



2023 Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO)

Request for Applications (RFA)

Please note: This document was last updated on May 24, 2023. For the most current version of the HF-GRO RFA, please access it via this link: <https://www.afar.org/hevolution-grants/grants/hf-gro>.

Overview

The Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (**HF-GRO**) will provide up to \$25 million in 2023 (the total budget planned over 5 years: \$115M USD) to fund projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience (no Clinical Trials). Funding will be made available to independent investigators with labs in the USA, Canada, and Europe. Calls for other regions, including Asia and the Middle East, will be announced at a later time.

Hevolution envisions funding approximately 40-60 projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience in 2023. Projects will be for 4 to 5 years in length, and with a budget range of \$300-500k direct costs/year. Preference, both in length and funding level, will be given to projects that advance basic biology knowledge into translation (geroscience). The budget should be commensurate with regional levels of government research project funding (see the appendix or FAQ for more details). HF-GRO provides indirect costs up to 25% of the total direct cost of the grant. To calculate the F&A please exclude total cost of Subawards and equipment. The final project length and budget will be decided by Hevolution Foundation after acceptance of the initial LOI and determined based on the likelihood of the project leading to improvements in healthy aging.

The Letter of Intent deadline for the 2023 program is **June 15, 2023**, and the expected award start date is late **2023**.

The Program

HF-GRO is an international pilot initiative from Hevolution Foundation to launch our efforts in healthy aging research. If successful, the initiative will be expanded to additional world regions, and it is envisioned as a yearly call for proposals. The major goal of this initiative is to identify and support research that will further the Foundation's mission of "Extending healthy lifespan for the benefit of all humanity". The program provides support for research projects in basic biology of aging, as well as projects that translate advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic (translational geroscience). **This program does not support clinical trials, or disease-specific projects.** The work should focus on strategies to improve healthy aging by addressing basic principles of aging biology and geroscience. Therefore, this mechanism will support research approaches that address the maintenance and/or improvement of these mechanisms during aging, and how this might delay or improve the outcome of age-related diseases. Projects that deal strictly with clinical problems such as the diagnosis or treatment of disease, or the social context of aging are not eligible.

To simplify the application and review process, HF-GRO will use a 2-step approach, whereby applicants will first submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI, see instructions [here](#)), and applicants whose ideas are deemed meritorious by a peer review panel will be notified and advised to submit a full proposal. At both stages of review, special emphasis will be placed on innovation and creativity, as well as alignment with Hevolution's mission and goals (<http://www.hevolution.com>).

Eligibility

- Applicants must be based in the United States, Canada, or Europe.
- Applicants must be independent investigators/group leaders with independent research space and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.

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- Multiple PIs, Co-Is, and collaborators are allowed as long as they also meet all previous criteria. However, the award will go to the primary institution, where a substantial proportion of the work (at least 50%) must be conducted, including appropriate oversight of all matters related to the grant (scientific, programmatic, and financial.)
- The proposed research project must be in the basic biology of aging or geroscience.
- This grant opportunity is open to applicants from academic, government-funded research organizations, or non-profit institutions. Each applicant is allowed to submit only one project to the HF-GRO grant program.

Non-Responsive Applications: The HF-GRO initiative does not provide support for:

- Research on age-related diseases without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging.
- Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes.
- Projects that include clinical trials.
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution.

Questions about eligibility and suitability of the research projects can be addressed to Hevolutiongrants@afar.org.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to determine the merit of an application:

- Quality of the proposed research
- Alignment of the research topic with [Hevolution's mission and goals](#)
- Innovation and creativity of the approach
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the proposed work

Application Procedures and Timeline

Please refer to the [LOI instructions](#). Programmatic support will be provided by AFAR, but Hevolution Foundation will be solely responsible for funding and other decisions. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. All Letters of Intent must be uploaded to the [application form](#).

At both stages, Letters of Intent and full proposal, applications will be reviewed by Selection Committees composed of international experts in aging biology and geroscience. The Hevolution Foundation will provide a summary of the reviewer critiques only at level of the full proposal review. Final funding decisions will be made by Hevolution Foundation and they will be non-appealable.

Please review [this](#) which includes instructions for submitting an LOI. Click [here](#) for our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page. If you are using animals or human subjects in your research, please review [Principles of Animal Use for Gerontological Research](#).

Timeline:

LOI open submission: May 15, 2023

LOI deadline: June 15, 2023

Deadline to submit full application: Mid-September 2023

Award Start Date: Late 2023

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Award and Reporting Requirements

Awards will be subjected to an annual scientific and financial progress report, as well as final scientific and financial reports.

Appendix

The budget allowed will be commensurate with regional levels of government funding for research projects (see table below). If you are invited to submit a full application, you will also be advised at that time what the maximum allowable budget amount and grant period are. Therefore, the table below should be used solely as a general reference.

Region	Budget (US dollars)
Canada	\$ 300-400K
USA	\$ 400-500k
Europe	\$ 300-400K