



### **Request for DDX3X Research Applications**

The DDX3X Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting research to advance the understanding and treatment of DDX3X mutations, announces the availability of funds to support innovative DDX3X mutation research. The DDX3X Foundation is soliciting applications for projects to develop cell-based assays of DDX3X function.

Mutations in DDX3X are known to cause a characteristic neurodevelopmental disorder in humans, however several critical questions remain. For example, while nonsense mutations have been identified and are presumably associated with loss of DDX3X function, some missense mutations could potentially result in gain of function, with different consequences at the cellular and systems levels. Currently, the cellular phenotype associated with mutations of DDX3X is incompletely characterized. In addition, the lack of assays and read-outs for DDX3X mutations represents a significant obstacle for the development of novel therapies for patients.

The DDX3X Foundation is interested in supporting research to evaluate the functional consequences of naturally occurring DDX3X mutations in cell-based models. It is expected that such studies will lead to the development of cellular assays that are biologically relevant, reproducible, and scalable, and towards the ultimate goal of supporting therapeutic development.

**Funds Available:** Applicants may request up to \$75,000 USD in direct costs for the initial year of support, with the possibility of a second year of funding upon competitive renewal.

**Eligibility:** Principal Investigators must have a primary faculty appointment at the level of Instructor or higher. This grant program will be useful for junior faculty in the early stages of their careers, established investigators in other areas of research who wish to enter the field of DDX3X research, or investigators in the DDX3X field who are seeking funding to support pilot studies in a new area of DDX3X research. The DDX3X Foundation seeks to support innovative, high-risk/high reward research.

**Application Review and Award:** Letters of intent (LOI) will be reviewed for innovation and potential impact, merit, and relevance to the mission of the DDX3X Foundation. Selected LOIs will be invited to submit a full grant proposal.

Full grant proposals meeting the technical requirements will be reviewed on the basis of merit by scientific reviewers with expertise in the research area. Final funding decisions will be based on scientific merit, relevance, and the suitability of the research with respect to the programmatic goals of the DDX3X Foundation.

**Application Guidelines:** All LOIs and applications are to be submitted in PDF format to Chelsey McCarthy at [chelsey@ddx3x.org](mailto:chelsey@ddx3x.org). The LOI is limited to a 2-page description. Full grant proposals are limited to a 5-page research plan.

**Letter of Intent Due Date:** April 9th, 2021, 5pm ET

**Full Proposal Due Date:** June 18th, 2021, 5pm ET

**Please direct questions to:** Chelsey McCarthy at [chelsey@ddx3x.org](mailto:chelsey@ddx3x.org)