Thalassemia Foundation of America
Formerly Cooley's Anemia Foundation

2027-2028 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT APPLICATION

Thalassemia Foundation of America (formerly Cooley's Anemia Foundation) invites national and international clinical and basic science investigators (postdoctoral or junior faculty) to apply for its prestigious fellowship program. Applications should be focused on the understanding or treatment of thalassemia or a complication that is related to thalassemia. The areas of interest include, but are not limited to, studies of globin gene regulation, globin gene transfer and expression, fetal hemoglobin production, hematopoietic stem cell research, bone marrow transplantation, iron chelation and iron overload, endocrine and cardiac disorders in thalassemia, and transfusion therapy and its complications.

Postdoctoral applicants must have adequate preceptorship and guidance by an experienced investigator. The sponsor of a postdoctoral fellow should be an investigator with adequate experience and at an institution with adequate research facilities. The application is expected to be the original work of the candidate but should reflect the close advice of the interested and involved sponsor. Applicants are encouraged to review the proposal with their mentor before submission in order to strengthen the application. Postdoctoral applicants must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree, and cannot hold a faculty position.

Junior faculty applicants must have an M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent degree, and must have completed less than five years at the assistant professor level at the time the applications are due. Junior faculty members do not require sponsors.

Fellowships are awarded to the medical institutions where the research is to be undertaken; thus, each application must be approved by and administered through the appropriate administrative representative at the institution. Assurance must be given that adequate laboratory facilities exist and are available to conduct the research project and, in case of investigations involving human subjects, that the project has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate committee or governing body on human research. The research may not be conducted at a for-profit laboratory.

Preference will be given to applicants who **have not** yet achieved R-01 funding from the NIH.

Awards are for a one-year period, beginning **July 1, 2027** and running through **June 30, 2028** and are renewable for a second year upon application and consideration of progress made in the first year and the research plan for the second year. Continuation of fellowships for year two will also be contingent upon the availability of funds.

APPLICATION DUE DATE

Interested individuals are invited to complete and return applications in PDF format via email (**grants@thalassemia.org**) no later than **Monday, February 1, 2027**. Letters of reference, which

must be sent in separately, must also be received no later than **Monday, February 1, 2027**. All applicants will be notified in **May 2027** regarding the status of their funding.

Please note the following:

- Fellowship awards are limited to a maximum of $50,000/year and may be renewable for a second year upon reapplication, as described above.
- Postdoctoral fellows may use award funds for salary support. Junior faculty applicants may use award funds for either salary or non-salary purposes. In both cases, the administrative cost is limited to 10% of the total amount granted.
- Payment of fellowship funds will be issued in quarterly checks, made out to the financial officer of the institution. The financial officer may establish an account from which junior faculty fellows may draw expenses allowed under the terms of the fellowship. Should the project not be initiated, should the project be stopped before completion or should the fellow either voluntarily or involuntarily leave the institution before the completion of the fellowship year, the institution agrees to return all unused funds for non-salary support during that award year and to forgo remaining quarterly payments.
- All publications resulting from Thalassemia Foundation of America sponsored fellowships should bear the statement: This study was supported by a grant from the Thalassemia Foundation of America
- The Foundation and its Medical Advisory Board regret that it is not possible to provide detailed critiques to applicants.

GENERAL ADVICE

1. Be sure to directly explain how your work will benefit patients with thalassemia
2. Make sure the scope and timeline of the proposed work fits with the timeframe of this award.
3. Make sure to show how the proposed work is distinct from other funded research by your group.
4. Provide potential pitfalls and alternate approaches to each aim.
5. If innovative or novel work, or new techniques or procedures are being proposed for which there are no or minimal preliminary data available, then there should be sufficient description to convince reviewers that this approach will be successful.
6. Please use Arial or Calibri font, size 11.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

COVER PAGE

Please complete and attach the form provided on pages 6 & 7.

NON-TECHNICAL ABSTRACT *(Not to exceed 250 words)*

It is imperative in presenting your abstract that you offer an explicit explanation of the relevance of your proposal to thalassemia and that you use language easily understandable by a non-technical reader.

PROPOSAL

The proposal should include the following sections:

I. ABSTRACT *(30 lines, excluding title)*
Technical abstract

II. RATIONALE AND AIMS *(1 page)*
Including a brief overview of the experimental design

III. BACKGROUND, SIGNIFICANCE AND INNOVATION *(1 page)*
Lay the groundwork for the proposed study. Include an overview of the importance of the proposed research to the field and to the TFA's mission. Include a description of any new methodology used and why it is an improvement over the existing ones

IV. PRELIMINARY STUDIES *(Up to 2 pages, including figures)*

V. RESEARCH DESIGN *(Up to 4 pages), including (for each Aim)*

- Description of methods and analyses to be used to accomplish the specific aims of the project
- Discussion of potential difficulties and limitations and how these will be overcome or mitigated
- Expected results, including discussion of the way in which the results will be collected, analyzed, and interpreted
- Alternative approaches that will be used if unexpected results are found
- If the project is in the early stages of development, describe any strategy to establish feasibility, and address management of any high-risk aspects of the proposed work
- Figures should be included in the proposal
- A projected timetable should be included (work plan)

VI. REFERENCES *(Not included in the number of pages of the proposal)*

VII. FACILITIES AVAILABLE *(No more than 1 page)*

VIII. OTHER SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION & SPONSOR

Please list title, amount per year and duration of all research support including pending applications, whether related to this proposal or not. When this grant is proposed to be used for ancillary studies to an ongoing clinical trial, the financial support of the trial must be cited here.

IX. HUMAN SUBJECTS

If human subjects are involved, explain the risk, risk-benefit ratio, and methods of obtaining informed consent and of preserving confidentiality; submit evidence of approval of the project by the human research committee of the sponsoring institution. For drug studies, include documentation of FDA approval for use of an investigational new drug (IND) if applicable.

X. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH AND CAREER PLAN

Submit an NIH biographical sketch for the applicant and, if applicable, for the sponsor using SciENcv. Submit a paragraph describing your short-term and long-term career goals.

XI. PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Submit the names of two individuals other than the sponsor of the current application, under whose supervision you have worked or trained most recently. Ask each of them to comment on your knowledge, training, and research ability, as well as your future promise as an independently funded investigator focused on thalassemia or related fields. Scanned reference letters in PDF format are to be e-mailed to **grants@thalassemia.org**.

Applications will not be considered unless all letters of reference have been received. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the letters of recommendation have been e-mailed by the **Monday, February 1, 2027** deadline. Letters of recommendation submitted with the application will not be considered.

Postdoctoral applicants must also submit an additional letter of recommendation from their sponsors (see below).

XII. SPONSOR'S ENDORSEMENT

If applying as a postdoctoral fellow, your sponsor must acknowledge that he/she has read and approved the proposal and can assure the Foundation that the goals of the project can be achieved within the award period.

In addition, the sponsor must submit to the Thalassemia Foundation of America a letter of recommendation commenting on the applicant's knowledge, training, and research ability. The letter must comment on the sponsor's appraisal of the applicant's future promise as an independently funded investigator focused in thalassemia or related fields. Letters of recommendation must be submitted directly to the Foundation by the author by **Monday, February 1, 2027**. Letters submitted with the application will not be considered.

Scanned reference letters in PDF format are to be e-mailed to **grants@thalassemia.org**.

XIII. BUDGET FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2027 TO JUNE 30, 2028

Support is available for salary, fringe benefits, study-related costs, and a maximum 10% for administrative costs.

A. Salary
B. Fringe Benefits
C. Administrative cost (limited to 10%)
D. Non-Salaried support (junior faculty fellows only)
E. Total (not to exceed $50,000)
Please indicate total salary and all other sources of support, if any

XIV. AGREEMENTS

Please complete applicable sections below (pages 8 & 9) and include these signed and scanned attachments to your application

2027-2028 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT

COVER PAGE

Applicant Information

Research Proposal Title

Applicant Name	**Applicant Title**

Mailing Address

Telephone	**Email**

Sponsor Information

Sponsor Name	**Sponsor Title**

Institution

Mailing Address

Telephone	**Email**

Disbursement Information

Institution Contact Name	Department

Check Payable to	Institution's Federal Identification Number

Mailing Address

AGREEMENT

Postdoctoral and Junior Faculty Applicant

Please check one of the following to indicate your funding status and to certify.

_____ My postdoctoral fellowship will be used exclusively for salary and no more than 10% of the total amount will be used for administrative costs.

_____ My junior faculty fellowship will be used for either salary or non-salary support. No more than 10% of the total funding will be used for administrative costs.

All published reports will acknowledge funding by the Thalassemia Foundation of America

I agree with the policies of the Thalassemia Foundation of America concerning Research Fellowships, and I will assume responsibility for the conduct of the proposed research under the supervision of my sponsor (where applicable).

Applicant Name	**Signature**

Sponsor Name

Applicant Sponsor

I agree with the policies of the Thalassemia Foundation of America regarding this research fellowship, and I accept Dr. _____ as a fellow for up to two years. I will provide supervision and appropriate facilities for the project outlined in this application, which I have read and approved.

Sponsor Name	**Signature**

Date

Additional Signatures

Chairman or Director Name	Department

Signature

Administrative Officer Name	Telephone

Signature

Financial Officer Name	Telephone

Signature

IF APPLICABLE

Approved Human Research Committee

Chairman Name	Date

Signature
