

# FLIGHT ATTENDANT MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC.



## CLINICAL INNOVATOR AWARDS PROGRAM

### REQUEST FOR LETTERS of INTENT

**Letters of Intent are due: 5 PM EDT**

**July 16 2010**

Full instructions for on-line submission of Letters of Intent will be available at

[www.famri.org](http://www.famri.org) June 01, 2010

#### **Introduction to Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI)**

In October of 1991, flight attendants and their survivors brought a Class Action suit in Dade County Circuit Court (Miami) against the tobacco industry seeking damages for the diseases and deaths that have been caused by their exposure to second hand tobacco smoke in airline cabins. The Class Action lawsuit filed by Miami attorneys Stanley M. Rosenblatt and Susan Rosenblatt resulted in a partial settlement in October 1997 after four months of trial which created FAMRI and provided other substantial benefits to class members.

FAMRI was formally established under the laws of Florida and Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Other than the initial funding, FAMRI has no connection with any tobacco company. FAMRI is governed and directed by a Board of Trustees, including flight attendants, appointed by class counsel, Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt. A Medical Advisory Board and a Lay Advisory Board assist FAMRI in its decision-making. FAMRI's Medical Advisory Board is listed below:

David Sidransky, MD, Chair  
Director, Head and Neck Cancer Research  
Professor, Otolaryngology, Head and Neck  
Surgery, Oncology, Pathology, Urology, and  
Cellular and Molecular Medicine  
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
Baltimore, Maryland

W. Jarrard Goodwin, MD  
Director, Sylvester Comprehensive  
Cancer Center  
University of Miami School of  
Medicine  
Miami, Florida

David W. Kennedy, MD FACS  
Professor and Director,  
Division of Rhinology  
Department of Otorhinolaryngology:  
Head and Neck Surgery

Michael C. Fiore, MD  
Professor of Medicine  
University of Wisconsin  
Director, Center for Tobacco Research  
and Intervention

Vice Director for Professional Services and  
Senior Vice President  
University of Pennsylvania Health System  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Madison, Wisconsin

Julius B. Richmond, MD, Founding Chair\*  
deceased

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### **Mission**

FAMRI is an independent not-for-profit foundation sponsoring medical and scientific research to combat the diseases caused by exposure to tobacco smoke and to ensure that health care providers ask the right questions of their patients about second hand tobacco smoke exposure.

### **ATTENTION ALL APPLICANTS**

FAMRI hopes that a byproduct of funded FAMRI research is greater public awareness of the life-threatening dangers presented from breathing others' tobacco smoke and that one day soon all medical/scientific institutions will be completely smoke free and will refuse all tobacco industry funding. To avoid all conflicts, any principal investigator or other participating applicant who is currently accepting tobacco industry funding, has recently applied for tobacco funding, or has any other association or consulting position with a tobacco company or affiliate of the tobacco industry is not eligible for FAMRI funding. All prior funding and/or association with tobacco companies must be disclosed and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Investigators and institutions are required to accept the terms of the Grant Agreement prior to submitting a proposal as explained at the end of this document.

### **Purpose of the Clinical Innovator Award:**

The purpose of the Clinical Innovator Awards (CIA) program is to stimulate novel medical and clinical scientific research studies on the topic of second hand tobacco smoke. New technologies to detect second hand tobacco-caused illnesses and novel therapies to treat these diseases are of high priority to FAMRI. This year the topics will be limited to the affects of second hand tobacco smoke exposure on chronic sinusitis, cilia abnormalities, chronic bronchitis, COPD, emphysema, asthmatic/allergy, and chronic auto immune diseases.

While considerable government and non-government funding is available to support established mainstream biomedical research projects, funds for high-risk projects are generally quite limited. Scientific peer review, while critical for maintaining the quality and rigor of the research enterprise, usually emphasizes preliminary data and feasibility of expensive innovation and risk taking. Despite this, scientific progress is often characterized by steady incremental advances or even plateaus interrupted by innovative breakthroughs in technology or thought that rapidly move a field to a new plane of inquiry. Some of these breakthroughs occur when investigators from one field bring their expertise to bear on research questions in another field and form new

cross-disciplinary collaborations. It is these types of innovative breakthroughs and creative collaboration that FAMRI is hoping to foster with the Clinical Innovator Awards.

**Research Scope for 2010**

FAMRI’s primary focus is on tobacco smoke studies. This year FAMRI will support research on the effect of second hand tobacco smoke exposure on respiratory diseases; specifically, chronic sinusitis, cilia abnormalities, chronic bronchitis, COPD, emphysema, asthma/allergies, and chronic auto immune diseases. FAMRI’s primary interest is to support areas of investigation related to translational and clinical research. For the purposes of this award, such research is defined as investigations conducted with human subjects or material of human origin in which the principal investigator (or a colleague) directly interacts with human subjects. Basic research with bearing on the relationship of respiratory diseases to second hand tobacco smoke exposure is also encouraged. Animal use for basic research is restricted to mice and rats, unless the animals are not sacrificed as part of the research. **This research must be related to and have direct application to the prevention, early detection, treatment, and cure of respiratory diseases caused by tobacco smoke exposure.**

The study areas of interest for the 2010-11 funding cycle are listed below:

Effect of second hand tobacco smoke exposure on:

Chronic sinusitis	Cilia abnormalities or alterations
Chronic bronchitis	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
Emphysema	Aggravation of asthmatic conditions and allergies
Chronic auto immune diseases	

FAMRI is interested in clinical and translational research, from basic molecular mechanisms of disease to occupational health. These areas include:

**Studies on the etiology and pathogenesis of tobacco-caused respiratory diseases in humans**

**Therapeutic interventions**

**Clinical trials**

Regardless of the research proposed, it is important for the proposal and abstract to discuss the role of tobacco smoke, including second hand tobacco smoke, in the disease proposed for study and how the research proposal will further the current understanding, treatment and cure of respiratory issues related to exposure to tobacco smoke.

## **Eligibility**

Researchers with an advanced degree (MD, PhD, or MD/PhD, or the equivalent) are eligible to apply. Individuals who apply to FAMRI for funding need not be US citizens. They normally apply through and with an institution or organization that is qualified under United States tax laws to receive grants from FAMRI, a US-based private foundation. The applying institution receives and administers FAMRI's funds and supervises the work of the Principal Investigator. If the applying institution is organized under the laws of a country other than the United States, it must provide FAMRI any and all documentation that FAMRI may require, in form and content acceptable to FAMRI, to ensure that any grant from FAMRI shall be a "qualified distribution" under Internal Revenue Service laws and regulations, including but not limited to affiliation with a qualified US-based institution, a current affidavit from the applicant or an opinion of qualified legal counsel stating the facts and circumstances of the applicant's organization and activities and certifying that any grant from FAMRI shall be a "qualified distribution."

## **Research Requirements**

The grantee must devote a minimum of 50% of professional time to research during the period of this award, and at least 15% of the grantee's time (or a total of 15% of the combined times of the co-grantees) should be devoted to the research project described in the application.

## **Other Funding**

An award will not be made or withdrawn if made if the applicant becomes the Principal Investigator on a peer-reviewed grant with the same general aims that are proposed in the application to FAMRI. Furthermore, an award will not be made or withdrawn if made if the applicant currently is receiving or accepts funding from the tobacco industry or its affiliates. (See Terms of Grant Agreement).

## **Funding Level**

FAMRI plans to provide awards of up to \$100,000 per year for direct costs plus no more than 8.5% for indirect costs, subject to the availability of funds. The awards usually will be made for three years with a possibility of a no-cost extension for one year upon request. The annual and total levels of support for this program are not guaranteed by FAMRI. FAMRI has no legal obligation to provide initial or continuing support.

## **Criteria for Review and Selection**

Review and selection by FAMRI will be based on the following five criteria.

Evidence of the applicant's ability to conduct the proposed research

Potential importance of the proposed research in the field and to health in general

Originality of the research proposal

Appropriateness of the methodology and scope of the project for the length of the award

Relevance of the proposed research to the study of the effects of tobacco smoke exposure

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTER OF INTENT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2010 CLINICAL INNOVATOR AWARD**

In order to submit a proposal for the 2010 FAMRI CIA award, you and your institution must be able to agree to the terms of the FAMRI non-negotiable, three-party Grant Agreement

### **Grant Policies and Conditions of the Award**

Please read the Grant Agreement carefully. The language therein constitutes FAMRI's non-negotiable, three-party Grant Agreement. Access to the application form will occur with your and your institutions' delegated officer's agreement to the terms as indicated. Successful applicants are considered a party to the Agreement and will be required to agree to and accept the terms of the Agreement. Payment of the award will be made to the grantee institution, as FAMRI cannot directly fund individuals. The investigator will be responsible for the scientific conduct of the research, and the institution will be responsible for financial and administrative matters. FAMRI will issue each year's grant payment in one installment, on or before July 1. Annual progress reports will be due as indicated in the Grant Agreement in advance of issuing each funding installment. The institution is responsible for administration of funds in accordance with acceptable policies and procedures for sponsored projects, accounting and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award. A separate financial account, available for audit, must be maintained for this award, and a financial report issued. See Clause V "Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements."

### **Please log on to [www.famri.org](http://www.famri.org) and follow the link to Grant Policies and Conditions of the Award**

*You must determine if your institution can agree to these terms before submitting a Letter of Intent.* Confirm this standing with your institution before proceeding. Once you have determined if the terms of the Grant Agreement can be met by your institution, please check the button entitled "My institution can agree to the terms of the Grant Agreement" at which time you will receive a FAMRI submission number and will be allowed access to a link for the FAMRI Clinical Innovator Letter of Intent submission form. Follow the instructions provided for the CIA award. The full instructions for the Letter of Intent will be available on this Web site May 28, 2010.

Institutions that have agreed in the past to the terms of FAMRI's non-negotiable, three-party Grant Agreement are listed below:

Columbia University

Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences

Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Lund University

Mayo Clinic  
National Jewish Health Services  
Tufts Medical Center  
University of Colorado  
University of Kentucky  
University of Miami  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Texas Health Center at Tyler  
University of Vermont  
Mount Sinai Medical Center

If your institution is not listed here please check with your institutional official about the Grant Policies and conditions.

If and only if your institution can comply with the terms of the Grant Policies and Conditions of the Award, you will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal by August 2, 2010. You will receive a notification with instructions for proposal submission at that time.

### **Questions**

Please submit questions regarding this award to [famri@aibs.org](mailto:famri@aibs.org) and refer to the Clinical Innovator Awards Program. You will receive a prompt response.

### **LOI Submission Instructions**

Please log on to [www.famri.org](http://www.famri.org) after May 28 2010. This will provide you with a link for submission of a Letter of Intent. Follow the instructions provided for the CIA. You will be notified of your eligibility by August 2, 2010 and at that time you will be provided with a link to the full proposal submission form.

**Important Dates for FAMRI submissions**

**May 28, 2010**                      **LOI forms available at [www.famr.org](http://www.famr.org)**

**5 PM EDT July 16, 2010**      **LOIs due**

**August 2, 2010**                      **Applicants receive invitations for full proposals**

**August 2, 2010**                      **Eligible individuals granted access to full submission Web site**

**5 PM EDT September 10, 2010**      **Full proposals and Tobacco Disclosure Forms due**