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## 2012 REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Alport Syndrome Foundation, Inc. (ASF) is pleased to announce the availability of funding for basic science and clinical research on the natural history, biochemical basis, and treatment of Alport Syndrome. There are no geographical limitations of this funding.

### **Background**

Alport Syndrome is an inherited disease of the kidney that can also affect the inner ear (cochlea) and eye. It is estimated to affect at least 1 in 5,000 people. It is caused by genetic mutations that affect the type IV collagen family of proteins. Type IV collagen is a major part of important tissue structures called basement membranes that are present in all tissues including the kidney, inner ear, and eye.

Generally, Alport Syndrome affects boys more than girls because 80% of the time the disease is passed on by a mutation on the X chromosome (called X-linked Alport Syndrome). Boys only have one X-chromosome whereas girls have two X chromosomes. In girls, the normal X chromosome buffers the effect of the mutated gene. The other 20% of Alport Syndrome patients have the autosomal recessive or autosomal dominant form of the disease where boys and girls are equally affected.

The Alport Syndrome Foundation's mission is to educate and support patients and their families that have been affected by this genetic kidney disease with the goal of funding research to find more effective treatment protocols and a cure for Alport Syndrome.

*ASF is seeking proposals for both basic science and clinical research that will enhance understanding of the causes of this genetic disorder to advance the mission of our organization.*

### **Types of Proposals Sought**

We are interested in providing "seed funding" to young investigators as well as attracting experienced investigators to the field of Alport Syndrome basic science or clinical research. We anticipate that these funds will be used for the testing of initial hypotheses and the collection of preliminary data leading to successful long-term funding by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other major funding institutions around the world.

### **Funding**

We anticipate funding a total of \$100,000 in research projects over a one to two year timeframe. Funds will be available by July 1, 2012 after the successful applicants have been notified by April 2012 in accordance with ASF Research Funding Policies.

**Process**

We have a competitive funding process. Applications should be of 10–15 pages in length and must follow the instructions on the ASF website. In general terms, detailed information about the specific aims, significance, research design and methods, personnel, facilities, and budget will be required, along with evidence of application to the relevant Institutional Review Board for any work involving human subjects or to the Animal Use and Protection Committee for any work involving animal subjects.

Completed proposals will be forwarded to the ASF Medical Advisory Committee (as well as to expert outside reviewers, as required) for evaluation. Based on the input from the ASF Medical Advisory Committee and outside reviewers, the ASF Board of Directors will make the final funding decisions for the research applications.

**Deadline**

The deadline for submission of completed research funding applications from interested researchers is **Tuesday, January 31, 2012 by 5:00pm ArizonaTime/MST**. Funds will be awarded in April 2012.

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