



# 2026 Request for Proposals, Desmoid Tumor Research

## Background

The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation (DTRF) is dedicated to facilitating and funding research that leads to a cure for desmoid tumors. Desmoid tumors (also known as *aggressive fibromatosis*, *desmoid fibromatosis*, and *desmoid-type fibromatosis*) are rare, locally invasive, soft tissue tumors that form in the connective tissues of the body. We fund research that uses cutting-edge science and creative clinical applications, in addition to novel approaches addressing potential leads based on prior research. See [dtrf.org/research/dtrf-funded-grants/](https://dtrf.org/research/dtrf-funded-grants/) to explore our current and previously funded research. More information about the Foundation can be found at [www.dtrf.org](https://www.dtrf.org).

DTRF is particularly interested in innovative and translational research projects and will consider applications across the spectrum of research from basic science to clinical trials and correlative studies. The grant amount may be up to \$65,000 USD per year for a grant term of one to three years.

Investigators applying for pilot funding may apply for funding up to \$30,000 USD per year for a grant term of one year. This is limited to those who may not have an established line of research in the desmoid tumor research space or who have an innovative pilot project idea to collect preliminary data in advance of future grant applications.

## Purpose

The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation (DTRF) invites investigator-initiated research proposals that advance the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of desmoid tumors. This general call for proposals supports innovative basic, translational, clinical, and computational research across disciplines, with an emphasis on studies that have the potential to meaningfully impact patients. While proposals addressing any aspect of desmoid tumor biology or care are welcome, DTRF has a particular interest in research that deepens understanding of

spontaneous regression or disease stabilization, as well as projects that explore novel or emerging therapeutic approaches. Cross-disciplinary collaborations and proposals with clear translational relevance are strongly encouraged.

## Important Grant Information and Key Dates

<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Standard Grant: Up to \$65,000 USD per year</b>
<b>Letter of Intent Due</b>	<b>March 16, 2026 by 11:59PM ET</b>
<b>LOI Notification</b>	<b>By March 20, 2026</b>
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>April 20, 2026 by 11:59PM ET</b>
<b>Award Notification</b>	<b>By August 21, 2026 (subject to change)</b>
<b>Projected Start Date</b>	<b>November 01, 2026 (subject to change)</b>
<b>Grant Term</b>	<b>1 to 3 years for Standard Grant</b>
<b>Additional Information</b>	<b>The Standard grant is intended for established and early-stage investigators with an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree.</b>

## Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must have an MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent degree, hold an academic rank of Assistant Professor or higher, and be sponsored by an Exempt Organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (the "Sponsoring Institution") or the equivalent in a foreign jurisdiction. Individuals with an established track record in desmoid tumors, beta-catenin, sarcomas, or related fields are encouraged to apply. Early Stage Investigators are also strongly encouraged to apply and will be given special consideration in the scoring process. An Early Stage Investigator is defined as a Principal Investigator (PI) who has completed their terminal research degree or end of post-graduate clinical training, whichever is later, within the past seven (7) years and who has not previously competed successfully as a PI for a DTRF Research Grant.

## Grant Budget and Restrictions

- Standard Grants are awarded in direct costs of up to \$65,000 USD per year.
- Funding duration is a minimum of one year with a maximum of three years for the Standard Grant; Pilot Grant funding duration is one year.
- Funds may only be used for personnel, supplies, equipment, and/or services.

- DTRF adheres to the NIH salary cap for principal investigator(s) and personnel.
- Use of funds for institutional overhead/indirect costs is not allowed.
- Use of funds for project costs that are funded by other sources is not allowed.

## Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Scientific merit and innovation:** Strength of the research question, originality, and potential to uncover new biomarkers, mechanisms or therapeutic insights.
- **Relevance to the RFP scope:** Clear alignment with the goal of advancing the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of desmoid tumors.
- **Feasibility and rigor of approach:** Appropriateness of the study design, methodology, and preliminary data. The ability to achieve the proposed aims within the stated timeline. Proposals that thoughtfully address potential pitfalls and present well-reasoned alternative strategies will be more favorably reviewed.
- **Investigator qualifications and institutional environment:** Expertise and track record of the principal investigator and key personnel, as well as the strength of the institutional environment, including access to relevant samples, data, core facilities, collaborators, and infrastructure that will support successful execution of the proposed work.
- **Potential for impact and future research:** Likelihood that the proposed work will generate meaningful findings and/or lead to further studies or clinical translation.
- **Resource and Data Sharing:** Applicants are required to submit a sharing plan as part of their application for resources such as materials, protocols, and data. Reviewers will evaluate the specificity and openness of proposed sharing efforts.
- **Value of budget:** Clarity and justification of how each dollar will be used to maximize scientific output and impact; proposals should include a budget that reflects efficient and strategic use of funds.
- **Early Stage Investigator (ESI) consideration:** Applications from Early Stage Investigators, as defined in the eligibility criteria, will receive special consideration in the scoring process, with appropriate emphasis on the quality of the proposed science, innovation, and potential for investigator development rather than solely on prior funding history.

## **Collaboration**

DTRF values collaborations and as such researchers should be willing to collaborate with other scientists and institutions with similar interests. Applications with multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional collaborations will be favored.

DTRF also recognizes that as a small foundation we may be unable to completely support larger-scale research projects. Research proposals with additional sources of funding support are encouraged to apply, as long as the sources of funding are clarified in the application.

## **Grant Reporting and Other Requirements**

- Annual progress report detailing progress-to-date including an expenditure report. Each year of subsequent funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress and appropriate budget expenditures.
- Final narrative report at the conclusion of the project detailing study findings and an expenditure report.
- Publications, presentations and posters featuring results of the experiments funded by this grant mechanism should acknowledge "Supported by a research grant from The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation, Inc."
- Grantees must present the results of their research at the annual September International DTRF Desmoid Tumor Research Workshop during each year of their grant and make best efforts to attend the Workshop thereafter.
- Grantees agree to participate as reviewers in a future DTRF grant review cycle.

## **DTRF Mission**

The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation (DTRF) is the only foundation in the country dedicated to facilitating and funding research for a cure for desmoid tumors. We fund research that uses cutting-edge science and creative clinical applications, in addition to novel approaches addressing potential leads based on prior research. Information about DTRF can be found at [www.dtrf.org](http://www.dtrf.org).

## **Contact**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [grants@dtrf.org](mailto:grants@dtrf.org). If you would like to be notified of future RFP postings and other desmoid tumor updates, register for the DTRF physician/researcher newsletter at <https://dtrf.org/physician-newsletter-signup/>



# 2026 Proposal Instructions

## Letter of Intent (LOI) Instructions

Letters of intent are required for two reasons: 1) DTRF staff will ensure that the proposed research is within the scope of this RFP and 2) It will allow DTRF to constitute the appropriate scientific review committee in anticipation of the full application.

### LOI Elements

1. PI Name
2. Sponsoring Institution Name
3. Title of Project
4. Type of Award (e.g. Standard or Pilot)
5. Type of Project (e.g. basic, translational, clinical)
6. Funding Amount Requested
7. Length of Proposed Project (1-3 years)
8. Lay abstract of proposed project (250 words)

### LOI Submission and Notification

- To submit, simply send an email including the LOI Elements listed above to [grants@dtrf.org](mailto:grants@dtrf.org) by March 16, 2026 by 11:59PM ET.
  - DTRF will acknowledge all received LOIs via email.
  - DTRF will notify applicants of their LOI decision by March 20, 2026.
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## Application Instructions

All sections described below should be combined into **one PDF** and emailed to [grants@dtrf.org](mailto:grants@dtrf.org) **no later than April 20, 2026 by 11:59PM ET.**

### Format Instructions

**PAGE HEADER:** All pages of the application should be numbered; the name of the principal investigator should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.

**FORMAT:** Follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 points or larger with a minimum of ½

inch margins. Paragraphs should be single-spaced, with double spaces between paragraphs. Section headers should be in bold text and should match the bolded section headers listed below in "Section Descriptions".

**ORDER & LENGTH:** The order of the application should be followed. The total application should be no more than **15 pages** (citations, key personnel, and NIH biosketches do not count toward the page limit). An appendix of no more than 5 pages can also be included.

**LANGUAGE:** All applications must be written in the English language.

## Application Section Descriptions

1. **Cover Page** (one page): Use the [DTRF Grant Application Cover Page](#) template.
2. **Scientific Abstract** (250 words): A succinct and accurate description of the proposed work that is informative to other researchers in the same or related fields and understandable to a scientifically literate reader.
3. **Lay Abstract** (250 words): Provide a plain-language summary explaining how the proposed project will advance understanding of the central question outlined in this RFP. The description should be accessible to a general audience.
4. **Background and significance:** Include a description of how the project:
  - a. is well-positioned to significantly advance our understanding of the core topic addressed in this RFP.
  - b. will be unique and differ from prior desmoid tumor research in the proposed subject area
  - c. will address potential leads from prior desmoid tumor research
  - d. **Preliminary data:** Provide any data from preliminary or related studies from the literature or done by the investigator or collaborators that establishes the scientific validity of the proposed project and its feasibility.
5. **Research Plan:**
  - a. **Specific Aims:** Describe what the specific research proposed in this application is intended to accomplish in clear and precise language.
  - b. **Detailed Methodology:** Provide the details of the experiments/activities you plan to conduct to achieve the Specific Aims, listing each experiment/activity under the heading of a given Specific Aim. Include sufficient detail of exactly what you propose to do and how you propose to do it. It is not necessary to include detailed methodological descriptions

of how you would perform each assay. For each Specific Aim, include a discussion of the feasibility of the proposed experiments (e.g., justification of sample size, how you will recruit sufficient patients, how you will obtain necessary samples, approximate timelines, etc.). At the end of each section include a discussion of how the data will be analyzed statistically. Include anticipated problems and plans to address these issues.

6. **Requirements for Clinical Studies:** Any proposals that include clinical studies must include the following:
  - a. Documentation of IND submission or plan to submit IND if the study will include sites in the US, or other evidence of regional regulatory approval or plan to obtain regional regulatory approval if study will include sites outside the US.
  - b. Discussion of subject safety and what measures will be included to protect human subjects and monitor the study for safety
  - c. Realistic projection of ability to recruit sufficient number of patients to the study based on statistics of patients seen over defined periods of time in the sponsoring institution and/or collaborating institutions, or other factors.
7. **Performance metrics to track progress:** Metrics should be quantifiable (when appropriate) and specific. Include a timeline.
8. **Resource Sharing Plan:** Use the [Resource Sharing Form](#) to describe the outputs from the proposed project and how they will be shared.
9. **Budget and Justification:**
  - a. Budget Template: Complete the [DTRF budget template](#).
  - b. Budget Justification: Clear explanation of how the requested budget will be allocated to generate the greatest scientific value. Proposals should demonstrate a strategic and cost-effective approach to resource use. Describe all proposed spending on:
    - i. Personnel costs including salaries and benefits
    - ii. Equipment, supplies, and/or services. If the budget includes spending on equipment, the item should include a justification for the piece of equipment in the context of the proposed studies.
    - iii. Clinical costs
    - iv. All other expenses
  - c. Other Support: Describe other sources of support and amounts, including funds that may be contributed by the Sponsoring Institution.

10. **Description of the Sponsoring Institution's Desmoid Tumor Resources**, if applicable to the proposed study. This may include but not limited to:
  - a. Number of (1) frozen desmoid tissues and (2) paraffin-preserved desmoid tissues available.
  - b. Additional number of either type of tissue needed for a comprehensive research project and plans for obtaining such tissues.
  - c. Number and ages of existing desmoid tumor cell lines.
  - d. Datasets (e.g. gene expression or imaging data) generated from desmoid tumor tissues, cells, or patients.
11. **Literature Cited:** Use Vancouver or NIH style (numbered citations within text) format.
12. **Key Personnel and Collaborators:** List the key personnel and collaborators involved in the project and their roles/areas of collaboration. Include their name, title, institution, and email.
13. **NIH Biographical Sketches** (no limit): Use the NIH five-page biographical sketch format for the principal investigator and all key personnel/collaborators.
14. **Appendix** (5-page limit): A brief appendix is allowed if essential to the understanding of the application. This may include text, tables, charts, reprints, and/or letters of collaboration.

## **Application Submission**

The grant application and all accompanying documents must be submitted by email as a **SINGLE PDF** to [grants@dtrf.org](mailto:grants@dtrf.org) no later than April 20, 2026 by 11:59PM ET. In the body of the email, please include:

1. PI Name
2. Sponsoring Institution Name
3. Title of Project
4. Type of Award (e.g. Standard Grant or Pilot)
5. Type of Project (e.g. basic, translational, clinical)
6. Funding Amount Requested
7. Length of Proposed Project (1-3 years)

We will confirm receipt by email. Please note that, if awarded, all DTRF grant awards are subject to terms of the Grant Agreement mutually entered into by the parties.