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Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Program Objectives:

The American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine (AANEM) is announcing the availability of a grant opportunity that will be awarded on a competitive basis. **The goal of this award is to fund research with high potential to impact patient care through the identification of important relationships between electrodiagnostic measures or imaging modalities with respect to the clinical or functional outcomes of people with neuromuscular disorders.** We are seeking high quality, evidence based studies that will provide important information that delineate the role of electrodiagnostic studies in patient management. Studies that assess electrodiagnosis and its relation to outcomes, its ability to promote efficient care and to optimize the use of healthcare resources, as well as complement other diagnostic tests are being solicited. We envision this study to provide class I or II evidence based medicine, demonstrating the impact of electrodiagnosis on patient care and the optimization of resources. Cost effectiveness and care efficiency aspects of proposals are highly desirable.

These disorders include, but are not limited to, common mononeuropathies, cervical and lumbar radiculopathies, peripheral neuropathy, myopathy, neuromuscular junction disorders and motor neuron disorders.

This goal will be accomplished through the peer review grant process with oversight by the AANEM Foundation.

Section II. Award Information

Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards	The total amount of funding available is \$500,000. The foundation anticipates funding 1 project. Projects with direct and indirect costs of up to \$100,000 per year will be considered for a 3 to 5 year time span. Award is contingent upon AANEM Foundation appropriations, and the submission of a meritorious application.
Award Budget	Application budgets are limited to \$500,000 (direct and indirect costs) and need to reflect actual needs of the proposed project. Overlapping costs will not be allowed. Cost sharing with other funding mechanisms is encouraged. Indirect costs will be capped 7%

Award Project Period	The total project period for an application requesting support will be between 3 and 5 years. Funding will not exceed five years.
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Section III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Any physician with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Principal Investigator (PI) is invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. Individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply for AANEM foundation support. It is required that either the PI or at least one co-investigator be a member of the AANEM.

2. Cost Sharing

This AANEM Foundation does not require cost sharing but this mechanism of funding is encouraged.

3. Additional Information on Eligibility

Applicants from a single institution may submit more than one application, provided that each application is scientifically distinct. Multi-centered proposals, while not required, will be given preference.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Letter of Intent

Applicants will be asked to submit a 2 page letter of intent prior to submitting a full proposal. This letter should contain sufficient information to describe the scope of the proposed work, an overview of the scientific rationale and methods to be used, and an indication of the ability of the investigators to complete this work successfully.

From the submitted letters of intent, the Research Committee will select the most promising projects to solicit a full proposal.

2. Content and Form of Full Proposal Application Submission

NIH format forms and guidelines will be used for the full proposal including: NIH formatted biographical sketches, budgets, and research strategy. Electronic versions of these forms can be found at the following web site:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>

Page Limitations

For this specific RFA, the Research Strategy section is limited to 12 pages.

3. Submission Dates and Times

This table below contains information about Key Dates. Applicants are encouraged to submit in advance of the deadline to ensure they have time to make any application corrections that might be necessary for successful submission. Electronic submission is required and should be sent to: tatkinson@aanem.org

Paper applications will not be accepted.

Key Dates

Posted Date	Oct. 1, 2012
Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)	Oct. 1, 2012
Letter of Intent Due Date	Dec. 1, 2012
Application Due Date(s)	March 31, 2012
Scientific Merit Review	April, 2012
Foundation Approval	May 1, 2012
Earliest Start Date(s)	Aug. 1, 2012
Expiration Date	Aug. 1, 2017

5. Funding Restrictions

All AANEM Foundation awards are subject to the terms and conditions, cost principles, and other considerations. This award may be used only for the work specified in the grant application and may not be reallocated to other purposes without the explicit written permission of the AANEM Foundation.

6. Other Submission Requirements and Information

Publications: All publications arising from this project will be submitted to the journal *Muscle and Nerve* for peer reviewed publication. If a manuscript is rejected by *Muscle and Nerve*, it may then be submitted to other journals at the discretion of the principal investigator.

Presentations: Peer-reviewed presentations are to take place at the AANEM's annual meeting. Presentations at other regional, national or international meetings are allowed after the data has been presented at the AANEM annual scientific meeting.

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

Only the review criteria described below will be considered in the review process. As part of the AANEM Foundation mission, these applications will be evaluated for technical merit through the AANEM peer review process.

Overall Impact

Reviewers will provide an overall impact/priority score to reflect their assessment of the likelihood for the project to exert a sustained, powerful, and immediate influence on patient care through the correlation of nerve conduction studies, needle electromyography, and imaging modalities to the clinical outcome of those with neuromuscular disorders.

Scored Review Criteria

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact. For example, a project that by its nature is not innovative may be essential to advance a field.

Significance

Does the project address problems or barriers to progress implementation of electrodiagnostic or neuromuscular imaging techniques? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will neuromuscular outcomes, care efficiency, or cost-effectiveness be improved?

Investigator(s)

Are the PI and other collaborators well suited to the project and have the appropriate experience and training? Have they demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments?

Innovation

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current paradigms by utilizing innovative concepts and approaches to improve the care of neuromuscular patients.

Approach

Are the overall strategy and processes well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems and benchmarks for success presented?

Environment

Will the project benefit from unique features of the AANEM Foundation grant?

Additional Review Criteria

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will evaluate the following additional items while determining scientific and technical merit, and in providing an overall impact/priority score, but will not give separate scores for these items.

Protections for Human Subjects

The committee will evaluate the involvement of human subjects and the proposed protections from research risk relating to their participation according to the following four review criteria: 1) risk to subjects, 2) adequacy of protection against risks, 3) potential benefits to the subjects and others, and 4) importance of the knowledge to be gained.

Inclusion of Women, Minorities, and Children

When the proposed project involves clinical research, the committee will evaluate the proposed plans for inclusion of minorities and members of both genders, as well as the inclusion of children.

Additional Review Considerations

As applicable for the project proposed, reviewers will consider each of the following items, but will not give scores for these items and should not consider them in providing an overall impact/priority score.

Multi-site Research

While research that involves collaboration of experienced investigators at multiple sites within the US or Canada will be given preference, it is not required for consideration.

Budget and Period of Support

Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed project.

2. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated for technical merit by the AANEM review committee using the stated review criteria.

As part of the peer review, all applications:

- Will receive a written critique.

The application will compete for available funds. Following initial peer review, recommended applications will receive a second level of review by the AANEM Foundation Board of Directors for relevance to the RFA. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Technical merit of the proposed project as determined by Ad Hoc review.
- Availability of funds.
- Relevance of the proposed project to program priorities.

3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

After the peer review of the application is completed, the PI will receive his or her Summary Statement (written critique) via email.

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

If the application is under consideration for funding, the AANEM Foundation will provide formal notification to the applicant.

2. Administrative Requirements

Support will be in the form of a contract. Substantive involvement by the AANEM Foundation is inherent in the contract award. Accordingly, the AANEM Foundation will have substantial involvement in the program activities of the project funded by the contract.

Substantive involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- AANEM Foundation oversight of the project
- AANEM Foundation review of data or publications
- AANEM Foundation's right to terminate funding for lack of adequate progress

3. Reporting

When multiple years are involved, awardees will be required to submit an annual progress report and financial statement to the AANEM. A final progress report and Financial Status Report are required when an award is relinquished when a recipient changes institutions or when an award is terminated.

An annual progress report and financial status report must be sent to AANEM office within 90 days of the budget period end date of each 12 month cooperative agreement. Failure to file the annual reports in a timely fashion may be grounds for suspension or termination of the grant contract.

The recipient must file a final progress report and financial status report within 90 days after the end date of the project period as noted on the notice of the grant contract.

The final program progress report must provide full written documentation of the project and summaries of accomplishments and goals, as described in the application.

Monitoring Activities

The program project officer will monitor the recipient periodically. The monitoring may be in the form of telephone conversations, e-mails, or written correspondence between the AANEM and the PI. Periodic site visits with officials of the

recipient organization also may occur. There may be other regular meetings with recipients to assist in fulfilling the requirements of the cooperative agreement.

The scope of the recommendation will confirm that:

(1) There has been acceptable progress on the project; (2) there is continued compliance with all AANEM Foundation requirements; and (3) if necessary, there is an indication that corrective action has taken place.

Section VII. AANEM Contacts

We encourage inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

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