

LIGUE EUROPÉENNE CONTRE LA MALADIE D'ALZHEIMER
2010 GRANT APPLICATION
GUIDELINES

Statement of Purpose

The Ligue Européenne Contre la Maladie d'Alzheimer (LECMA) awards grants for basic research on the causes of or treatments for Alzheimer's diseases on the basis of the scientific merit of the proposed research and the relevance of the research to improving our understanding of Alzheimer's disease. The main criterion for evaluation of the application is the potential for the proposed research to improve the understanding and therapy of the disease process in Alzheimer's disease.

LECMA is primarily interested in funding basic, academic research. The major criterion for evaluation of applications is the potential for meaningfully changing the direction of scientific inquiry in Alzheimer's disease by improving our knowledge of the disease process. The scientific plan should be well focused and able to stand alone. It is understood that more senior Alzheimer's disease investigators will have other funding in related areas of research, but the application to LECMA should not be used to simply subsidize these other efforts or to compensate for grant cutbacks. **Therefore, the applicant is advised to focus on a specific project that can be addressed in terms of a hypothesis and two or three specific aims. The proposed project should be distinct from other on-going investigations and grant awards. Please keep this in mind when preparing the research plan section of this application.**

Terms and Restrictions

LECMA grants are awarded to universities, medical centers, and independent non-profit research institutions. Grants are not made to individuals.

Two-year applications will be accepted for amounts up to a maximum of **€ 80,000** for two years and a maximum of € 40,000 per year for a Standard Award or **€ 40,000** for two years and with a maximum of € 20,000 per year for a Pilot Award. Grants may be renewed on a competitive peer-reviewed basis.

In order to be eligible for grant funding from the LECMA Standard Award Program, the Principal Investigator (P.I.) must hold the academic rank of assistant professor (or equivalent) or higher. For Pilot Awards, the P.I. is expected to be at a post-doctoral level (up to a maximum of six years after their PhD graduation).

Applicants must be experienced in Alzheimer's research; younger researchers have to be associated with an experienced laboratory. Investigators of the same laboratory can apply for a grant provided that there is no scientific or financial overlap between the proposed research projects.

No P.I. may receive more than one LECMA grant. No P.I. may submit more than one grant application in the same grant cycle.

A new grant cannot overlap in funding with that of an active grant, or a grant that has been extended. This implies that current grantees can submit a new grant application or application for competitive renewal only in the last budget year of their active grant.

Funds awarded are to be used solely for research. LECMA does not fund institutional overhead, large capital equipment, construction of buildings or VAT. LECMA will not fund the salary of the Principle Investigator of a Standard Award except under extraordinary circumstances. If salary for the P.I. is requested, it must be clearly and thoroughly justified. However, for Pilot Awards, junior investigators may request up to € 20,000 per year in a contribution to their salary.

Applications to LECMA are accepted once a year; the deadline for the 2010 Grant Year is **April 12, 2010**.

Review of Applications

Awards are granted on the basis of scientific merit of the applicants' research proposal, and its relevance to improving our understanding of Alzheimer's disease. LECMA uses a two tier review process. Applications that make it to the second review round will be peer reviewed by members of the Scientific Advisory Board and external experts. In October the applications and evaluations will be discussed and ranked by the Scientific Advisory Board.

The Board of Directors makes decisions on funding in October and grants begin November 1st. To ensure that LECMA is funding meritorious research proposals that have a high potential for success, the Board or Directors bases its funding decisions on the results of a formal, rigorous peer-review process, taking program goals and the availability of funds into consideration.

Within the constraints of the peer review system, LECMA will seek to maintain a good balance of funding between:

- a. experienced, established investigators and young, promising investigators
- b. applications from scientists never before funded by LECMA and applications from scientists seeking to renew funding from LECMA
- c. topics or areas of study within the field of Alzheimer's disease research, so that LECMA is not funding an unusually high proportion of grants in any one particular area

These goals will be implemented only if such implementation does not require funding grants with priority score ranking below "good" (numerical score 2.5).

Applicants normally will be notified in writing of the Board of Director's decision concerning their application by **October 31**. LECMA staff is not authorized to provide information on priority scores, ranking, or likelihood of funding of applications prior to written notification of applicants. **Please do not telephone LECMA to request such information.**

Competitive Renewals

LECMA will not limit the total number of years of funding that an individual researcher may receive. Although each project may be funded at any one time for a maximum of two years, a researcher may submit an application for competitive renewal. However, for Pilot Awards, projects may only be competitively renewed once. Competitive renewal applications will undergo peer review in the same manner as new applications. Progress made during the previous funding period will be considered during review of the competitive renewal application.

Human/Animal Research Subjects

LECMA requires that research supported by LECMA meet or exceed national regulations regarding the use of human subjects or animals in research. Applicants must provide written certification of approval by the appropriate Ethic Commission before funding begins.

Public Education

LECMA is a publicly supported charitable organization funded by donor contributions, and has an active public education program that informs donors and other interested individuals about the research we sponsor. Information provided to the public by LECMA may include the title of the project, the name and institutional affiliation of the Principal Investigator, the amount of the award, and the non-technical project description provided by the applicant. Therefore, the non-technical description should not contain confidential information. The submission of this application shall be deemed consent of the applicant to the publication of this information should a grant be awarded.

Publication Acknowledgement

All publications resulting from research sponsored by LECMA must give the following or similar credit: Funds have been provided by Ligue Européenne Contre la Maladie d'Alzheimer.

Sharing of Reagents

LECMA believes that biological reagents (e.g. recombinant DNA clones, cultured cell lines, hybridoma cell lines, mutant or unique organisms etc.) developed during the course of LECMA-sponsored research must be made available to qualified investigators after the publication of reports using or describing the reagents. These materials represent a valuable resource for the scientific community at large, paid for by the generous contributions of LECMA's donors. The availability of these reagents directly affects the ability of the members of the scientific community to replicate the experiments of others and the pace and cost of future research. Therefore, LECMA requires that the Principal Investigator and the grantee institution accept the responsibility of providing biological reagents developed during the course of LECMA-sponsored research to investigators who request them.

Discontinuation of Grant Funding

Although LECMA has committed grant funding for the stated term of the grant, it reserves the right to discontinue the grant at any time in the event the work performed is in breach of the terms and obligations stated herein.