The Charles H. Hood Foundation is pleased to announce its 2015 Major Grants Initiative to Advance Child Health. The purpose of the grant is to support outstanding investigators conducting high-risk, innovative translational or clinical research which will have an impact on improving clinical outcomes, health care delivery or reducing future health care expenditures.

The Major Grants Initiative is a component of the Hood Foundation’s research funding portfolio. Since 1942, the Foundation has supported investigators at New England research institutions to improve the health and quality of life for children. The Hood Foundation Child Health Research Awards Program has launched the careers of 619 junior faculty whose discoveries have contributed to significant improvements in child health. The Foundation also supports Postdoctoral Fellows conducting projects spanning the continuum from basic laboratory research to clinical and health services research.
∞ Application Procedures

The Foundation invites the following institutions to put forth their most promising candidate:

- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Boston Children’s Hospital
- Brigham and Women’s Hospital
- Geisel Medical School at Dartmouth
- Joslin Diabetes Center
- McLean Hospital
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Tufts Medical Center
- University of Massachusetts Medical Center
- Yale School of Medicine

The Hood Foundation expects each institution to conduct an internal search for one faculty member to serve as the Principal Investigator who will submit the application. It is the responsibility of each Institution to forward this document (“Initial Proposal Guidelines, Instructions, and Terms”) to their selected candidate. As part of the submission, the Institution must provide a description of how this process was conducted.

Initial Proposals will be reviewed in June 2014 and up to four applicants will be invited to submit Full Proposals. The Full Proposal applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Applicants will be notified in mid-December and up to two applicants will receive funding that begins January 1, 2015.

∞ Research Focus

Eligible projects may be in translational or clinical research. To offer a clear sense of what types of research fall within this spectrum, please refer to the following definitions:

Translational

a. The process of making discoveries in the research laboratory or in preclinical studies that will have an impact on human health and may lead to the development of studies in humans,
b. The process of applying discoveries generated during research in the laboratory, and in preclinical studies, to the development of trials and studies in humans; and
c. Research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community. Cost-effectiveness of prevention and treatment strategies is also an important part of translational science (health services research).

Clinical

a. Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator (or colleague) directly interacts with human subjects.
Excluded from this definition are in vitro studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual. Patient-oriented research includes:

i. Mechanisms of human disease,
ii. Therapeutic interventions,
iii. Clinical trials, or

b. Epidemiologic and behavioral studies
c. Outcomes research and health services research including the following areas: access, clinical practice guidelines, cost, effectiveness, efficacy, evaluation, managed care, meta-analysis, outcomes research, public health, technology assessment and utilization

The following descriptions of three prior Hood Foundation awards are examples of the types of research projects that interest the Foundation and are meant to offer guidance to institutions when choosing their most promising candidate:

In 1999, David Ludwig, M.D., Ph.D. at Boston Children’s Hospital received a Hood Foundation Major Grant to study the dietary determinants of obesity in children. The primary focus of the work was how dietary glycemic index, beverages and fast food affect risk for obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. In part, this study laid the foundation for Dr. Ludwig’s contributions in clarifying the nutritional determinants of body weight and developing innovative treatments for childhood obesity.

In 2009, Scott Armstrong, M.D., Ph.D., then at Boston Children’s Hospital, received a Hood Major Grant to employ genomic technologies to identify new therapeutic approaches and to identify genetic or epigenetic predictors of drug resistance in childhood leukemias that harbor a chromosomal abnormality on chromosome 11. Through the use of genomic approaches and mouse models, Dr. Armstrong identified the enzyme DOT1L as critical for this leukemia. His work has led to the development of new therapies that are now being tested in clinical trials. Dr. Armstrong is currently the Director of the Center for Leukemia Research and Vice Chair of Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Steven Freedman, M.D., Ph.D. Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, with support from the Hood Foundation in 2010, explored the role of fat malabsorption in infant health. The funding led to the discovery that there is significant fat malabsorption in both formula fed term and preterm infants compared to breast fed infants. In addition, Dr. Freedman and his colleague Camilia Martin, M.D., M.S., found rapid alterations in whole blood fatty acid levels soon after birth in all preterm infants and that these postnatal fatty acid levels are associated with neonatal morbidities such as chronic lung disease and infection. These findings will contribute to improving nutritional practices in neonatal intensive care units.

∞ Grant Selection Criteria

The Trustees will use the following criteria as a guide in selecting which candidates to invite back for Full Proposal submissions:
- Qualifications of the Principal Investigator and evidence of exceptional creativity
- Research Project is highly innovative, addresses a major challenge in child health and has the potential to produce an unusually significant impact on improving clinical outcomes, health care delivery or reducing future health care expenditures

∞ Initial Proposal Instructions

**Deadline: Friday, May 9, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.**

The Hood Foundation expects each institution to conduct an internal search for one faculty member to serve as the Principal Investigator who will submit the application. It is the responsibility of each Institution to forward this document (“Initial Proposal Guidelines, Instructions, and Terms”) to their selected candidate.

The Principal Investigator from each institution will complete and submit the Initial Proposal. The application process requires an online submission using one of the following links:

- Begin the online application: [https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35068](https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35068)

The online portion of the Initial Proposal includes such data as contact information, educational background, project title, research abstract and a brief non-technical summary.

Candidates will upload one PDF file that combines the five sections in the order listed below. The PDF must be named **Lastname.Firstname.Institution.PDF**.

1. **Application Face Sheet**: Provided on the online application website
2. **Applicant Biosketch** (*maximum of 4 pages*): Use the current 2014 NIH Biographical Sketch Form.
3. **Lay Summary**: Include, within the 3-page proposal section, a 250-300 word lay summary that describes the innovative nature of the project, how it addresses a major challenge in child health, and its potential for a significant impact on improving clinical outcomes, health care delivery or reducing health care expenses.
4. **Research Project** (*maximum of 3 pages, excluding bibliography but including the lay summary*): Describe the research project, its potential impact on improving child health and highlight its innovative qualities.
5. **Institutional Statements** (*maximum of 1 page*): In addition to describing the selection process, the Institution must also include a paragraph that justifies its choice of candidate and forward this page to the Principal Investigator for inclusion as the final page of the upload.

Format the “Research Project” section with **Arial 11** as the font and size. Use single or double line spacing within paragraphs, double line spacing between paragraphs, and one inch or larger margins on all four sides.
**Terms of the Award**

Grants are made to non-profit academic, medical or research institutions in New England on behalf of the Award Recipients. The Award Recipient Institution is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the project, including any subcontracts, and maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures.

**Institutional Assurances:** The Award Recipient is expected to adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the use of human subjects or biologic samples, animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in this research project. It is the Institution’s responsibility to make sure that all animal use, human subjects and other required institutional approvals have been secured prior to releasing any Award funds. The signatures of the Authorized Institutional Representative on the Application Face Sheet and the Institutional Officer on the “Institutional Officer Acceptance Agreement” confirm this oversight.

**Liability:** The Hood Foundation does not assume any liability or responsibility for activities supported by this Award including, without limitation, incidents or accidents involving the Award Recipient (whether on travel, in the laboratory or classroom, or elsewhere).

**Scientific Misconduct:** The appropriate federal, state, and local guidelines with regard to scientific misconduct must also be in place and enforced at the Award Recipient Institution. In the unlikely event that an Award Recipient is involved in an investigation of scientific and/or financial misconduct, he or she will be subject to the procedures in place at the Institution. The Institution must notify the Hood Foundation of both the investigation and the procedures that the Institution will follow. According to the NIH/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, research misconduct is defined as the “fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reporting research, or in reporting research results.” A finding of scientific and/or financial misconduct must be reported to the Hood Foundation and may affect the Award Recipient’s continued eligibility for support under this Program.

**Use of the Award Funds:** The laws of the United States place certain restrictions on the manner in which funds awarded to organizations by charitable trusts and foundations may be expended. The Award from the Hood Foundation may be used to support the Award Recipient’s salary and fringe benefits (percent effort may exceed the percent of total salary support requested); salaries and fringe benefits of personnel essential to the project; publication of scientific data; travel to scientific meetings; laboratory and data processing supplies; and other direct expenses such as equipment essential to the project.

Funds may not be used for new construction, the renovation of existing facilities, fundraising projects or endowments. Funds may not be used for any political activity or for any other purpose prohibited by the Internal Revenue Service Code. Funds awarded for the direct costs of the project may not be used for general operating costs.
Indirect Costs (institutional overhead): Up to 10% ($40,909) of the total Direct Costs may be used to cover Indirect Costs at either the Award Recipient Institution or any contracting institution. In instances where there is a subcontract, the combined dollar amount for indirect costs taken by both the Award Recipient Institution and contracting institution may not exceed 10% of total annual direct costs or $20,455 each year of the Two-Year Award period. The annual amount, including overhead, is $225,000 per year for a total of $450,000 over the two years. The grant monies which have been awarded, including any interest earned, may only be used for the purposes stated in this agreement. Funds may not be expended for any other purpose without the prior written approval of the Hood Foundation.

Re-Budgeting: Expenditures are expected to be within reasonable range of the Budget that was submitted in the Award Recipient’s original application. All requests for re-budgeting or reallocation of grant funds over $20,000 must be conveyed by email to the Hood Foundation’s Program Officer. The request must include the current allocation of resources along with specific detail and justification for the reallocation.

Reporting Requirements and Payment Schedules: In October 2015, the Award Recipient will submit a Research Progress Report and a financial accounting of expenditures to-date. The Award Recipient may be asked to present the progress to date to the Hood Foundation Trustees at their December 2015 or June 2016 meeting. Second-year funding is contingent upon satisfactory progress. Final Scientific and Fiscal Reports are due sixty (60) days following termination of the award period. The Award Recipient will receive email reminders, including the forms and format for these reports, approximately one month prior to their due dates.

Financial Responsibilities of the Award Recipient Institution: The Award Recipient Institution will keep systematic records of all expenditures relating to this Award. Vouchers consisting of bills, invoices, cancelled checks, receipts, etc. will be retained by the Institution for three (3) years after the close of the Award period and will be available for inspection by representatives of the Hood Foundation, during normal business hours and upon reasonable notice throughout this period. The Hood Foundation may, at their expense, examine, audit, or have audited the records of the Institution insofar as they relate to activities supported by this Award.

No-Cost Extension: Following the two-year Award period, a no-cost extension for up to nine months may be granted upon email notification to the Program Officer. This communication must include an explanation for the extension, the unexpended balance, and a timeline for completing the project. Final Scientific and Fiscal reports are due at the end of the extension period. Any funds remaining at the conclusion of the extended project period must be returned to the Hood Foundation within sixty (60) days.

Transfer or Termination of Award: Awards are made to the Institution where the named Award Recipient is conducting research. If the Award Recipient moves to another non-profit research institution during the Award period, the Hood Foundation reserves the right to cancel the Award. Each request will be considered on a case by case basis.
If the Award Recipient is not continuing the research in another nonprofit research setting, Awards will be cancelled and unused funds must be returned within sixty (60) days. Transfer of the Hood Foundation Award to another P.I. is not permitted. Disposition of any equipment purchased by the Award Recipient with Hood Award funds will be evaluated on a case by case basis. If the project is terminated for any reason, any unused funds must be returned to the Hood Foundation within sixty (60) days.

**Change in Award Recipient Status:** It is the responsibility of the Award Recipient as well as the Institution to notify the Hood Foundation of any change in employment status of the Award Recipient in a timely manner and usually not less than thirty (30) days prior to such change.

**Unused Funds and Reversion:** Should any of the following events occur, the Hood Foundation may demand repayment of all unexpended portions of the Award; moreover, all unpaid installments may be cancelled. The Award Recipient Institution is also required to give written notice if there is a change in the Institution’s status as noted below.

- A determination, preliminary or otherwise, is made by the United States Internal Revenue Service that the Award does not constitute a qualifying distribution.
- The Award Recipient Institution fails to perform any of its duties, in the judgment of the Charles H. Hood Foundation, required by the Terms of the Award. In such cases, the Foundation shall provide no less than thirty (30) days termination notice in writing to the Institution, upon which the Institution shall have an additional thirty (30) days following receipt of such notice within which to cure any deemed failures.
- The Award Recipient Institution ceases to be exempt from income taxes under the Internal Revenue Service Code or becomes a private foundation.
- There is a material change in the purpose, character, or method of operation of the Award Recipient Institution such as to jeopardize its tax status.

**Family and Medical Leave:** The Award Recipient may continue to expend any Award funds allocated to salary during medical or parental leave consistent with the Institutional level of paid leave for such purposes. Medical leave may be taken for a serious health condition of the employee or to care for the employee’s spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition. Family leave may be taken by either parent for the adoption or the birth of a child.

**Patents, Copyright and Intellectual Property:** The Award Recipient should follow the Institution’s policies regarding discoveries or any other intellectual property that results from research conducted under this Award. The Hood Foundation will not retain any rights to published results or patents that result from the research.

**Confidentiality and Third Party Release:** Application materials as well as Scientific Progress and Final Reports are considered confidential. The Hood Foundation engages third parties who have the necessary expertise to review the submitted materials and evaluate each project. Although the Hood Foundation endeavors to protect the confidentiality of the reports by requiring reviewers to sign confidentiality agreements, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. The Hood
Foundation is not responsible for any consequences resulting from the disclosure of the content of these materials to such third parties.

**Acknowledgements:** Professional publications or presentations resulting from research supported by this Award must acknowledge the **Charles H. Hood Foundation, Inc., Boston, MA.**

**Post Award Reporting:** The Award Recipient will respond to the Hood Foundation’s requests for information on his/her research project following the Award Period and may be requested to provide a current Curriculum Vitae or update information in an online database. The Award Recipient understands that this obligation survives the Award Period.

∞ **Questions Concerning the Major Grants Initiative:**

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