

Research Support Announcement

2024 MSTs/Sarcoma Strong Foundation Request For Applications (RFA)- Mentored Research Award

I. Key Dates

- RFA Release Date: October 12, 2023
- Application Deadline: February 1, 2024 (pdf file to info@msts.org)
- Peer Review: February-March 2024
- Funding Announcements: March 11, 2024
- Start Date: April 1, 2024
- End Date: March 31, 2025 (No Cost Extension is possible until March 31, 2026)
- Final Reporting: Due within 6 months of completion of research. It is expected that awardees will submit abstracts of their findings to the MSTs Annual or Specialty Day meetings.

II. Program Description

The Sarcoma Strong Foundation will support the MSTs to provide \$25,000 one-year grants for developing research under the direction of an experienced mentor in sarcoma research. The Mission of the Sarcoma Strong Foundation is "...to generate funds to sponsor research that may improve the ability to diagnose and treat sarcoma." The MSTs and the Sarcoma Strong Foundation recognize the urgent need to provide MSTs members with opportunities to perform *highly mechanistic, translational sarcoma research* by exploring such subjects as sarcoma immunotherapy, oncogenic signaling, novel targeted therapies, genomic sequencing, circulating cancer cells, precision medicine, and other contemporary research concepts. Descriptive research on data collection or comparative studies will be of a lower priority. Please refer to the attached NIH Definitions of Rigor. It is expected that recipients of this award will apply for NIH K08/R03/R21/R01 Grants and/or OREF Grants within 2 years of the last grant funding cycle.

III. Eligibility

Applicants should be at least MSTs Candidate Members within their first 6 years of faculty appointment. Mentors need not be MSTs members but should have an independent sarcoma research program and mentoring experience. Applicants should articulate concrete plans for the development of grant-writing skills and should state how the Mentored Research Award will generate preliminary data for future applications. It is important to identify at least two NIH R01-funded investigators who will provide research coaching within or outside the institution.

IV. Grant Application Format and Page Limit (Arial font size 11; 0.5 inch margin top, bottom, right, left)

- Cover Page (SF 424 R&R form; <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html>)
- NIH-format 5-page Biosketches for the PI and other Key Personnel (samples and forms are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- One-page Specific Aims
- Up to 6-page Research Plan including figures (Significance, Innovation, Approach including Preliminary Data)
- Literature Cited; IRB and/or IACUC approval; Letters of support; Other forms (not included in the page limit)
- IACUC/IRB approval will be required before funds are disbursed.
- Budget must be included
- **One-page Mentoring Plan must be included**

V. Review Criteria & Peer Review

NIH Review Format: Overall Impact (Significance; Innovation; Investigators; Approach; Environment; **Fitness to the mission of Sarcoma Strong** as articulated above). The proposal will be reviewed by MSTs Research Committee members. Established MSTs investigators may be recruited on an *ad hoc* basis.

VI. Inquiries

Bang Hoang, MD, Research Committee Chair (info@msts.org)