Grant Title: SIMONS FOUNDATION AUTISM RESEARCH INITIATIVE-PILOT AND RESEARCH AWARDS

Funding Opportunity Number: N/A


Area of Research: Improve the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

Release and Expiration: N/A


Amount: Pilot Awards: The maximum budget is $125,000, including indirect costs, per year. SFARI Research Award: Up to $250,000, including indirect costs, per year, but under exceptional circumstances will consider proposals at higher levels. Indirect costs for all SFARI grant types are limited to 20 percent of the modified total direct costs. The Simons Foundation's salary support guidelines are typically identical to those set by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Length of Support: Pilot Awards: Up to two (2) years. SFARI Research Award: Up to three (3) years.

Eligible Applicants: All applicants and key collaborators must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or equivalent at a college, university, medical school or other research facility.

Summary: The mission of the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders by funding, catalyzing and driving research of the greatest quality and relevance. Applications for SFARI Awards are solicited from individuals who will conduct bold, imaginative, rigorous and relevant research. SFARI seeks applications from independent investigators who can devote a substantial portion of time to this effort. A minimum Principal Investigator (PI) effort is not required but the PI is expected to commit to a level of effort that reflects a leading role in the project. Applications from researchers who are not currently working on autism, but who have expertise that could be brought to bear on this complex disorder are encouraged. Collaborative grants involving multiple investigators are also accepted. Applicants are strongly advised to familiarize themselves with the work that SFARI currently supports, and to think about how their proposals might complement existing grants. Simons Investigators are expected to share renewable reagents and data developed with Simons Foundation funds with other qualified investigators. Access to the Simons Simplex Collection (SSC) and the Simons Variation in Individuals Project (Simons VIP), resources of rigorously characterized phenotypic data, genetic data and biomaterials, will be available to all approved scientists through SFARI Base. Applicants are encouraged to use these resources. Policies regarding acquisition of SSC biospecimens are available online. In addition to the SFARI Awards, the SFARI Explorer Award program accepts applications at any time for rapid review and support through a rolling award program. The SFARI Explorer Award program provides timely resources on a one-time basis, not to exceed $60,000, including indirect costs, to support focused experiments highly relevant to our mission. SFARI Pilot Award is for innovative, high-impact proposals requesting support for small-scale projects or early-stage experiments that will build on preliminary data or a prior track record and lead to competitive applications for funding by SFARI or other organizations. Investigators new to the field of autism are encouraged to apply for Pilot Awards. SFARI Research Award is for investigators with demonstrated expertise, for proposals requesting support for compelling, high-impact research on an experimental hypothesis for which, in most cases, preliminary data have already been gathered. The foundation will also consider projects focusing on a central hypothesis where success depends on close collaboration between two or more labs.