Request for Proposals Announcement
provided by the Platelet Disorder Support Association
for funding consideration for the research of Immune Thrombocytopenia

Issue Date: March 1, 2020

The Platelet Disorder Support Association (PDSA), a patient advocacy non-profit organization for patients with Immune Thrombocytopenia (ITP), invites the research community to submit proposals for grants subject to the terms below. This request for proposals officially notifies of the availability of funds for research that furthers understanding of the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of primary Immune Thrombocytopenia.

Eligibility and Funding
Up to two grants will be awarded annually. The maximum amount available for each grant is $20,000, including institutional overhead and indirect costs of research. Funds can be used for a portion of the applicant’s salary and supplies or for partial salary support of a research study coordinator; if the funds are all used for salary, then an outside source to fund the remainder of the study must be demonstrated. Funds cannot be used for equipment without prior approval in writing. Funding is for a maximum period of 12 months. Funding for a second year is contingent on exceptional progress and renewal applications will be assessed along with new applications.

Research applications from outside the US are welcomed. There is no restriction on additional sources of support for the position and project, i.e. partial funding from a for-profit institution or another not-for-profit source, e.g. American Heart Association is acceptable. If the projected budget for research exceeds $20,000, additional funding sources must be disclosed with application. Research involving vertebrate animals is acceptable if approved by the relevant institutional committee on animal welfare.

Research Objectives
Research must be focused on primary ITP. Clinically oriented, observational, and laboratory hypothesis-based research proposals related to ITP are encouraged. Proposals should include a clear description of a hypothesis-driven investigation that addresses an area of need in the understanding of, or treatment for primary ITP.
Successful research plans should include evidence of consultation with and/or collaboration with patients with primary ITP (alternatively, PDSA’s Patient Research Panel). Funding may be allocated to hypothesis-driven research projects showing research for a patient benefit, according to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Methodology Report1, across the following areas:

• Disease incidence, prevalence, burden, causes, prevention, and management
• Evidence gaps in terms of biomarkers, clinical outcomes, practice variation, and health disparities
• Potential for new evidence to improve health, well-being, and quality of care, such as patient qualitative studies to clarify symptoms or other quality of life issues of patients living with ITP
• Patient needs, outcomes, and preferences
• Relevance to patients and clinicians in making informed health decisions

Submission Instructions
Completed proposals must be received by April 15, 2020 at midnight EST to PDSA Research Program Manager, Jennifer DiRaimo, at jdiraimo@pdsa.org, and must be written for a general audience. Proposal must be submitted as PDF files using the provided abstract template found on the PDSA website at https://www.pdsa.org/healthcare-professionals-researchers/research.html.

Award Decision
Final approvals and denials for those who submit complete proposals will be communicated via email no later than June 15, 2020. Grants will be awarded based on selection by a review panel comprised of PDSA medical advisors and ITP patients and caregivers selected by PDSA. Proposals will be evaluated on a point scale established by PDSA’s Research Program Manager and will be based on importance, relevance, investigation plan, and interest to the ITP patient community.

Additional information
Written approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for research involving human subjects and written approval for research involving vertebrate animals must be submitted to the Board before funding can begin. A written Progress Report of no more than two pages must be received by the PDSA Research Program Manager and PDSA President & CEO within 6 months of the date of funding for funding to continue. A Final Report on the work accomplished, including a summary report on ALL expenditures made, must be submitted by August 31, 2021. Applicant agrees to cite support from PDSA in all written and oral communications pertaining to the funded research, and to submit a research abstract to PDSA to include in their quarterly newsletter disseminated to its members. Direct any questions about this Request for Proposals to PDSA Research Program Manager Jennifer DiRaimo, jdiraimo@pdsa.org.

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