



## The Tau Pipeline Enabling Program V (T-PEP)

### **Program Objective:**

Many devastating neurodegenerative disorders are associated with the abnormal build-up and/or spreading of the tau protein. These diseases are known as “tauopathies”. They include Alzheimer’s Disease (AD), Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), and other forms of frontotemporal dementia (FTD), among others. Tauopathies share the concept that synaptic loss, dendrite pruning and/or neuronal dysfunction are the proximal events associated with the clinical expression of the dementia syndrome. As the field advances knowledge on the mechanisms of tau and related biological pathways (e.g., microtubule stability, inflammation, axonal transport, etc.), the potential to target tau and tau-related biological pathways emerges as a promising therapeutic strategy.

The **Tau Pipeline Enabling Program (T-PEP)** seeks to accelerate the discovery of potential new therapies for tauopathies. This program intends to enrich the pipeline for therapy development by facilitating the translation of academia-derived ideas into practical application. In short, T-PEP bridges the gap between innovative but resource-constrained researchers and the larger pharmaceutical companies that are looking for drug candidates to be taken into human trials.

### **Program Overview:**

The overarching goal of T-PEP is to promote the advanced study of a wide range of novel targets, agents, and/or therapeutic strategies that will accelerate the development of disease-modifying interventions for tauopathies.

Proposals responding to this program may focus on the toxicity of tau directly and/or they may target their studies on potential neurobiological mechanisms that promote or synergize tau formation or toxicity, e.g., calcium dyshomeostasis, mitochondrial dysfunction, neuroinflammation, microtubule stability (or instability) and function, axon transport, synapse dysfunction/loss, and other tau-related mechanisms. Applications addressing related mechanisms must include a clear rationale that it will prevent, reduce, remove, or otherwise mitigate the toxic effects of tau build-up. **Funds awarded under this program must be used for development candidate selection, which includes activities directly supporting lead optimization, in vivo proof-of-concept, or IND-enabling studies, including cGMP scale-up/manufacture and animal efficacy studies.**

**Applications with a compound or target discovery component are unresponsive to this funding call.**

T-PEP recognizes that the investigators who initially conceive of new therapeutic strategies are unlikely to possess the full range of expertise needed to independently advance their ideas through the drug discovery process. Accordingly, T-PEP encourages the use of interdisciplinary teams of academic collaborators, contract research organizations (CROs), and/or outside consultants who can assist in moving these projects forward.

T-PEP is open to researchers at academic institutions as well as small companies; but preference will be given to companies with 50 or fewer employees. The maximum grant amount for non-profit academic institutions is \$750,000, with up to 10% indirect cost. The maximum grant amount for for-profit companies, with no indirect expenses allowed, is \$750,000. The maximum project duration is 2 years, and there is no minimum timeframe. As partners for this grant program, the Alzheimer's Association and the Rainwater Charitable Foundation will jointly monitor progress toward project milestones. **Disbursement of funds will be contingent on demonstrated progress toward key milestones.**

**Key Dates:**

LOI and application submissions must be received by 5:00 pm Eastern by their respective deadlines. Late submissions will not be accepted - *no exceptions*.

<b>Letter of Intent Launch</b>	<b>April 12th 2026</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Deadline</b>	<b>May 28, 2026 by 5:00 pm, Eastern time</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Notifications</b>	<b>June 20, 2026</b>
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>August 14, 2026 by 5:00 pm, Eastern time</b>
<b>Application Review</b>	<b>September/October, 2026</b>
<b>Award Notifications</b>	<b>November 30, 2026</b>

**Late submissions will not be accepted – *no exceptions*. \*\* Note, due to the high number of submissions, specific feedback and reviewer comments are not provided at the Letter of Intent stage.**

**Eligibility:**

Both non-profits and for-profit organizations are eligible, though , preference will be given to for-profit companies with 50 or fewer employees. For-profits and non-profits must provide documentation verifying status.

The Principal Investigator of the project must be considered a full-time employee of the organization submitting the proposal. If the applicant is not a paid employee, they must demonstrate that they are part of the company and a listed employee. Applications from post-doctoral researchers will not be accepted, but they are eligible to serve as key personnel on the grant.

For questions about eligibility, please contact the Alzheimer's Association at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).

**Submitting a Letter of Intent:**

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is a required step in the application process. LOIs must be completed online at <https://proposalcentral.com>. First-time users must register and fill out a Professional Profile to begin the application process. No hard copies or emails will be accepted.

**Evaluation of LOIs:**

All LOIs will be evaluated before invitation. Only LOIs that meet program-specific guidelines will be invited to submit full applications. Please note, feedback will not be provided during the LOI stage.

*LOIs will be reviewed by a panel of experts with special attention to:*

1. Alignment with the research priorities of the T-PEP Program as defined in this RFA
2. Scientific rationale, specific aims, and methodological rigor, including a proposed timeline of the program
3. Potential impact of the project on the prevention or treatment of tauopathies
4. Clear translation pathway from studies to clinical trials, including identifying any collaborators that are intended to support the program

**Submitting a Full Application:**

For those invited to submit a full application, additional materials will be required. Templates and instructions will be provided in proposalCENTRAL after LOI approval. No hard copies or emails will be accepted.

Full applications require the following documents:

- Executive Summary (limit of 1 page)
- Work Plan (up to 5 pages, including goals/specific aims, methods, and project plan); attention should be made to provide background addressing the link between target/mechanism and human disease, and a clearly defined therapeutic hypothesis regarding why the strategy is expected to be successful

- Principal Investigator and Key Personnel *Curriculum Vitae* or Biosketch (no more than 5 pages per person)
- Gantt Chart of proposed project, including specific go/no-go milestones (up to 3 pages)

- **Budgeted Project Milestones**

Applicants must provide project milestones for each 6-month budget period. Milestones will be completed through the online system only; no separate upload is required. Each milestone must be explicitly linked to a specific budget component and should reflect meaningful progress toward the proposed project aims.

For each 6-month budget period, applicants should:

- Present the budget in 6-month increments;
- Identify the major milestones anticipated during each budget period;
- Ensure that each milestone is aligned with the overall goals of the project and is stated in a manner that allows clear assessment of whether it has been achieved;
- Specify the relevant Project Aim associated with each milestone; and
- Indicate the amount of funding allocated to that Project Aim, including the proportion of the budget period represented by that allocation, where applicable.

Milestones should be substantive, measurable, and appropriate to the scope of work proposed for the corresponding budget period.

- Available Resources and Budget Justification (2 pages)
  - If awarded, a full budget of planned expenses will be required.
  - Include a list of tools/models available (if appropriate, list critical tools and models to be used or needed in the course of the research)
  - No more than 10% indirects will be allowed for non-profits. No indirects will be allowed for for-profit entities.
  - Costs not allowed include:
    - Computer hardware or standard software (e.g. Microsoft Office, mouse, monitor, computer parts)
    - Laboratory equipment such as freezers, ultracentrifuges, RT-PCR, and microscopy/imaging equipment
    - Service contract fees for equipment
    - Construction or renovation costs
    - Tuition
    - Rent for laboratory/office space
    - Expenses such as Data Network Recharges, Computing, and communication device support services
    - General liability insurance, such as GAEL
    - Wire and currency exchange fees

- Salary and/or compensation for Alzheimer's Association Staff or current members of the Alzheimer's Association Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) and the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) Council. A complete list of MSAG and IRGP Council members can be found on our website [alz.org/grants](http://alz.org/grants).
- Target Information (1 page)
  - Complete the table with all known information up to the point in development your compound is at.
- Data Management and Sharing Plan
  - A complete Data Management and Sharing Plan is required as part of the application. We recommend using the provided amended NIH template.
  - When data sharing may be limited, applicants must explain such limitations at the time of application for grants within the submitted Plan.
- Comprehensive Target Product Profile (TPP) (two pages)
  - Provide a detailed TPP specifying clinical objectives, intended patient population, dosage forms, route of administration, therapeutic dosing regimen, safety profile, and efficacy benchmarks.

Clearly link the proposed activities and milestones to achieving the defined TPP goals.
- Research Project Leadership Plan
  - Complete according to the instructions contained on the template form.

### **Reporting Requirements, if Funded:**

For funded awards through this program, there will be required scientific and financial reporting. Interim Scientific & Financial Reports must be submitted at the end of each reporting period as long as the grant remains active. Final Scientific & Financial Reports must be filed within 90 days of the grant's end date. All reports must be submitted electronically via proposalCENTRAL. The Financial Report must be approved and signed by someone with financial authority in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs or Grants & Contracts Office at the recipient's institution. Unobligated funds remaining at the end of the award must be returned to the Alzheimer's Association.

**Note:** The continuation of the grant over the awarded duration is contingent upon the timely receipt of all required reports.

In addition, while animal welfare and human volunteer ethical assurances are not required at the time of application, investigators have until their chosen start date (within 6 months or less of award notification) to submit these approved documents. The Alzheimer's Association encourages investigators to initiate their certification applications on a schedule that recognizes that rDNA certification, IRB/IACUC approval at many institutions can take more than 90 days. The Association accepts only certifications that apply specifically to the funded project and must include the name of the awardee.

Projects involving human volunteers must address the appropriate inclusion or exclusion of individuals in the proposed research project and describe recruitment efforts to represent the

community in which the study is planned or being conducted. Prior to distribution of funding, the researcher must provide a description of their recruitment plan, including an outline describing how their recruitment efforts will ensure representative diversity in their volunteers. This will be tracked throughout the duration of the grant.

Electronic copies of publications, presentations and abstracts that report research supported by funds from the Alzheimer's Association must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. These copies will become part of the official file of the grant and will be provided to the Communications Division of the Alzheimer's Association to assist in the efforts to further inform the public about the International Research Grant Program of the Association. Any intellectual property disclosures resulting from the award must be submitted electronically at the time of publication. The Alzheimer's Association may request any of the research outputs listed here from any awardee up to 7 years following the end of the award.

### **Other Considerations**

For any awarded grant, the Alzheimer's Association and the Rainwater Charitable Foundation will issue a joint grant agreement. Applicants invited to submit a full application will receive a copy of this joint agreement before the application deadline.

### **Financial Responsibility:**

Funding is awarded to the institution and/or organization, not to the individual principal investigator. The principal investigator or a first-degree relative cannot be listed as the signing official or financial officer, or have checks sent to their attention if awarded.

### **U.S. Sanctions:**

Alzheimer's Association will serve as the funding body on behalf of the funding partners. Grants made are generally open to scientists and researchers across the globe through their institution and/or organization; however, as a U.S.-based charity, the Alzheimer's Association is subject to, and complies with, U.S. law. As a result, the Alzheimer's Association cannot award, and will not award, grants in violation of applicable U.S. statutes and regulations. This means, among other things, that the Alzheimer's Association cannot, and will not, fund any individual or entity (i) that is subject to U.S. comprehensive or targeted sanctions or if awarding funding would result in a violation of such sanctions, (ii) that is on the U.S. List of Specially Designated Nationals or entities owned or controlled by such persons, or (iii) when doing so is otherwise prohibited by U.S. laws related to combating terrorism.

### **Nondiscrimination and Harassment Statement:**

The Alzheimer's Association and the Rainwater Charitable Foundation are committed to providing an environment free from harassment and discrimination. The organizations strictly prohibits harassment and discrimination based on race; creed; color; religion; sex; sexual orientation; national origin; ancestry; age; Veteran status; citizenship status; marital status; physical or mental disabilities; pregnancy, gender identity or expression (including transgender status); genetic information; and any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.

### **Contact Information:**

For any inquiries or additional information, please contact a member of the Alzheimer's Association Grants staff at [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org).

**The Tau Pipeline Enabling Program (T-PEP)** is jointly funded by the Alzheimer's Association and the Rainwater Charitable Foundation.