



Working to overcome the challenges of Costello Syndrome

Junior Investigator Grant Announcement

(Letters of intent due September 15, 2017)

Focus

The [Costello Syndrome Family Network \(CSFN\)](#), founded in 2001, is a family support organization that works to promote early and accurate diagnosis of Costello syndrome, while raising overall awareness of the syndrome and promoting research into the causes and manifestations of the condition.

CSFN's mission is to overcome the challenges of Costello syndrome. CSFN helps assure that those with Costello syndrome and their families have the tools and support needed to live lives that are as full and as healthy as possible in order to reach their maximum potential.

We are accepting letters of intent for our very first grant. This grant will support the early career of a junior investigator to conduct a preliminary study that will advance knowledge about Costello syndrome and aid in securing larger grants. A total of up to \$10,000/year is available for up to a 2-year period.

This is an opportunity to partner with a family organization and to receive mentoring/feedback by our Professional Advisory Board: <http://costellosyndromeusa.com/wpmain/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PAB-2017-2019.pdf>

Our expectation is that this grant will lead to presentations at the concurrent International Costello Syndrome Family Conference and the RASopathies Symposium in early August 2019.

Eligibility

The grant is targeted to assist new researchers, practitioners, faculty, and translational scientists. Applicants can be in the process of completing graduate studies, be postdoctoral fellows, or be no more than 5 years past completion of Ph.D. or residency.

Requirements

Provide a letter of intent (LOI) addressed to the CSFN Research Committee/Professional Advisory Board. Briefly outline your proposed project summarizing the key aims of the study, why you are pursuing the study, how it relates to your current research activities/interests and how it will help your career development. Also include how your institution will support your efforts. (Limit 2 single-spaced pages)
Note: Investigators do not need to have prior IRB approval before submission of the LOI.

A select number of proposals will be invited to submit a full application. This will include a research plan (limit 10 pages), references (limit 2 pages), budget (limit 2 pages), and NIH-style biographical sketch (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>, limit 5 pages). We also require a letter of support from your mentor/advisor at your institution.

Research plan should include:

- a. Specific Aims
What question/issue related to Costello syndrome will you address? Include your specific objectives for the study.
- b. Significance of Research
What is the significance of your study? What knowledge will the study provide to help better understand Costello syndrome?
- c. Design Methods, Procedures and Evaluation
What will your study design be and why? What challenges do you anticipate? Provide enough detail to allow the CSFN Research Committee/Professional Advisory Board to make an informed judgment of the feasibility of the study. Include participants, measurement techniques, instrumentation, data analysis, and evaluation procedures and other details you deem relevant.
- d. Facilities and Resources
What additional support is available to help you complete your study? List facilities, resources, personnel, and participants.

Allowed expenses:

- Salary/stipends for applicant and/or staff
- Travel
 - To Washington, DC area to present at the Costello Syndrome Family Network Conference and RASopathies Symposium August 1-4, 2019 (**required**).
 - To a Costello or RASopathies Clinic or to consult with a mentor on the Professional Advisory Board (optional)
- Biostatistics support
- Participant support for study participants (gift cards, etc.)
- Indirect expenses are not allowed

Disbursement of funds: Payments will be disbursed throughout the lifetime of the award at 6-month intervals. Payments are contingent on receipt of progress reports providing updates on how the funded research is advancing.

On Activation of Award: 50% of Year 1 funds released (\$5,000)

6 Months after activation: 50% of Year 1 funds released (\$5,000)

12 Months after activation: 50% of Year 2 funds released (\$5,000)

18 Months after activation: 50% of Year 2 funds released (\$5,000)

The distribution of funds will be dependent on progress or use of funds during the annual grant period.

Progress report

- A detailed update on the development of the YIA-funded research must be provided to CSFN 6-, 12-, 18-, and 24 months after activation of the award.

Expenditure report

- A financial statement itemizing expenses for every 6 months of funding must be provided to CSFN
- Expenditure reports must be signed by the institution's financial officer.
- Any unexpended and uncommitted funds in possession of the awardee at the end of the award period must be returned to CSFN within 60 days from expiration of the award.
- Interim accounting may be requested by CSFN.

Awardees will be provided with a schedule of payments and due dates of periodic reports in the award letter. Templates and instructions for these reports will be made available.

Grant Process

- September 15, 2017: Letters of intent due
 - *Send letter of Intent in a PDF format to research@costellosyndromeusa.org*
- October 15, 2017: Invitations to apply
- December 15, 2017: Full applications due for those invited to submit
- January 15, 2018: Notification of award.
- March 2018: Presentation of proposed research for feedback by CSFN Research Committee and Professional Advisory Board
- Fall 2018: Status report presentation to the CSFN Research Committee and Professional Advisory Board
- January 2019: Presentation proposals due to CSFN and RASopathies Network for August 2019 conferences
- August 1-4, 2019: (Preliminary) Presentation of findings at the concurrent International Costello Syndrome Family Conference and RASopathies Symposium.

Inquiries

For more information contact the Costello Syndrome Family Network Research Committee at research@costellosyndromeusa.org