Call for Applications for MJFF Training Awards

MJFF Training and Integrated Learning Support Awards

The Mentorship and Training Task Force from the Michael J. Fox Foundation's Data Community of Practice is soliciting proposals to support training and integrated learning initiatives. Up to five proposals for $5,000 each (direct costs) will be awarded. This funding mechanism is intended to support early career stage investigators conducting multidisciplinary research on Parkinson's disease using MJFF datasets including -but not limited to- those found here. Support for PD-related research using non-MJFF data sets will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

This award provides supplemental resources to advance professional development, training, and small-scale research activities that support the generation of pilot data. Examples of eligible costs include travel to scientific conferences, computing costs, cloud services, course work, publication fees, among others. The funds are not intended to serve as primary support for major research initiatives by established investigators, nor are they intended for wet lab costs.

Eligible applicants must be an assistant professor, instructor, post-doctoral scholar, or doctoral student. Assistant professors and instructors must be within 7 years of their terminal degree. Applicants must demonstrate that they have obtained access to the data contained within their proposal before an award can be made. While not required, access in secondary data analysis and work with the dataset proposed for use is preferred.

Applications are particularly encouraged from investigators who identify as belonging to an underrepresented group in Parkinson's disease (PD) research. Use of these supplemental funds to support research involving underrepresented research participants is strongly encouraged.

Proposals are due on 11:59 PM EST on **December 11, 2026.** Please email the proposals to researchcommunity@michaeljfox.org. No appendices are allowed. Signatures from department or administrative officials are not required. At least two expert reviewers will review and score each award based on the applicant's qualifications and scientific merit. The MJFF Mentorship and Training Task Force will make funding decisions based on these scores and program priorities. The selected proposals will be funded by January 30, 2027 and selected researchers must spend the awarded funds by January 31, 2028. A brief half-page report on the project outcomes will be required at the end of the one year and awardees will be required to join the Data Community of Practice (if not already members) and make a public post highlighting outputs supported by this work on the community's forum located at: http://rcop.michaeljfox.org. Outputs generated through these awards must be shared openly in compliance with MJFF's Open Science Policy at a community-recognized repository with accompanying information to facilitate reuse of those outputs and a license that allows for reuse unless otherwise prohibited

by preexisting legal obligations. Additionally, all selected researchers are required to participate in a joint webinar to showcase their projects and outcomes.

Proposal must include the following documents:

1. A one page proposal that includes:
    a. Title
    b. Background and goals of the candidate
    c. Description of the research project that the funds will support and the underlying data that the project will leverage. There should be sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate the significance and scientific merit of the research
    d. An overview describing how these funds will facilitate the applicant to their short and long-term career goals
2. NIH Biosketch
3. Brief budget justification

Email confirmation providing proof-of-access to data used in proposal is preferred, but may be obtained after award offer. For specific program guidelines or additional information, please contact researchcommunity@michaeljfox.org.