



Wake Up Narcolepsy Grant Process

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Wake Up Narcolepsy Grant Overview and Project Plan

This project plan outlines the goals and procedures of the Wake Up Narcolepsy grant program, which will provide research grants from applications submitted during the submission period (request for proposals), as outlined below.

Background

Wake Up Narcolepsy, Inc. (WUN) is a mission-driven 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing Narcolepsy awareness, education and research toward improved treatments and cure. The goal of providing grants for Narcolepsy research is to continue providing insights into the clinical and social aspects of care for people with Narcolepsy.

Continuing to provide funding support for research aligns with the focus and values of WUN. Narcolepsy is often missed, misdiagnosed or inappropriately treated by clinicians, leading patients to prolonged difficulties in receiving the careful and kind care that they need. WUN's directive is to mitigate such issues and delays through education, research and advocacy.

Purpose

The purpose of grant funding is to support the scientific and medical professional communities involved in the understanding and care of patients with Narcolepsy, with opportunities to collaborate and support their research activities. Although WUN and the Board will consider other research areas for evaluation, the core areas of interest include:

- Understanding the causes of Narcolepsy
- Advancing pharmacological treatment options
- Narcolepsy pediatric screening tools
- Understanding the psycho-social, personal and professional impact of Narcolepsy
- Development of improved diagnostic tools

Funding

The grant amounts range from \$5,000.00-\$50,000.00 and can be applied for a given year or a multi-year project. The funding allotment will be based on the proposed research project and alignment with WUN's priorities and mission. The funding range may be amended, provided additional resources are available. Overlap funding may be considered. The Monica Gow grant is separate from this grant process, however, it may be used to bridge funding gaps. If you are interested in learning more about that grant opportunity, please reach out to info@wakeupnarcolepsy.org



Eligibility:

Open to individual researchers or research teams affiliated with academic institutions, or community-based organizations who actively participate in the care or research of persons with Narcolepsy.

WUN will review grants from experienced investigators, junior investigators or individuals who are part of a research or clinical team. Prior research experience would be preferable. If the individual submitter does not have prior research experience, a mentor will be expected to be part of the grant submission and to serve as a collaborator. Experience in manuscript and abstract publications would be advantageous.

Ethical Research Practices

Eligible applicants must demonstrate commitment to scientific rigor and ethical research practices, including obtaining necessary institutional review board (IRB) approvals and, as applicable, ensuring the protection of human subjects (45 CFR Part 46/21 CFR Part 50), and adhere to the principles of the Belmont Report. It is recommended that an IRB review be conducted for all research, even if the research is considered exempt.

There may be additional restrictions on research depending on the pharmaceutical product if using it off-label.

The Application Process Overview

WUN accepts applications once per year. Please see our website for up-to-date information on the current application window. Unless otherwise specified, grant recipients will be notified in the last quarter of the year.

Instructions for Applicants

Applications can be no longer than 1500 words, not exceed five pages, use a 12-point font, and must contain the following information.

- Biographical sketch of the primary researcher/research team: if published, please include links to 1-2 published articles (this section will not be included in the anonymous review)
- Introduction/Background
 - Includes the rationale for the study, why this study is important and the problem statement. Is there a gap in the current knowledge?
 - Research question
- Proposed methods



- Study design
- Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
 - Recruitment
- Data collection tools
- Procedures, questionnaires, etc
- Ethical Considerations
 - IRB (central vs facility/AMC based), include timelines for standard review if known
- Data management/Statistics
- Control for bias
- Proposed timeline (include pre-study activities, first subject in/last subject out, post-study data analysis)
- Publication plan (include anticipated abstract and proposed journal submissions)
- *Please note if you are planning on using any drug or device that is investigational or off-label.*
- *Any use of AI is required to be disclosed for the purpose it is used*
- Please provide an estimated budget, how the funds will be allocated

Review and Determination

The submitter will send their proposal in an email to info@wakeupnarcolepsy.org. Before review by the evaluation team, to reduce reviewer bias and ensure a fair review, all applications will be redacted of names and facilities. However, a high-level biography will be provided to the reviewers to ensure that the research will be conducted or supervised by qualified individuals.

This process will be done by an independent individual/administrator not associated with the actual study evaluation.

Following the redaction of the submission, each research proposal will be evaluated by at least three reviewers with expertise in this area. The reviewing team may include members of the WUN Medical Advisory/Research Committee or others with the expertise who have volunteered to provide their time for this purpose.

Grant awards may be determined in several ways, as noted below, during a specific request for proposal window:

- If a **single** application has been submitted for a particular time frame, the review committee will review and apply the scoring criteria as below, and if deemed suitable for funding, a funding determination will be unanimous.



- If **multiple** applications are received during the request for proposals period, the same scoring criteria will apply based on the funding available; the WUN advisory board will determine the funding award/amount.

Scoring will focus on the following:

- Significance/Importance to Narcolepsy
- Innovation/Gap
- Approach/Methodology
- Resources (including research background)
- Budget (may include funding from other sources as long as there is no conflict)
- Timeline
- Outcomes/Impact

Each section/topic will be scored on a 1-5 scale according to the following criteria:

Topics	Qualifying Text / Description	Scoring Rubric
Significance	Does the proposal address an important problem or critical barrier in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise and potential for impact on research, policy, practice, or society?	5 – Exceptionally compelling and addresses a critical unmet need 4 – Strong importance with clear potential impact 3 – Moderately important; some potential benefit 2 – Marginal importance; limited potential impact 1 – Low or no importance
Innovation	Does the project challenge current paradigms, use novel concepts or methods, or develop new approaches or technologies?	5 – Highly innovative; paradigm-shifting 4 – Strong innovation; meaningful departure from current approaches 3 – Some innovative aspects, but largely builds on existing work 2 – Minimal innovation 1 – No innovation
Approach	Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to achieve the aims? Are potential problems and alternative strategies addressed?	5 – Methodology is flawless, rigorous, and fully justified 4 – Strong methodology with minor weaknesses 3 – Adequate methodology with some weaknesses 2 – Questionable approach or significant weaknesses 1 – Seriously flawed or inappropriate approach



Investigator(s)	Are the PI(s) and team well-qualified and experienced to carry out the project? Do they have a strong record of prior accomplishments?	5 – Exceptional expertise and track record 4 – Strong qualifications 3 – Adequate qualifications 2 – Limited relevant experience 1 – Inadequate qualifications
Feasibility / Environment	Are the institutional support, equipment, and resources adequate? Is the project realistic given the timeframe and budget?	5 – Exceptional environment and high feasibility 4 – Strong support/resources; feasible with minor risks 3 – Adequate support/resources; moderate risks 2 – Limited support; significant risks 1 – Insufficient resources; unlikely to succeed
Ethical & Regulatory Considerations	Are human/animal subjects protections, safety measures, and regulatory compliance well addressed?	5 – Fully addresses and exceeds all ethical/regulatory requirements 4 – Meets requirements with minor clarifications 3 – Generally meets requirements but some gaps 2 – Significant concerns 1 – Does not meet ethical/regulatory standards

Each submission will be reviewed and scored by no fewer than three qualified individuals. Individual scores will be assigned for each category. The total score for that reviewer will then be averaged across each criterion for each reviewer. The total score from each reviewer will then be averaged, culminating in a total average score.

A final task for each reviewer will be to rank their overall ranking (first, second, third, etc.). However, the final average score will determine the recipient of the funding. In case of the same calculated average, an additional review will be conducted and re-scored.