



LEUKEMIA &  
LYMPHOMA  
SOCIETY®

# **Translational Research Program Renewal Guidelines & Instructions**

**Effective dates:  
May 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**

**Key Points:**

- It is highly recommended to access the LLS Research Portal at <https://lls.fluxx.io> to begin the application process well in advance of any deadlines.
- It is recommended that final submissions at each stage (letter of intent/full application) be completed the day prior to the deadline. No aspects of the application, except regulatory approvals, will be accepted past the deadline.
- All components of the application must be present in the order indicated in these guidelines.
- All formatting must adhere to the policy stated in these guidelines.
- Completion of several steps in the process initiates emails sent from the LLS Research Portal. LLS staff may also send emails during the application process. Spam filters should be monitored for these emails.
- Contact [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org) if expected emails are not received by the times indicated in these guidelines.
- The deadlines stated in the *Key Dates* section are strictly enforced. No exceptions are made to this policy.
- Please do not attach documents to the application that are not specifically called for such as papers in press or published papers. The application could be administratively triaged if this rule is violated.

**General Information**

**About The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Inc. (LLS) is a national voluntary health agency dedicated to the conquest of hematologic malignancies and relevant premalignant conditions. LLS supports research, patient aid, community service programs, advocacy, and public and professional education.

**Description of Awards**

The formation of the Translational Research Program (TRP) was to foster collaboration between basic and clinical scientists with the intent of enhancing the transfer of basic research findings to clinical usefulness.

Applications are sought proposing novel approaches to the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of hematological malignancies and related pre-malignant conditions. Proposals should be based on molecular, cellular or integrated systems findings and be conceptually innovative. The application should have a clear plan for the clinical translation of the studies proposed and the results expected. This feature will be an important consideration of the review process.

This program is intended to provide support to the existing TRP award with two additional years based on significant progress made in the initial award. A Renewal application is not a guarantee of additional funding, but competes with other Renewal applications in the same year.

Renewal applications will be accepted during the third year of the initial award or up two grant cycles after the expiration date of the initial award. For example, those grantees whose awards terminate in the Fall of 2018 can apply for renewal in 2018, 2019, or 2020, **if a clinical protocol for a Phase I or Phase II clinical trial based on the initial Translational Research Program grant is submitted for IRB approval.**

**Maximum TRP Award Duration & Value**

**\*Please note: The TRP award amount you are given will reflect the amount you request in the budget section of your application. Any requests to increase funding must be in writing to LLS and are subject to the availability of funds.**

<b>Duration</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Direct Costs</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Indirect Costs</b>	<b>Maximum Annual Total Costs</b>	<b>Maximum 2 Year Total</b>
2 years	\$270,027	\$29,973	\$300,000	\$600,000

## **Who Can Apply**

### **Citizenship**

LLS welcomes applications from both US citizens and non-citizens, as well as applicants who are performing research outside the U.S. Applicants must be appointed to a not-for-profit institution at the time the funding commences.

### **Degree**

Applicants must hold a PhD, MD, DVM or equivalent degree.

### **Sponsoring Institution's Acceptance of Contract Terms**

Applicants who are offered a TRP Award will be sent a contract. The Sponsoring Institutional representatives must agree to these terms and return the signed contract by the deadline. The current contract is found on LLS's website, [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org) ("Academic Grants" subsection of the "Researchers & Healthcare Professionals" section). Currently, the NIH does not accept LLS's contract terms.

### **Leadership and Staffing**

The Application will require one Principal Investigator who is responsible for the preparation and submission of the proposal including budget, the conduct of the research programs and adherence with all stipulations made by LLS in this document, the Policies & Procedures document, and in the grant contract, if funded.

The Applicant should be the same Principal Investigator from the original TRP grant. Changes to the Principal Investigator must be approved by LLS prior to LOI submission.

### **Relevance**

The proposed research should be clinically directed or clinically translatable in hematologic malignancies that is intended to develop innovative approaches to treatment, diagnosis, or prevention. Projects currently funded by LLS can be viewed under the Grant Finder section of the LLS website at <http://www.lls.org/grant-finder>.

**Review Process & Applicant Notification**

**Review Process of LOI**

Letters of Intent are reviewed and approved by LLS at the time of submission. Once the LOI has been approved, the Full Application will immediately be available to the Applicant on Fluxx for submission.

The deadline to submit all Full Applications is October 31, 2018 at 3 PM ET. Full Applications will only be accepted via Fluxx. The submission deadlines will be strictly enforced. Please note that all times are Eastern Time (ET). If any date falls on a weekend or a U.S. holiday, the deadline becomes the following business day.

**TRP Key Dates**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Call For Proposals	May 2018	
Letter of Intent due	August 31, 2018	3:00 PM ET
Full Application due	October 31, 2018	3:00 PM ET
Panel Review Meetings	March 2019	
Award Notification	May 2019	
LLS's receipt of signed contract*	June 1, 2019	
Award Start Date	July 1, 2019	

\*Current contract Terms & Conditions can be found at [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org).

**It is highly recommended that submissions are done the day prior to the deadline.** Internet traffic may be slow near the deadline, which may result in difficulties in submission. In addition, LLS's response time to questions may be delayed by the high volume received near the deadline. Therefore, it is imperative that any questions be posed to LLS as far ahead as possible. The LLS Research Portal automatically shuts down submissions after the deadline has passed.

## **Review Criteria**

An application will be judged on these criteria:

- The probability of an advance in prevention, diagnosis or treatment in the near-term.
- Evidence of productivity through the initial award period of the Translational Research Grant.
- Evidence that a clinical trial will be carried out as a result of the renewal of funding. An approved clinical protocol is considered strong evidence of a grant's translational potential.
- The conceptual basis upon which the proposal rests.
- The novelty of the concept and strategy.
- Thoughtful and clear presentation.
- The impact of the research on disease prevention, diagnosis or management.
- Experience, background, and qualifications of investigators.
- Adequacy of resources and environment (facilities, patient population, data management, and data analysis).
- Adequacy of provisions for protection of human subjects.

## **Review Process of Full Applications**

Full Applications will be reviewed after the October 31<sup>st</sup> submission deadline by the TRP Renewal Subcommittee of the Medical & Scientific Affairs Committee. If an application does not meet the program goals, scope or guidelines, it will be administratively disqualified. Applications are assigned an initial score by the primary and secondary reviewers. Only applications that fall above a scoring level determined by the committee chair will be discussed in detail for final ranking by the entire committee.

Once ranked, priority scores and funding recommendations of the TRP Renewal Subcommittee will be presented to the Medical & Scientific Affairs Committee and Mission Oversight Committee for final determination of awardees. The Mission Oversight Committee will determine the number of awards funded, based on scientific merit and the budget approved by LLS's National Board of Directors.

TRP Renewal applications will be rank-ordered based on their Overall Priority Score (10-90; which reflects the average of all the reviewers' priority scores multiplied by ten).

Any Applicant selected for funding will be notified within 45 days of the funding decision. Please do not call or email LLS to determine whether the application has been received, when it will be reviewed or the results of the review. Please check Fluxx for the status of your application. All priority scores are confidential in that they are available to LLS's Medical & Scientific Affairs Committee, LLS's Mission Oversight Committee, its Research Subcommittee and administrative personnel only. Feedback will only be provided for those applications that are discussed in detail by the entire committee.

**The LLS will continue to pursue proposals in several specific research areas that it considers “high unmet need”.**

## **General Instructions for Applying**

All submissions must use the LLS Research Portal, Fluxx, at <https://lls.fluxx.io/>. It is recommended that you familiarize yourself with this portal well in advance of any deadlines.

### **Registration**

Both the Applicant and Sponsoring Institution must be registered in Fluxx. If you have applied to LLS in the past, you do not need to create a new registration. Simply click the “reset or create password” link and enter your email address. The system will send your username and a link to update your password. Once updated, the Applicant can begin the LOI. Email [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org) for assistance creating a new account in Fluxx if you do not already have one. Only LLS staff members have administrative permission to create new accounts.

### **Institutional Designation**

During the registration process, Applicants should create their profile from the standpoint of where they will perform their research described in the application. The Applicant must indicate the name of the Sponsoring Institution as well as the name of the signing officials for that institution. To register a new institution, contact [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org).

### **Data Entry**

Both the LOI and the full application may be accessed and changed multiple times as needed prior to the submission deadline. However, neither the LOI nor the full application can be changed once the deadline has passed or the application has been finally submitted. Moreover, some fields may not be modified in the full application following submission of the LOI.

### **Forms and Format**

Applicants will provide information on the Fluxx website at the LOI phase; there is no other template necessary at this phase. For the full application phase, a template will be provided in The LLS Research Portal. All information must be typed in English using commonly accepted grammar and punctuation. Some information will be captured when Applicants populate fields on the Fluxx website. Fields in bold are required. All Applicants must use single-spaced text and Times New Roman, size 12 font. Margins are preset in the template and must remain as set. The Applicant’s name should be typed in the upper right corner of each page of the template. Failure to use the provided template or to adhere to font size, spacing, margins and/or page limitations will result in the disqualification of the application. In addition, character limitations must be adhered to.

### **Contacting LLS**

Questions that are not clarified in this document, the FAQ on [www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org), or Fluxx should be addressed to [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org).

## **Beginning an Application**

Under “Information” in the left navigation bar, click “Translational Research Program.”

Click “Apply to TRP!” and you will be directed to the Letter of Intent form.

Follow the instructions for each web form field. Bold font indicates required information.

Character limitations include spaces. Character and other length limitations are strictly enforced on the web form and the uploaded project description template. If character limits are not adhered to, the application may be triaged.

You may save your work and return to it at any time by clicking “Save.” Clicking “Submit” will lock your application and prevent further modification at that stage. Contact [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org) if you submit in error (must be before the deadline).

Once your letter of intent is approved, you will receive an automated email from Fluxx. Consider that these emails may end up in your spam filter. If selected to submit a Full Application, log back in and click “New or Pending” under “Requests” to continue with your application.

Download and complete the project description template, including all required signatures, and upload to the gray “Supporting Documentation” section of the web form. Margins are preset and must not be changed. Text must be written single spaced in Times New Roman size 12 font.

**Only one PDF file is accepted in this section (Project Description Template combined with biosketch(es)), so delete any other documents uploaded during the process.**

Click “Submit” to formally submit your application to LLS.



## **Specific Instructions for Applying**

### **Letter of Intent**

Each Applicant must submit the LOI by **August 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00pm ET** via Fluxx (<https://lls.fluxx.io>) or the following business day if this date falls on a weekend or a U.S. holiday. The Applicant should carefully craft the information requested in the LOI as this information is automatically populated into the full application and is subject to the Changes clause listed below.

The LOI for the TRP Renewal will be evaluated by staff on a rolling basis. If the LOI is approved, the Applicant will be notified by an automated email from Fluxx stating that he/she may proceed to the Full Application phase.

### **Completing the LOI**

#### **Organization Information**

**Sponsor Institution:** Indicate the name of the sponsoring institution where the research will be performed. If this institution is not listed, please contact [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org).

**Principal Investigator:** The Principal Investigator is the Applicant.

**Institutional Signing Official (ISO):** The ISO is the institutional representative responsible for the signing and agreeing to the accuracy of the application and the terms of the award, should the application be selected for funding.

**Financial Officer:** The Financial Officer is the institutional representative responsible for the financial administration of externally-funded research.

**Additional Access (Admin/Assistant):** Access may be given to personnel to assist in the application process. This is the institutional representative responsible for the day-to-day administration of externally-funded research (or the Research Administrator).

**Technology/Transfer Official (TTO):** The Technology Transfer Official is the institutional representative responsible for overseeing Intellectual Property.

**Zip Code of Sponsor Institution:** Enter the zip code of the Sponsoring Institution if located within the United States. If not located within the U.S., this can be left blank.

#### **Project or Program Information**

Select Yes from the Renewal drop-down menu and provide the previous TRP grant number.

## Grant Information

**Project Title:** Provide a title adhering to the 100 character limitation (which includes spaces).

**Project Summary:** Provide a summary adhering to the 500 character limitation (which includes spaces). Charts and graphs cannot be included in the project summary section of Fluxx.

**Scientific Abstract:** Briefly describe the proposed research in 3,000 characters (including spaces) or less using technical language. Once the LOI has been submitted, the scientific abstract may not change. Greek characters or symbols must not be used.

**Lay Abstract:** Using lay language, clearly state the proposed research in 3,000 characters (including characters) or less. Once the LOI has been submitted, the lay abstract may not change. Greek characters or symbols must not be used.

**Amount Requested:** The total amount, including both direct and indirect costs, cannot exceed \$300,000.00/year. Enter the total amount of funding requested over the life of the grant (Maximum \$600,000.00).

**Proposed Start Date:** The start date for all TRP grants is July 1 in the year the award is made (i.e. if an award is made to your application in May 2019, the grant start date will be July 1, 2019).

**Proposed End Date:** The end date for all TRP grants is June 30 two years after the year the award is made (i.e. if an award is made to your application in May 2019, the grant end date will be June 30, 2021).

**Previous Submission:** Indicate whether you have previously submitted this proposal (or one similar) to LLS and indicate the date of any prior submission.

## Key Personnel or Collaborators Information

New collaborator or key personnel contacts may be added to the collaborator section by typing the name(s) into the boxes. These include Co-Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators.

***If you plan to submit an application or serve as Co-Principal Investigator on an application, you will not be eligible to serve on the program's review panel this cycle.***

## Save and Review

Validation will automatically occur after clicking the "Save" button. Validation is a safety measure for the Applicant to ensure that all required fields are complete. If required fields are empty or incomplete, the system notifies the Applicant of fields that require information.

After clicking "Save" you will be directed to review your LOI. Please ensure all information is accurate, and then click the "Submit" button to submit your LOI.

### **Submission of the LOI**

Each Applicant must submit the LOI by **August 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm Eastern Time** via Fluxx or the following business day if this date falls on a weekend or a U.S. holiday. After clicking the “Submit” button, the Applicant will receive an email from Fluxx stating that the LOI was successfully submitted. **If you did not receive the confirmatory email from Fluxx within five business days of LOI submission, please e-mail [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org).**

Signatures of the Applicant and Sponsoring Institution Officials are not required for submission of the LOI.

### **Changes**

Information collected in the LOI will automatically populate fields in the full application. Once submitted, changes may only be made after receiving prior approval from LLS. The Applicant must email LLS ([researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org)) requesting any change and identifying the elements to be changed. Any changes made without the prior approval of LLS may result in the disqualification of the application.

## **Full Application**

Each Applicant must submit a full application by **October 31<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm Eastern Time** via Fluxx (<https://lls.fluxx.io>) or the following business day if this date falls on a weekend or a U.S. holiday. Some sections of the full application will be automatically captured electronically on the Fluxx website from the LOI. Other pieces of information will be captured in the application template that must be downloaded, completed and then uploaded by the Applicant. The Applicant may not modify any information provided in the submitted LOI as this is subject to the Changes clause listed above and may result in disqualification of the application.

## **Completing the Full Application**

### **Project or Supporting Documentation**

Log onto Fluxx (<https://lls.fluxx.io>), click “New or Pending” on the left, click on your application, and then click “Edit.”

Download and complete the Project Description/Budget Template. The Project Description is limited to 11 pages.

***The completed Project Description/Budget Template and all appendices, including biosketch(es), must be combined and uploaded as one single PDF file. Failure to submit as a single PDF may result in disqualification of your application.***

### **Project Description/Budget Template**

The Project Description/Budget template includes 4 fields, as follows: a) Project Description b) Other Research Support c) Budget d) Budget Justification.

Each Project description is limited to 11 pages and should be presented in the following sequence:

- Title and Specific Aims for the first renewal year (approximately 0.5 pages)
- Scientific Background for the first renewal year (approximately 1.0 page)
- Detailed progress report, keyed to specific aim(s) of original funded proposal - include a list of *publications* if any from the current grant support (list published papers, papers in press, published abstracts, submitted abstracts or submitted manuscripts (approximately 5 pages)
- Summary of clinical trial planned or in progress (approximately 1.0 page)
- Significance of research for disease diagnosis, prevention or management (approximately 1.0 page)
- Resources and environment (approximately 0.5 pages)
- Plans for investigator interaction (approximately 0.5 pages)
- Preliminary data (approximately 1.0 page) and research methods (approximately 0.5 pages)

References must follow the Project description but do not count towards the 11 pages. A clinical research protocol must be submitted for IRB approval at the time of application and an IRB approved protocol must be present when the funding begins. **The approval date and compliance number is required before the start date of the grant, and may be added as an appendix to the application if available before March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## **Budget**

The Detailed Budget and Budget Justification should provide itemized detail for each major category for the all years of the program. This budget can be summarized in Year One of the budget and extrapolated for the remaining years. All totals and subtotals should be completed on the form.

The maximum annual total cost (direct and indirect) cannot exceed \$300,000.00 per year. The aggregate costs over two (2) years cannot exceed \$600,000.00.

**Permissible Direct Costs** include the following with the specified limitations:

- Personnel Expenses including salary, wage, or stipend with fringe benefits. In total, no more than forty percent (40%) of the direct costs may be requested for the salary and fringe benefit expenses of professional staff with a post-graduate degree (i.e. M.D., Ph.D., D.V.M.) regardless of function or role. This restriction does not apply to technical staff (lab assistants, nurses, etc.).
- Supplies & Materials requests should be itemized by category.
- Equipment Purchase requests must identify each item of equipment with an acquisition cost of more than \$500.
- Travel Expense requests cannot exceed \$1000 per year of the award.
- Other Direct Cost requests can include patient care costs.

**Permissible Indirect Costs** (often referred to as Institutional Overhead, IDC, M&A, G&A or pooled costs) are those costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be readily identified with a particular project (general maintenance, utilities, library, etc.) as defined in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21. Indirect costs are limited to (11.1%) of total direct costs. For Sponsoring Institutions that do not choose to use these funds for indirect costs, LLS allows the funds to be applied to the Grantee's/Principal Investigator's stipend or fringe benefits cost.

**Impermissible Costs** include membership dues, tuition, books, journals and publication costs.

## **Biosketch(es)**

Use the NIH Biosketch format and include Other Support. ERA Commons user name is not required. The Other Support section must contain all current and pending support from any source. The section of the Biosketch containing the Research Support section may be used, but all current and pending support must be included; completed support should not be included. As

per the NIH format, the goals of each grant must be stated. In addition, specific aims must be listed for current and pending grants that may overlap or appear to overlap with the LLS application. This includes any grants or portions of grants submitted to any organization, including LLS.

If funding decisions about potentially overlapping, pending grants become available following submission of an LLS application, LLS must be notified within five business days of the applicant's receipt of that information.

LLS recognizes that some investigations, particularly those involving clinical trials, may require multiple funding sources, so overlap of specific aims with another grant may be appropriate and acceptable. The need for and details about such overlap should be clearly explained in the application. However, LLS will consider an applicant's other current grant support in its funding decisions. This may result in LLS funding only part of the grant or none of the grant, depending on the level of overlap. In addition, LLS reserves the right to adjust the level of funding of an awarded grant should another overlapping or potentially overlapping grant that was pending at the time of grant submission be awarded to the applicant.

Failure to abide by LLS's rules on disclosure of current or pending support may jeopardize the funding of the current grant application and may affect future LLS funding decisions.

## **Signature Page**

All applications must be signed by the Principal Investigator (and Co-Principal Investigator, if applicable) and Institutional Signing Official.

## **Upload the Project Template to Supporting Documentation**

Upload the completed template and biosketch(es) as one single PDF to the gray Supporting Documentation section by clicking the green plus sign. Choose "Project Description/Application" from the drop down menu before uploading.

## **Organization Assurances**

The Applicant must complete the organization assurances section. The following provides an overview:

**Human Subjects:** The Applicant must indicate if human materials or subjects will be involved in the proposed research. The status (approved, pending or exempt) of Institutional Review Board (IRB, or equivalent oversight entity) approval must be provided. The Human Subject Assurance Number (OHRP) must be included. If the research project has received IRB approval, the date must be provided and documentation must be uploaded as the Human Investigation Statement. The application may be

submitted with IRB approval pending. However, an award will not be made without documented IRB approval if it was pending at the time of application submission. It is recommended that the Applicant notify LLS before the March review date if the IRB status has changed. If a project is exempt from IRB review, the certificate of exemption must be uploaded as the Human Investigation Statement.

**Laboratory Animals:** The Applicant must indicate if laboratory animals will be involved in the proposed research. The status and date of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC, or equivalent oversight entity) approval must be provided. The Animal Welfare Assurance number must be included. Documentation of Sponsoring Institutional approval must be uploaded as the Laboratory Animal Statement. The application may be submitted with IACUC approval pending. However, an award will not be made without documented IACUC approval if it was pending at the time of application submission. It is recommended that the Applicant notify LLS before the March review if the IACUC status has changed.

**Recombinant DNA:** The Applicant must indicate if the proposed research involves the use of recombinant DNA. Documentation of Sponsoring Institutional approval must be uploaded with the application.

**Biohazard Statement:** The Applicant must indicate if the proposed research involves the use of biohazards. If the Applicant indicates affirmatively, then an institutional statement of assurances regarding potential biohazards and safeguards must be uploaded as the Biohazard Statement.

### **Clinical Protocol Appendix (if applicable)**

Provide a one page summary and a link to the [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov) website for any clinical protocol essential to the proposed research. Include IRB approval date, IRB compliance number and effective dates of approval. Projects for which IRB approval is pending must include a statement to that effect. The Applicant should notify LLS of IRB approval prior to the March grant review. The applicant must provide information **if a trial is receiving funding from a sponsor** specifically how much money is to be received and what the funds will be used for.

### **Budgeting Information**

Enter the budgeting information as required on the web form fields.

### **Applicant Assurance**

Check the box to accept the terms as stated on the web form field.

### **Save and Review**

Validation will automatically occur after clicking the “Save” button. Validation is a safety measure for the Applicant to ensure that all required fields are complete. If required fields are empty or incomplete, the system notifies the Applicant of fields that require information.

### **Submission & Confirmation**

After clicking “Save” you will be directed to review your application. Please ensure all information is accurate, and then click the “Submit” button to submit your application.

**Once an application is submitted, only LLS staff can delete files. If you need a file deleted, contact [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org) for assistance.**

**If you plan to withdraw your application at any time during the application cycle, please inform LLS staff of your decision by writing to [researchprograms@lls.org](mailto:researchprograms@lls.org).**