

# REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

<b>Workshop Date / Location</b>	January 21-23, 2025 in Miami, FL
<b>Letter of Intent Period</b>	July 1 - August 15, 2024
<b>Letter of Intent Notification Date</b>	September 30, 2024
<b>Workshop Participation Grant Amount</b>	\$10,000 / invited participant
<b>Post-workshop Research Grant Amount</b>	Up to \$500,000 direct costs over 2 years
<b>Post-workshop Grant Notification Date</b>	July 15, 2025
<b>Start of Post-workshop Grant Term</b>	Fourth quarter 2025

## OVERVIEW

The Rainwater Charitable Foundation (RCF) is pleased to announce the second **Tauopathy Challenge Workshop** that will focus on addressing key gaps in our understanding of **copathologies that are often present with the primary tauopathies.**

The presence of copathologies can complicate diagnosis and therapeutic development for the primary tauopathies. There is a need for the research field to understand how aggregate-forming proteins like tau propagate in the brain, and how those pathological species derive from, instigate the formation of, or interact with other pathologies.

Please note that LOIs solely studying the role of amyloid beta (A $\beta$ ) and tau interaction will not be considered.

## PROCESS

Workshop participants will be selected through a competitive Letter of Intent (LOI) process. Through the LOI process, up to 12 participants will be selected by the RCF to attend the workshop and each attendee will receive a \$10,000 grant to support their laboratory research. Travel and lodging expenses will also be covered.

Following the meeting, workshop attendees can apply for research grants providing up to \$500,000 direct costs over two years; up to four awards will be funded, pending budget availability.

## LETTERS OF INTENT (LOI)

The LOI will be used to identify novel ideas from researchers with diverse insights to solve key gaps in our understanding of the mechanisms of copathology with a focus on primary tauopathies (i.e., Pick's disease, progressive supranuclear palsy, corticobasal degeneration, argyrophilic grain disease, globular glial tauopathy, aging-related tau astrogliopathy, and frontotemporal dementias).

Applications from researchers with expertise in other neurodegenerative diseases are strongly encouraged to apply. Suggested high priority LOI topic themes include:

- Novel mechanisms of how pathogenic forms of tau develop in the presence of a copathology;
- Interactions between pathogenic tau and other proteinopathies;
- How neuroinflammation affects neurodegenerative copathologies;
- The role of cardiovascular health with the development of copathologies;
- Do environmental effects promote copathology development; and
- The interaction of copathology mechanisms that may drive or accelerate pathogenic tau.

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## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- Hold a faculty appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor or above, or be an industry leader.
- Have an independent laboratory space and be able to hold independent funding as confirmed by their institution.
- Work at an academic, medical, research institution or company anywhere in the world.

Special consideration will be given to junior scientists (Assistant professor-level).

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Proposed projects may be in basic, translational, or clinical related research and must have direct applicability to the understanding of copathologies that are often present with the primary tauopathies. LOI topic themes of high interest, as outlined above, will be prioritized.

The LOI is a tool designed to identify projects with the greatest scientific potential and alignment with the program guidelines. LOIs may be shared with partners of the RCF to help prepare for the workshop. The LOI must follow the below guidelines and included the outlined information:

- Research Plan (max 2 pages, size 10 font), which should provide a clear, concise, and comprehensive overview of the proposed milestone-based project. This should include background information with sufficient preliminary data to support the proposed research.
- References (max 2 pages, size 10 font)
- Budget - Maximum of \$500,000 USD direct costs over two years. For year 1, the budget may not exceed \$300,000 USD direct costs. Please note that the RCF does not pay indirects.
- Biographical Sketch

All LOIs must be submitted by 6pm EST on **August 15, 2024** through the online application system. <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/2h4zwu> and use the access code "WORKSHOP25".

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### EVALUATION OF LOIs

The LOIs will be reviewed by the scientific program staff of the RCF. The following criteria will be considered when reviewing the LOIs:

- **Innovation.** *Does the application challenge and shift current research or clinical research paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel in a broad sense?*
- **Approach.** *Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators included plans to address weaknesses in the rigor of prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in vertebrate animals or human subjects?*
- **Significance.** *Does the project address an important problem or critical barrier to progress in the field? Is the prior research that serves as the key support for the proposed project rigorous? What potential does the proposed project have to advance the field?*
- **Investigator.** *Does the PI have a successful track record in research? Does the investigator have experience to successfully implement the proposed project?*

### QUESTIONS

Inquiries about the program guidelines, eligibility requirements, and Letter of Intent materials can be directed to RCF's medical research team at [medgrants@rainwatercf.org](mailto:medgrants@rainwatercf.org).