

*The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation,
Bank of America N.A., Trustee,
Awards Program in Age-Related Macular Degeneration Research*



Application Guidelines

All applications must be submitted online. The online submission **deadline is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Funding begins on December 15, 2009.** Three-year awards of \$750,000 (\$250,000 per year) and one-year pilot studies of up to \$150,000 will be made to independent investigators working in nonprofit academic, medical, or research institutions within the United States and US territories (all awards inclusive of 10% indirect costs).

Program Overview and Statement of Purpose

The Edward N. & Della L. Thome Memorial Foundation was created in 2002 to advance the health of older adults through the support of direct service projects and medical research on diseases and disorders affecting older adults. In keeping with the Foundation's mission, we are pleased to announce a new Awards Program in age-related macular degeneration (AMD) research. The goal of the Awards Program is to support translational research that will lead to improved therapies for individuals suffering from AMD.

As steward of the Thome Memorial Foundation, Bank of America N.A. works with The Medical Foundation division Scientific Review Committees to select the most qualified candidates. Successful research proposals will extend recent basic research findings regarding the underlying mechanisms of AMD and characterize novel biological pathways or targets for drug development. Examples of funding areas include, but are not limited to, genetically engineered animal models, the discovery and testing of small molecule therapies directed at new or known targets including immune- or inflammation-related pathways associated with AMD, local drug delivery systems, and neuroprotective strategies to prevent retinal cell degeneration. Clinical studies and medication trials are currently outside the scope of this program.

Applicant and Research Project Eligibility

All applicants must hold a faculty appointment at a nonprofit academic, medical, or research institution in the United States or US territories. United States citizenship is not required. Eligibility is not limited to those investigators currently working in age-related macular degeneration research; scientists who have conducted research exploring the biologic causes of related disorders and/or similar translational research programs are encouraged to apply. Applicants do not need to be nominated by their institutions. Preference will be given to originality of ideas, regardless of faculty seniority.

The research proposal must clarify how the study may improve current therapeutic strategies or reveal new therapeutic approaches.

Award Selection Criteria

Only one application may be submitted per applicant. The Scientific Review Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate applications:

- Qualifications of the applicant and prior experience in conducting innovative research;
- Hypothesis that is clearly stated, based on sound precedents and supported by relevant literature;
- Objectives that are well thought out, realistic, and technically feasible;
- Research methodology, data collection, and data analyses that are feasible and appropriate to the proposal's aims;
- Quality and originality of the research project; and
- Potential of the research project to lead to effective treatment of age-related macular degeneration.

Notification to Applicants

Applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of their applications. Final notification of status will be emailed by December 7, 2009.

Terms of the Awards

Please download a complete list of Terms of the Award from <http://www.tmfgrants.org/thome> for information on use of the grant funds, indirect costs, payment schedule, reporting schedule and other Award and Institutional requirements.

Application Instructions

DEADLINES

The complete application process requires an online submission which must be received by **Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 12:00 Noon (U.S. Eastern Time) AND a mailed submission that must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2009.** Use the following links to begin or continue the application process:

Begin a new application:

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_738/?SA=SNA&FID=35036

Continue a saved application:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM

The following sections must be completed for the online submission:

- **Eligibility Quiz**
- **Applicant Information:** Applicant contact and educational background
- **Project Information:** Project Title, Key Words, Primary Institution for Conduct of Proposed Research, and Scientific and Non-Technical Project Summaries
- **Attachment:** All forms required for the uploaded attachment can be found in a separate MS Word document located on <http://www.tmfgrants.org/thome>. **All of the documents listed in items 1-9 must be combined and converted into ONE PDF file for upload.** This document must be named LastName.FirstName.pdf (for example, Smith.Jon.pdf).

1. Application Face Sheet: The Face Sheet is the first page of the application. All information on the Face Sheet must be typed, with the exception of required signatures. All signatures are required at the time of the upload.

2. Table of Contents: Follow the Table of Contents and number pages sequentially beginning with the Application Face Sheet as page number one.

3. Research Project Summary: The Research Project Summary is a 300-350 word scientific abstract stating the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims.

4. Non-Technical Summary Form (maximum of 350 words): Describe your project in non-technical language and its potential to improve therapies for age-related macular degeneration. Please Note: If your project is funded, both the scientific and non-technical project summaries may be posted on The Medical Foundation division's Thome Awards Program website.

5. Letter of Recommendation from the Department or Division Chair: This letter must address the applicant's qualifications to conduct the proposed research as well as note the space and equipment available for the completion of the project. If the applicant is Chair of his/her department, a letter of recommendation from the Dean should be submitted.

6. Curriculum Vitae (not to exceed four pages) The NIH R01 PHS 398 Biographical Sketch form may be used. Include name, position title, education/training, positions/honors and selected publications in chronological order. List publications in the following categories: a) peer-reviewed articles, b) non peer-reviewed articles such as reviews and book chapters, and c) abstracts within the last two years. The applicant's name should be in caps or bolded in the list of authors. List ongoing, completed (within the last three years) and pending research projects (public or U.S. federal, and foundation or other private support). Begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of these projects and the applicant's responsibilities.

7. Research Proposal (maximum of 9 pages, not including references cited): The nine pages must include an introduction, background, specific aims,

limitations, preliminary data (if available) and experimental methods. Any figures, graphs, tables or pictures must also be included within these nine pages. References cited do not count toward the nine-page limit. An 11-point font must be used in the nine-page research proposal section. This section must also be formatted with single spacing within paragraphs, double spacing between paragraphs, and one-inch or larger margins all around. Figures, legends and tables may use a 9-10-point font.

8. Budget Forms (A-1, A-2, A-3, B): Complete these forms for each year of the project. Indirect costs (institutional overhead) may not exceed 10% of direct costs or \$22,728 per year (up to \$13,637 for the one-year pilot awards). Total support from the Thome Foundation, including overhead, is up to \$250,000 or \$150,000 per year for three-year or one-year awards, respectively.

9. Collaboration Letter: For any projects involving collaboration, include a brief description of your collaboration and the collaborator's Curriculum Vitae.

Important! Out of fairness to applicants who adhere to the guidelines, applications that do not conform to the stated application procedures or that contain more than the specified number of pages or materials will be rejected.

Applicant's Mailed Submission:

After the submission of the online portion of your application, **mail three (3) collated copies of the uploaded document with the Signed Application Face Sheet.**

Mailed applications must be received (not post-marked) by 5:00 p.m. US Eastern Time on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Mail the completed materials to:

Tyler C. Brown, Ph.D.
Scientific Program Officer

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*a division of **Health Resources in Action***
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A division of Health Resources in Action