

# **ADDITIONAL** **VENTURES**

**2022 Additional Ventures Expansion Award Program**

**Proposal Deadline: May 2, 2022**

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## 2022 ADDITIONAL VENTURES EXPANSION AWARD PROGRAM

The Additional Ventures Expansion Award Program (EAP) is an annual research program that funds:

1. Expansion of existing studies within the Single Ventricle (SV) research community, and
2. The addition of SV-directed aims to ongoing studies within the cardiovascular development field.

These awards fill a gap in existing funding opportunities to promote scientific advancement of teams\* with a documented history of award success in and adjacent to the SV research community.

*\*Please carefully review eligibility requirements for this proposal.*

### KEY DATES

<b>Proposal Due</b>	May 2, 2022, 5 pm Pacific Time
<b>Awardees Announced</b>	June 1, 2022, 5 pm Pacific Time
<b>Anticipated Funding Begins</b>	July 1, 2022

### AREA OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Single Ventricle Heart Disease is an understudied and underfunded area that requires a multi-disciplinary approach from a research and clinical care perspective.

#### **What is Single Ventricle Heart Disease?**

In human hearts, four distinct chambers form during development: two atria and two ventricles. However, in some individuals, one ventricle does not form properly and is either smaller, underdeveloped, or is missing a valve. Such conditions are referred to as single ventricle (SV) heart defects, which encompass a spectrum of diagnoses, including but not limited to pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum, hypoplastic left heart syndrome, and tricuspid atresia.

Additional Ventures aims to accelerate research that will lead to both improved care and treatments based on a mechanistic understanding of SV. We have developed a research roadmap in partnership with investigators across disciplines that identifies strategic solutions to address these gaps and challenges, which is intended to guide a decade's worth of research efforts and serve as a framework for coordinating global resources to advance SV research and clinical care. For more information on Additional Ventures, visit our [website](#).

### AWARD DESCRIPTION

The Additional Ventures EAP supports the expansion of scientific research related to SV and the use of enabling technologies within the field. In the 2022 cycle, we anticipate funding approximately ten (10) grants; however, we reserve the right to fund any number of grants based on both the quality and number of applications received.

Each 12-month award will provide up to \$50,000 USD in funding to support investigators currently working within the SV community. Eligible investigators must have a doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, MD, PsyD), conduct research at qualifying research-based institutions, and must be funded concurrently (through at least December 31, 2022) on a project focused on understanding or treating SV heart defects and/or their related sequelae. Eligible applicants may concurrently hold other AV-sponsored awards.

Competitive applications are expected to provide a credible and realistic discussion of how the award will expand the scope, expediate time to completion, or otherwise increase the scientific interest or impact of an existing project.

Acceptable examples of fund usage may include, and are not limited to:

- ◆ Sample preparation, data storage or processing (e.g., for large scale sequencing, proteomic, or computational projects)
- ◆ Expansion of clinical studies to additional study sites
- ◆ Addition of SV-focused aims to cardiovascular development studies
- ◆ Animal or iPSC model development
- ◆ Computational tool or software development
- ◆ Equipment acquisition (e.g., bioreactors, microscopes, 3D printers, computers)

*The 2022 EAP cannot be used to fund the development or expansion of registries (e.g., clinical, genetic, etc.). While these awards may be used to expand the scope of clinical trials as permitted by the budget limit, we strongly encourage applicants to **consider impact beyond solely adding additional participants and/or sites in their proposal design.***

See below for details on the application and review processes.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Principal Investigator(s) (PIs) must hold doctoral degrees (e.g., PhD, MD, PsyD, or equivalent doctorates). Applications are welcome from early career investigators and those in instructor or postdoctoral roles, so long as they meet all eligibility criteria.
  - a. For purposes of this RFP, an “early career investigator” is an individual that has had an independent lab or clinical research position for no longer than seven (7) years past their post-doctoral position or medical fellow position. If an investigator has achieved independence directly following graduate school, an “early career investigator” is considered one who has had an independent research position for ten (10) years or less.
    - i. Exceptions to this timeline include, and are not limited to: 1) childbirth or adoption (one (1) year automatic extension), 2) extenuating circumstances related to child, elder, or family care, 3) periods of part-time work or leave, 4) period of time after receipt of terminal degree requirements when the investigator was not conducting research (including required clinical training/activities, or time away due to medical issues, military service, natural disasters, or family care), and 4) significant change in field of study. Contact Additional Ventures for more information.
2. All applicants must be currently affiliated with a nonprofit academic or research institution, including domestic and non-US nonprofit organizations, domestic and non-US public/private academic universities or institutions of higher learning (including colleges, universities, medical schools, and other related academic research institutions); certain qualified governmental agencies with active biomedical research programs may also apply.
3. Applicants must be funded concurrently (through at least December 31, 2022) on a project focused on (a) **understanding or treating SV heart defects and/or their related sequelae**, or (b) **cardiovascular development**. Applicants must be a PI on the relevant grant, and provide evidence of the described award in the application materials.
4. Proposed expansion plans must have demonstrated relevance to SV heart defects.
5. PIs may only submit one application per cycle. PIs funded by Additional Ventures through other mechanisms are eligible to apply for Expansion Awards, so long as they meet all other eligibility requirements.

## ADDITIONAL IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS

When evaluating the overall impact of submissions, Additional Ventures may consider the following:

- ◆ Proposals led by women and underrepresented minorities
- ◆ Proposals from early career investigators (defined in eligibility criteria)

Applicants are not required to disclose the information above. Responses will be visible only to Additional Ventures; outside reviewers will not have access to this information.

## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

All applicants will submit their completed applications through [ProposalCentral](#) (see below for submission details). All application materials should be single-spaced and formatted in a sans-serif, 11-point font with 1-inch margins, except where provided templates or fillable forms apply.

Please visit [ProposalCentral](#) for the most up-to-date application guidelines:

1. Log in (or create an account) as an 'Applicant or Awardee' to start your application.
2. Within the portal, Additional Ventures' open programs are listed under the 'Grant Opportunities' tab.
3. Click 'Apply Now' to begin your application. To revisit an existing application, click the 'Proposals' tab.

## PROPOSAL

A formal proposal outlining the intended project should be submitted through [ProposalCentral](#) by Monday, May 2, 2022, 5 pm PT. The proposal must contain the following elements, following the formatting guidelines iterated above or via associated templates where indicated. Elements should not exceed the page or character limit, where applicable:

- ◆ Title Page
- ◆ Eligibility criteria certification
- ◆ About the Applicants
  - Including primary applicant's name, institution, degree(s), academic rank, and contact information
  - Applicant biosketch (template provided within the portal)
  - Co-Investigator names and contact information (limited to 3 per proposal)
- ◆ Institution information
- ◆ Project Summary
  - Lay Summary
    - Succinct summary written for the general public, describing the project's aims and goals, including how the completion of the study with expansion will impact the field of SV research and/or care (2100 characters or fewer).
  - Expansion Type: Expansion of ongoing Single Ventricle (SV)-focused studies OR Addition of SV-directed aims to ongoing cardiovascular development studies
  - Expansion Category (selection all that apply from list: equipment purchase, training/education, sample processing/preparation, data analysis, clinical site expansion, SV-directed addition, etc.)
- ◆ Existing Grant/Award Information (fillable form)

- Source of Award/Grant
- Funding period (start and end dates)
- Award/Project Title
- ◆ Uploaded documents:
  - Background/Preliminary Results (Two (2) pages or fewer, PDF upload)
    - A technical summary of relevant research currently underway, the methodology used in pursuit of the project, including discussion of relevant results or expected findings.
  - Expansion Plan (Two (2) pages or fewer, PDF upload)
    - A technical narrative describing the limitation or problem within the existing project that the award will address, including discussion of rationale, goals, and impact of findings. Include a sufficient description of the significance of the application, including how the award will positively impact the scope, rate, or interest of the existing project, and its impact on our understanding or treatment of SV.
  - Timeline & Milestones (template provided in application portal; (Two (2) pages or fewer, PDF upload)
    - A timeline indicating expected scientific milestones and products achieved within the first year, post-award.
  - References cited (no strict page limit, PDF upload)
  - Letters of support from collaborators (if applicable); PDF format.
- ◆ Categorical Budget (fillable form)
  - Detailed budget in USD supplemented with a narrative summary and justification for research costs.
  - Acceptable expenditures include, but are not limited to: equipment, reagents, software, patient recruitment, project-related travel. **Use of this award for indirect costs or PI salary is not permitted.**
  - If more than one institution will be involved in the project, one should be proposed as the applicant organization, and the other(s) included as a sub-grantee.
  - **For non-US applicants: All grants will be made in USD, and Additional Ventures is not responsible for any changes in conversion rates.** Grants selected for funding will be made payable to the applicant organization; under no circumstances will payment be made to an individual.

### **COVID-19 POLICY AND SUPPORT**

*As a foundation, Additional Ventures is deeply committed to supporting our scientific communities. We are sensitive to how COVID-19 is affecting the wellbeing of our grantees, and are dedicated to supporting scientists, clinicians, and academics through these unprecedented times.*

*We anticipate that COVID-19 will cause delays and changes to planned research activities, through the introduction of both professional and personal difficulties. The Additional Ventures team is cognizant that no standard plan will work for all grantees or apply to all situations; as such, we are willing to work with our grantees on a personal basis to discuss options and find appropriate solutions.*

## REVIEW PROCESS

Upon receipt of complete proposals, Additional Ventures review committees will evaluate proposals based on scientific and technical merit, realism of cost and implementation, overall impact, and context of the proposal within existing scientific investments. **Additional Ventures will provide context of the decision for all proposals not selected for funding.**

## ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Grantees funded by this effort will be expected to report to Additional Ventures the progress and results of awards. One final report is expected:

- ◆ A two (2) page summary of progress, including description of scientific impact and use of funds; submitted to AV within three (3) months of the conclusion of the award term.

Additional Ventures may make reporting inquiries and request responses relating & not limited to: publications and presentations, patents, collaborations, external award of additional funding, students and postdoctoral associates trained in association with work funded by Additional Ventures.

Grantees are invited to engage in the following (optional, but strongly encouraged) activities:

- ◆ Attendance at the Annual Additional Ventures Investigator Meeting; when possible, presentations at annual meetings are encouraged to be made by postdoctoral research associates or pre-doctoral students.
- ◆ Active participation in Additional Ventures-led meetings or workshops that bring together grantees to share progress and results.
- ◆ Active participation in Additional Ventures-led leadership and mentorship activities throughout the grant award period.

## TERMS OF GRANT / USE OF FUNDS

Each funded organization will be required to sign and agree to the Additional Ventures grant terms within thirty (30) days from receipt of notice of the award and prior to the funds being released. The grant terms will be available upon submission of a full proposal.

## FUNDING AWARDED AT ADDITIONAL VENTURES' DISCRETION

Responding to this RFP and/or submitting a proposal does not entitle any individual or institution to receive funding from Additional Ventures. Funding, if any, would be provided at Additional Ventures' sole discretion pursuant to the terms of a written grant agreement executed by Additional Ventures and the selected grantee organization, the terms of which Additional Ventures may require to be acknowledged by the PI.

## QUESTIONS?

For all inquiries, please contact Additional Ventures at [grants@additionalventures.org](mailto:grants@additionalventures.org).

## ABOUT ADDITIONAL VENTURES

Additional Ventures is a nonprofit foundation that aims to accelerate research progress and improve clinical care for children born with complex congenital heart defects so that they have a normal duration and quality of life. Although one in one hundred children are born with a congenital heart defect, there are limited options for those with the most complex forms, including single ventricle (SV) heart defects. For these children, there is no cure. With rapid advances in areas like genomics, single-cell technologies, and tissue engineering, now is the time to coordinate concerted efforts to understand how to overcome this devastating, complex disease.