



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF 2024 ALD CONNECT EMERGING INVESTIGATOR PROPOSALS

#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of the award is to recognize emerging investigators for research related to adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD). The project period should be less than one year in length with a maximum budget of \$6,000 in direct costs and no more than an additional 10% in indirect costs.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Candidates for the award must be a graduate student, medical student, or post-doctoral fellow; engaged in research under the guidance of a principal investigator; and have an on-going appointment with an academic and/or accredited health care institution.

#### **CRITERIA:**

The project should have direct relevance or relationship to ALD. This includes basic, translational, or clinical research. Examples include, but are not limited to: novel biomarkers, molecular understanding of disease, and investigations into new treatments in model systems. Information generated from the completed research should ideally provide pilot data for future grant proposals and publication of results.

#### **FULL PROPOSAL:**

The deadline for submission of full proposals is July 26, 2024 at 4:00 PM Eastern. An electronic version of the proposal should be submitted to Kelly Miettunen ([kelly.miettunen@aldconnect.org](mailto:kelly.miettunen@aldconnect.org)) as a single PDF. Funds awarded are anticipated to be available on or before October 1, 2024.

#### **PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS:**

##### Project Outline

Candidates should provide a one-page summary of how the award would be used to accomplish the proposed research project. This should include a brief outline of the work scope, what the applicant hopes to discover, and how it applies to ALD. The award can be used for supplies/reagents, animal purchase and housing, additional training/coursework, purchase of books, or services. The outline should be written as if it was going to be presented to a philanthropic donor who was interested in potentially funding ALD research. A detailed bibliography is not required. If a bibliography is included, it must fit within the one-page limit. Any questions should be directed in writing to Kelly Miettunen ([kelly.miettunen@aldconnect.org](mailto:kelly.miettunen@aldconnect.org)).

##### Presentation

Selected applicants will be asked to present their proposal via Zoom to the ALD Connect scientific Board Members (Dr. Florian Eichler, Dr. Ali Fatemi, Dr. Troy Lund, Dr. Keith Van Haren, Dr. Josh Bonkowsky, Dr. Stephan Kemp, Dr. Amber Salzman, and Dr. Amena Smith Fine). Presentations will occur in August 2024. The talk should be a persuasive presentation that outlines the research strategy and how the money would be used to investigate an ALD project.

##### Letter of Support and CV

Applicants must provide a letter of support from their mentor that also confirms that the applicant will be allowed protected time to accomplish the goal(s) proposed. An updated CV should also be included in the proposal.

**REVIEW:**

Proposals and presentations will be internally reviewed by ALD Connect Board Members for their potential scientific impact, innovation, and rigor.

**SELECTION:**

Funds will be awarded to the emerging investigator who has the most compelling project as judged by their project outline and presentation.

**FINAL REPORT:**

A final report with budget summary is due on July 31, 2025. All materials must be submitted electronically to Kelly Miettunen (kelly.miettunen@aldconnect.org). The final report will consist of: A one to two-page final summary in lay language. The summary should include the purpose and results of the study, how the results will potentially impact patients, any discoveries or patents, papers published, national presentations, plans for grant submission, and future research directions.

**PRESENTATION:**

Acceptance of an award implies agreement to present an update at the 2025 ALD Connect Annual Meeting and Patient Learning Academy or as a separate webinar. The presentation will focus on reporting success of completing stated aims, publications that resulted from work and grants submissions that utilize the data or results of the funded project. Emerging Investigators may be asked to present in other meetings or events as well. ALD Connect will cover the cost of travel (e.g. airfare and lodging) for the awardee to attend the meeting.

***Failure to comply with reporting requirements may disqualify applicants from future ALD Connect grants.***