



## **Bob Sammons Clinical TMS Research Grant Application Guidelines** **Application Acceptance Period: February 29, 2024**

The **Foundation for the Advancement of Clinical TMS (FACTMS)** is the non-profit sister organization of the Clinical Society of Clinical TMS Society. The mission of FACTMS is to raise awareness of TMS as a treatment option, provide education about TMS therapy, and expand access worldwide. **The FACTMS Bob Sammons Clinical TMS Research Grant (BSRG) offers up to \$25,000 a year for up to two (2) years** to enable promising investigators to fund pilot research in the field of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS).

The program is intended to facilitate innovative research opportunities and supports translational and/or clinical investigators of TMS. All research must be relevant to our understanding, treatment, and prevention of serious psychiatric or neurologic disorders such as: schizophrenia; bipolar; mood or anxiety disorders; chronic pain; dementia; and other brain and behavior disorders.

This Grant can be used to support the full ranges of relevant neurobiological and psychobiological clinical science, which can include careful studies using qualitative research approaches or research generating preliminary data to explore a new hypothesis generated by clinical experience or large sample studies.

The **FACTMS Bob Sammons Clinical TMS Research Grant** is not sufficient to support expensive large sample patient-based studies, but it may be possible to attach a study to a clinical project already under way or one which is already partially funded. Some examples of preliminary clinical studies include:

1. Supporting an add-on study to identify biomarkers in the context of an ongoing TMS clinical trial.
2. Determining if a computer-based cognitive or other remediation enhances TMS effectiveness.
3. Proof of principle study to see if efficacy is detected with a new treatment.
4. Testing a novel hypothesis within an already established data set.

These examples do not define the Foundation's specific goals but illustrate feasibility of clinical research in the context of the **BSRG** Program. The Foundation is committed to spending all contributions for direct support of research. Administrative cost of review is small since reviewers are members of the Foundation's Research and Scholarship Funding Committee and volunteer their time to evaluate applications; therefore, **no feedback can be provided to applicants.**

### **GRANT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **BSRG** welcomes diversity with applications including gender, race, ethnicity, and culture of the applicant, and geographic location for their proposed work.
2. Applicants must have a doctoral level degree. *Pre-doctoral students and faculty who serve(d) as a principal investigator (PI) on a NIH R01 grant are not eligible.*

3. Applicants must have mentor or senior collaborator who is an established investigator in areas relevant to neuropsychiatric disorders. The mentor role is necessary for early career investigators or those newly embarking in research, but a more senior colleague/advisor is sufficient for a more seasoned investigator prepared to initiate independent science. Assistance is available in identifying a mentor through FACTMS.
4. Only one principal investigator is allowed per application.
5. Funding is for one or two years and is up to \$25,000 per year. **The Foundation does not pay institutional overhead on the Grant Program.**
6. The Foundation allows considerable flexibility in the use of funds: equipment, stipends, etc., are all acceptable as long as the support is in the service of the research project.
7. Applications must be submitted by **February 29, 2024, no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern.**
8. **Grant approval notifications will be mailed in May 2024. It is the Foundation's policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification. The earliest grant start date is August 1, 2024.**

#### **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Applications must be emailed to info@factms.org in a **single PDF document, beginning with the cover sheet below.**
  - Each section must be on a separate page. Please follow the order of the application as follows and adhere to the maximum number of pages allowed for each item indicated in parentheses.
  - Label each section and include applicant's name in upper right corner of each page.
  - Please follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 or larger with minimum of ½ inch margins.
- a) **Mission Statement** –A **250-word** statement must also be provided on how both your background and your proposal best fits the Foundation's mission (*more information included below*).
  - b) **Abstract (less than 500 words)** – a summary of the research project written in lay terms. If the proposal is funded, this material may be used in the Foundation's announcements.
  - c) **Applicant C.V. (5 pages) – NIH biosketch** OR the biography portion of the curriculum vitae only, with current grant support listed.
  - d) **Proposal (2 pages with no appendices)** – a letter from the applicant outlining project goals that will be accomplished within the grant period. The project should be described in sufficient detail to elucidate hypothesis, significance, sample size, feasibility, and central methodology. Figures, tables, diagrams, etc., must be included within the 2-page limit.

- e) **Research Training/Career Plans (½ page)** – brief description of present or recently completed research training, and applicant's future career plans as they relate to TMS research.
- f) **Budget (1 page/itemized table format in US \$)** – a budget description specifying the amount requested with a brief justification and indicating whether applicant is applying for a one- or two-year grant. Requests must not exceed \$25,000 per year. The budget statement should define the unique contribution of this grant to applicant's research activities and note the impact of this grant on other institutional support available to applicant. **Specific assurance that receipt of this grant will not result in duplication of funding or reduction of support from the host institution is required.** *The Foundation does not pay institutional overhead on the FACTMS Bob Sammons Clinical TMS Research Grant.* The applicant's research funding must be listed, and should include any support pending, as well.
- g) **Mentor or Advisor Letter (1 page per mentor)** – a letter from a mentor stating how the grant will enhance applicant's training or facilitate transition to an independent investigator of relevance to the Foundation's mission, and describing the mentor's commitment to facilitate the specific research proposal. If the mentor believes the candidate can complete this research independently and that the mentor would engage more as an advisor, then please convey this in the letter. A separate letter from an additional mentor may be included if the mentor provides an area of expertise not otherwise available. If a second mentor letter is included, it must explain the second mentor's unique role in the project and not simply be a letter of support.
- h) **Mentor/Advisor C.V. (5 pages per Mentor/Advisor)** – NIH biosketch OR the biography portion of the curriculum vitae only.
- i) **References (1 page, optional)** – a listing of up to ten bibliographical references may be included.
- j) **Collaborator Letter (1 page, optional)** – letter of commitment from essential project collaborators (not letter of reference), addressed to the applicant, briefly explaining the specific contribution and confirming a willingness to collaborate.
- k) **Institutional or Health Care Practice Assurance Letter (1 page)** – must include the applicant's institutional signature (i.e., Grants & Contracts/Sponsored Research Office or clinical practice office), thereby signifying the institution's acceptance and acknowledgment of these guidelines.
- ❖ IRB approval for human subjects must be verified at the time of the Grant (do not include IRB with application), as well as institutional acceptance of the Foundation's Grant Agreement.
  - ❖ In fairness to all applicants, supplemental material (i.e., appendices) will **NOT** be considered in the review process. Applications not following the guidelines may be administratively rejected.
  - ❖ Funds will be granted to universities, institutions or medical practices or centers. All international applicants are welcome to apply. Researchers need not be U.S. citizens.

For inquiries, please email: [info@factms.org](mailto:info@factms.org)