



REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

The American SIDS Institute (ASI) invites qualified investigators to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) for a research grant related to sudden unexpected infant death (SUID). Applicants must have a faculty appointment or the equivalent at a U.S.-based university, hospital, research institution, or medical examiner office. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, pathology, physiology, neonatology, cardiology and epidemiology. The intent of this funding opportunity is to support innovative research leading to subsequent extramural grant funding regarding SUID or related causes of sudden unexpected death. The highest priority will be given to investigators who have had a full-time faculty or equivalent professional appointment for <5 years.

Priority will be given to research proposals related to one of the top ten research priorities identified by the Global Action and Prioritization of Sudden Infant Death (GAPS) Project. These include:

1. Mechanisms leading to death and how they interact with environmental risk factors.
2. The role of genetic factors in SUID.
3. Social and cultural factors affecting parental choices in sleep practices and responses to risk reduction campaigns.
4. Role of abnormal or immature brain anatomy and physiology.
5. Systematic collection and sharing of death scene data from SUID and non-SUID deaths to allow better case control studies.
6. How infants control oxygen desaturation and arousal to allow a better understanding of SUID mechanisms.
7. Mechanisms for SUID at different ages.
8. Developing and evaluating new ways to make safe sleep campaigns more effective.
9. Identifying specific biomarkers to differentiate between natural causes, accidental asphyxia, and SIDS.
10. Better understanding of the risks of sharing any sleep surface with an infant, notably how it interacts with other factors, including feeding practices, to make it more or less risky.

Proposals related to the study of sudden unexpected intrauterine death, sudden death in children, or sudden death in epilepsy may also be responsive. However, applicants will need to clearly explain how their proposal will advance the understanding of SUID. Although priority will be given to human studies, animal studies may be responsive if justified based on an animal model relevant to the research priorities listed above. Proposals for the development of new physiologic monitoring equipment or devices to facilitate safe sleep position or reduction of other sleep environment-related risks will not be considered.

These grant awards are intended to be self-contained studies with a well-defined targeted hypothesis. Budgets may include technical salary support, but investigator salary support and indirect costs may not be requested. Awards will be for 2 years, and limited to a total of \$70,000.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LOI

PROPOSAL

The proposal is limited to 3 pages, and needs to include the following:

1. Title of proposal and name of P.I.
2. Personal Statement, addressing how the research project fits into the applicant's career goals
3. Specific aims and hypotheses
4. Background
5. Preliminary data
6. Approach (Methods)
7. Anticipated outcomes and how this research will advance the knowledge base of SUID

ADDITIONAL CONTENT (in addition to the 3-page proposal):

1. Biosketch using NIH format (preferred), or CV
2. Letter of support from the research or administrative supervisor, including assurance that the applicant will have sufficient protected research time for successful and timely completion of the project

SUBMISSION

The LOI including the proposal and other required items should be submitted as a single PDF email attachment to the American SIDS Institute at: research@sids.org.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LETTER OF INTENT: FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2018

REVIEW PROCESS

Submitted LOI will be evaluated by the American SIDS Institute Research Advisory Council. In addition to scientific merit, reviewers will also consider:

1. Responsiveness to requirements in this announcement
2. Potential for results leading to subsequent extramural research funding
3. Potential for subsequent peer-review publication

Applicants with well-defined, high priority LOI proposals will be invited to submit a complete research grant application.

AMERICAN SIDS INSTITUTE CONTACT

We encourage inquiries and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants. Email Betty McEntire at bmcentire@sids.org.