

### iii. Multi-Center Project Grant

**Competition Objectives:** The purpose of this Request for Applications is to promote collaborative science and support research-related activities organized around one or more common themes or areas of interest. For FY2010, the thematic interest areas are: Novel Pharmacological Strategies to Prevent Alzheimer's Disease and Non-Pharmacological Strategies to Ameliorate Symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease, both described in detail elsewhere in the program announcement. The Multi-Center Project Grant (MCPG) is designed to enhance the productivity of Investigator-Initiated Research Grant (IIRG) applications by providing an opportunity to combine resources and expertise as well as use multi-disciplinary approaches to a common theme. Applicants are encouraged to apply for MCPGs that consider combining several potential themes described under each focus area, or to focus on one theme and use multi-disciplinary approaches. The MCPG also encourages applicants to consider multi-institutional and international collaborations for the development of research networks.

MCPG applicants must use the IIRG mechanism (described elsewhere in the program announcement) to apply. The MCPG can comprise up to four IIRG projects and must follow IIRG guidelines and limitations in period and amount of funding. An additional \$100,000 will be awarded to the MCPG principal investigators (PIs) to be used as discretionary funds toward the fulfillment of the MCPG research goals.

The Alzheimer's Association anticipates funding two MCPG grants in FY2010. As part of the initial merit review, all MCPG-IIRG applications will receive independent written critiques through the Association's review process. MCPG-IIRG applications will then undergo a second level review by the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Council (MSAC) as MCPGs. The MSAC may award all IIRG applications submitted under a single MCPG, or may fund a subset of MCPG-IIRGs, dependent upon scientific merit of the individual IIRGs.

**Potential Themes:** Any proposal must be in response to the following RFAs (described elsewhere in the program announcement):

- **Non-Pharmacological Strategies to Ameliorate Symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease**
- **Novel Pharmacological Strategies to Prevent Alzheimer's Disease**

The Alzheimer's Association recognizes the need to increase the number of scientists from underrepresented groups in the research enterprise. Researchers from these groups are encouraged to apply.

**Funding and award period:** Each award is limited to **up to four** IIRG projects and must follow IIRG guidelines for cost, duration and eligibility. Requests in any given year for individual IIRGs within the MCPG may not exceed \$100,000 (direct and indirect costs). Indirect costs are capped at 10 percent (rent for laboratory/office space is expected to be covered by indirect costs paid to the institution). An additional \$100,000 will be awarded to the MCPG PIs to be utilized as discretionary funds toward the fulfillment of the MCPG specific aims.

**Eligibility:** Researchers with full-time staff or faculty appointments are encouraged to apply. Applications from post-doctoral candidates will **not** be accepted.

**Deadlines and award dates:** Letters of intent (LOIs) must be received by **5:00 p.m. EASTERN STANDARD TIME, December 1, 2009**. LOIs will not be accepted after this date. No exceptions will be made.

Once the LOI is approved by the Alzheimer's Association, **applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. EASTERN STANDARD TIME, January 7, 2010**. Scientific and technical review will be conducted from February through May 2010. The second-level review by the Medical and Scientific Advisory Council will be conducted during June 2010. Funding will be awarded by July 2010.

**Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs:** The mechanism of the award is the MCPG comprised of **up to four** individual research grants with a common theme/goal in response to the described focus areas. The maximum allowable duration is three years for each project. Annual scientific progress and financial reports are required of individual IIRGs. Additionally, a yearly summary scientific report of combined MCPG progress is required, to be submitted on behalf of the MCPG investigators.

**Budget:** A “budget summary” for each proposed research project (IIRG) is required and must be submitted with the application and within the allowable page limits. However, if the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds. A detailed budget for the discretionary funds is not required. Disbursement of discretionary funds will require a written request with a budget justification to be submitted by all MCPG PIs with up to \$50,000 per year allowable.

**Allowable costs under this award:**

It is required that most of the funds awarded under this program be used for direct research support.

**Allowable costs under this award are the same as for the IIRG and include:**

- Computer equipment if used strictly for data collection
- Travel (up to \$1,000 per year per IIRG submitted as part of the MCPG)
- Salary for the principal investigator, scientific (including post-doctoral fellows) and technical staff (including interviewers, interventionists, data entry, technicians, and administrative support related directly to the funded project)
- Manual production/development/website/etc.

**Costs not allowed under this award include:**

- Tuition
- Computer hardware or software for investigators
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs

**For more information:** E-mail [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) or call 1.312.335.5747