of the Principal Investigator

- Have received a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, DO or equivalent) within the past 10 years (Jan. 1, 2014, or later) in a field pertinent to the award.
 - For applicants with more than one relevant doctoral degree, eligibility will be based on the most recent degree.
 - Applicants whose careers have been interrupted may request an extension of the degree requirement by completing the **Extension Request Form** and emailing it to asmgrant@nmdp.org.
- Not hold an NIH R01 or equivalent research grant at the time of the award.
- Hold a position in a U.S. facility at the time of the application and award. Awardees may transfer the award to another facility during the award period if a written request with justification is submitted to the NMDP/Be The Match for review and approval.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident or foreign citizen holding a valid U.S. visa.

If credentials for eligibility are uncertain, please email asmgrant@nmdp.org.

Application Deadline and Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted by 2 p.m. CDT on or before Friday, Aug. 4, 2023. The application must be emailed to asmgrant@nmdp.org.

You will receive an email within one business day acknowledging that your application was received. If you do not receive this email: please contact asmgrant@nmdp.org to inquire.

Budget Restrictions

The total request of the award may not exceed \$400,000. Additional restrictions on the budget are the following:

- Salary and fringe benefits for the PI are limited to 25% of the total award.
- The budget may include a request for domestic travel to support attendance at one scientific meeting per year for the scholar. *Limit: up to \$2,000 for one scientific meeting per funding year. If utilizing this stipend, please ensure to include in the application's budget proposal.*
- Equipment may be requested in year one only and must be accompanied by a detailed justification. Requests for equipment in excess of \$5,000 will be subject to separate review by NMDP/Be The Match.
- Indirect costs may not exceed 8% of the total direct costs.
- Remaining funds requested may include salary and fringe benefits support for project personnel, supplies, animal expenses, or consultant subcontracts. In general, salary and fringe benefits support for clerical support should not be included.
- Requests for NMDP/Be The Match resources (data queries, biostatistical support, etc.) should be identified in the budget under consultant costs but charged at \$0.00.

Application Instructions

Application forms are available [here](#) our website.

The application form must be completed in 11 or 12 point font, and the page and space limits specified in the application form must not be exceeded. Use the application checklist found below to ensure that the application is complete prior to submission. Incomplete applications will be judged ineligible for consideration.

The completed proposal must include the following:

1. Completed cover sheet including required signatures.
2. Table of contents for the application.
3. Description (abstract) of the proposed research (not to exceed 250 words).
4. Description (lay abstract) in common language of the proposed research (not to exceed 300 words).
5. Detailed budget and budget justification for initial budget period and entire period of support.
6. Biographical sketch of PI.
7. Description of other research support. Provide a description of any active and pending research support.
 - a. Title of the project.
 - b. Period of the funding.
 - c. Total funding awarded/requested.
 - d. PI's role and effort in the project.
 - e. Areas of overlap between the proposal and active or pending projects must be identified and addressed.

8. Resources. Provide a complete description of the resources available to support completion of the project. Include a description of the facilities, computer support and necessary major equipment.
9. Research plan. The research plan must not exceed 12 pages, not including references. It should contain the following sections:
 - a. Specific aims of the project.
 - b. Description of the significance of the project with appropriate background information.
 - c. Discussion of the PI's preliminary investigations and findings.
 - d. Description of the proposed research including design and methodology.
9. List of the references cited.
10. Supporting documents. Supporting documents may include the following:
 - a. Human/Animal subject's certification. Projects proposing investigation involving human subjects must obtain appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals. A letter of intent to seek IRB approval must be submitted with the application. Projects involving animal subjects must obtain appropriate Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approvals.
 - b. Letters from mentors. Letters from proposed collaborators or consultants must be included. A collaborator or consultant is a person who cooperates in the implementation of a research project, other than the PI. This is mainly to distinguish someone who will be providing effort and/or counsel to the proposed research.
 - c. Letters of support. The application may include up to three letters of support obtained from senior faculty members. A letter of support would be from senior faculty who know the PI personally/professionally but will not have direct effort or counsel in the proposed research.

Acknowledgment of Support

Any publications resulting from this research must acknowledge financial support of the Amy Strelzer Manasevit Research Program funded through the Be The Match Foundation®.

Selection Procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel consisting of experts in the field of HCT.

Up to two Amy Scholars will be awarded and announced at the **2024 Tandem Meetings | Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings of ASTCT and CIBMTR** held Feb. 21–25, 2024.