

ROTRF Focuses on Clinical Research

The science of human organ transplantation



Dear Colleagues

The Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation (ROTRF) is pleased to announce that, starting with the upcoming submission deadline for Letters of Intent (1 October 2009), grants will be awarded exclusively for clinical research.

The ROTRF was launched in 1998 with the mission to advance the science of organ transplantation and improve the care and long-term outcomes of transplant patients. In its early years, the ROTRF mainly funded basic research in transplantation. In order to encourage clinical research, the ROTRF introduced specific clinical research grants in 2004, in addition to the conventional grants for basic research. Based on the success of this clinical grant award programme, exemplified by the

10th Anniversary Clinical Transplantation Research Grant Award Competition in 2008, the ROTRF has decided to concentrate its efforts on supporting research specifically addressing problems in human transplantation and having a realistic potential for clinical application in the near term. With this new focus in mind, the Trustees aim to promote collaborative work between clinicians and research investigators and to support areas of clinical transplantation research that are currently under-studied, and which may open new research frontiers.

The Trustees encourage investigators to submit proposals for clinically oriented research projects, such as observational clinical studies or studies that use human transplant samples for laboratory

examinations. Investigators working in areas such as antibody-mediated rejection and antibody formation, graft pathology during rejection events, histocompatibility, infectious agents, and disease phenotypes in transplant patients are encouraged to apply. The Trustees will also consider funding studies that investigate transplant populations, ethics, organ preservation and allocation, and healthcare delivery. Furthermore, the ROTRF will welcome research in new emerging technologies that examine the pathogenesis of human disease states in organ transplantation.

The ROTRF looks forward to this new development and to receiving innovative grant applications in the future.

Grant Award Programme

The **Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation (ROTRF)** is a legally independent, medical research charity established by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd in 1998. The ROTRF is committed to funding research relevant to organ transplantation, particularly where there is an unmet medical need and with the ultimate aim of improving long-term outcomes for people with organ transplants.



Research funded: The ROTRF priority is to support clinically oriented research projects, such as observational clinical studies, or studies that use human transplant samples for laboratory examinations.

Project proposals submitted to the ROTRF should include work with clinical transplant material or with organ transplant patients, e.g. in human organ preservation, human transplant pathology, or other human transplant areas, and should be focused on issues relevant to clinical organ transplantation. If animal models are used to complement the clinical research, a higher priority will be given to those that simulate pathological states and mechanisms operating in human organ transplantation. To be considered for a grant award, applications should demonstrate practical applicability to human organ transplantation in the near term.

Please note that the ROTRF cannot fund interventional clinical trials and projects involving interventions that would add risk to the patient or alter patient management. However, the Trustees may consider funding non-invasive scientific studies that complement an ongoing, approved clinical trial.

The grant: The maximum amount awarded per grant is **300,000 Swiss Francs** distributed over 3 years. Grants are awarded biannually.

Eligibility: Funds are provided to established, academic faculty members at universities, research institutes, and transplant centres.

Submission deadlines for Letters of Intent: 1 April & 1 October of each year

Further information and online submission forms: www.rotrf.org