

**ORPHAN DISEASE CENTER  
JUMPSTART RESEARCH TOOLS MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM  
FOR MOUSE MODELS**

The ODC JumpStart Research Tools Matching Grant Program provides a one-time matching grant to support the creation of a mouse model to advance research on rare disorders. Awards will be \$17,000 each. The group/researcher must have \$8,000 in matching funds to obtain an award.

**Overview:**

Animal models have become an important tool for studying human disease mechanisms. Mouse models are essential in the drug discovery process. Many scientists in the early stages of researching rare and ultra-rare disorders, lack an existing mouse line to begin the necessary work on studying the rare disease mechanisms. Identifying these mechanisms is one of the first steps in developing treatments.

This Research Tool grant program will partner with the Jackson Laboratory Rare and Orphan Disease Center (RODC) to offer the opportunity for families or patient organizations to develop a mouse model for a specific rare disease that can then be purchased for a small fee by researchers in academia or industry. This award will offset much of the cost of developing a disease specific model of a rare disorder.

We are seeking grant applications that can justify the need for a mouse model for their rare disease. While the RFA is broad in scope, priority will be given to grants that cover the following areas:

1. Diseases for which a viable / well-phenotyped mouse model does not already exist, in a shareable, accessible way.
2. Knowledge of researchers in need of this model

**Eligibility**

All foundation representatives, patients/caregivers, and academic researchers are eligible to respond to this RFA.

**Full Application Instructions and Review Procedure**

Release Date: Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Proposal Due Date: December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 before 6 pm ET

Full application documents are to be uploaded on our website

**FORMAT for documents:**

Use a black font color, and a font size of 11 points. A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters. All text should be single-spaced.

**CONTENT to be filled out on submittable application, found [here](#).**

**1) Information about the Applicant / Rare Disease Foundation or Organization**

**2) Background and Justification**

Include brief summaries of the disorder and existing research. Provide a compelling rationale for the need/expected impact of the requested research tools.

**3) Letters of support (3 minimum)**

Include information regarding established scientific collaborations as well as any known demand for the mouse model. Letters of support should clearly support the development of this research tool and the intent to purchase it once it is made available.

**4) Matching Funding Source**

The applicant must provide information regarding the source(s) and availability of matching funds (\$8,000).

**Terms and Conditions**

- Applications will be judged on rationale, justification and compelling need of the model.
- \$17,000 will provided by ODC, \$8,000 matching funds provided by applicant.
- Funds will be paid to service provider upon completion of services.
- Mouse strains will be deposited at the Jackson Laboratory for broad distribution to qualified researchers.

For additional information, please contact Deborah Requesens at [dreques@upenn.edu](mailto:dreques@upenn.edu)