REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)'s Rare Disease Research Grants Program with funding from**

**The Appendix Cancer/PMP Research Foundation**

*Announces a research grant opportunity for two grants*
*In the amount of $50,000 US for*

# Appendix Cancer and Pseudomyxoma Peritonei (ACPMP)

**DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPLICATIONS: January 19, 2027 (11:59 pm PT)**

NORD, with funding from the patient member organization Appendix Cancer/Pseudomyxoma Peritonei Research Foundation ("ACPMP"), is accepting applications for two grants in the amount of $50,000 US each, for scientific and/or clinical research studies focused on appendiceal cancer, including pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin.

Cancers and tumors (neoplasms) of the appendix are extremely rare with an estimated incidence of 0.15-0.9 per 100,000 people. The average age of onset is between 50 and 55 years, and they affect men and women equally. They most typically present either as appendicitis, a hernia filled with mucin, increasing abdominal girth, abdominal discomfort, an abdominal/pelvic mass, as an incidental finding on some form of imaging or at the time of surgery for a different indication. In women, they often spread to the ovaries and can be easily confused with ovarian cancer. Making the diagnosis of appendiceal cancer requires examination of a tumor specimen. After starting in the appendix, appendiceal tumors and cancers frequently spread inside the abdominal cavity. Depending on the type of tumor or cancer, this can lead to either the build-up of mucinous fluid in the abdomen known as pseudomyxoma peritonei or a condition referred to as peritoneal carcinomatosis (a growth of cancer cells in the abdominal cavity). Treatment for appendiceal tumors and cancers varies depending on the stage (extent) of disease and the subtype.

**Research Objectives**
The NORD Rare Disease Research Grant Program was established in 1989 to encourage meritorious scientific and clinical studies designed to improve the diagnosis, understanding of underlying disease mechanisms, or therapy of specific rare diseases.

The ACPMP Research Foundation Catalyst Research Grants Program is intended to support basic scientific, clinical, or translational research that is focused on appendix cancer and/or appendiceal pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) of appendiceal origin. This grant program focuses on expanding fundamental knowledge about appendix cancer by promoting studies of the biology, epidemiology, genetics, pharmacology, immunobiology, or biochemistry of malignant

epithelial neoplasms of the appendix that have the potential to yield diagnostic, therapeutic, or population-based advances for these rare cancers. These studies may focus on appendiceal mucinous neoplasms, appendiceal adenocarcinomas (including signet ring cell adenocarcinoma and goblet cell adenocarcinoma), and/or pseudomyxoma peritonei of appendiceal origin.

Applications will be considered based upon the potential to translate research to extramural funding applications (e.g. NIH, DoD, FDA, corporate sponsors), additional pre-clinical studies and clinical trials and the innovation of the proposal aligned with the goals of the grant program.

Evaluation of proposals will include careful consideration of protocol design, objectiveness of parameters measured, and statistical evaluation proposed.

**About NORD**

The National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), a 501 (c)(3) organization, is a patient advocacy organization dedicated to representing all patients and families affected by rare diseases. NORD is committed to the identification, diagnosis and treatment of the more than 10,000 knows rare diseases, of which fewer than 5 percent have an approved treatment. Rare diseases affect more than 30 million Americans. More than half of those affected are children. NORD began as a small group of patient advocates that formed a coalition to unify and mobilize support to pass the Orphan Drug Act of 1983 (ODA). For more than 35 years, NORD has led the way in voicing the needs of the rare disease community, driving supportive policies and education, advancing medical research and providing patient and family services for those who need them most. NORD is made strong together with over 340 Patient Advocacy Organizations and their communities and collaborates with many other organizations on specific causes of importance to the rare disease patient community.

**About the Appendix Cancer PMP Research Foundation**

Founded in 2008, the ACPMP Research Foundation was created by a community of individuals affected by appendix cancer, pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP), and related peritoneal surface malignancies. The ACPMP Research Foundation is dedicated to supporting and funding promising research and education that moves us toward a cure for appendix cancer and PMP. The Foundation also endeavors to support the appendix cancer community of patients and their caregivers by providing the latest and most accurate information.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

**OVERVIEW**

- Requests for proposals will be released by NORD in November 2026.
- Letters of intent/Initial Applications will be due January 19, 2027.
- Letters of intent/Initial Applications will be reviewed by NORD reviewers.
- Full proposal invitations will be issued to finalists via email in March 2027.
- Application requirements for full proposals will accompany these invitations.
- Full proposals are subject to a second round of review.
- Award announcements will be made via email and posted on NORD's website in June 2027.
- Funding will begin after all necessary documents (e.g., IRB forms, patient consent forms, signed grant agreements) have been received by NORD.

**SELECTION OF GRANTEES**

- Application is open to researchers both within the United Sates and internationally. International applicants are responsible for all document translation.
- Unless indicated in the RFP, strong preference is given to researchers holding a faculty-level appointment or senior scientific position at an academic or non-profit institution or foundation.
- The principal investigator must have sufficient education and experience to demonstrate subject matter expertise.
- NORD will consider no more than two applications per Principal Investigator per calendar year.
- Once all application materials have been submitted, applications are reviewed (peer review) and finalists are invited to submit a full grant application. NORD's grant review process is adapted from the peer review standards utilized by the National Institutes of Health.
- The grant selection process is unbiased and independent; awards are based solely on scientific merit. Only the highest-quality, highest-impact research projects will be funded.

**USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)**

- Applications must reflect the original intellectual contributions of the applicant.
- Proposals substantially generated by AI tools will not be considered.
- Limited use of AI to assist in preparation is permissible, provided applicants ensure accuracy, proper attribution, and compliance with standards for scientific rigor, reproducibility, and research integrity.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

- If the study involves human or animal subjects, copies of governance documents will be required from each site involved in the study before payment can be issued.
- Clinical drug trials must meet requirements established by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA).
- Duplicate/overlapping funds from any other private or public source are not to be used.
- All applications determined to have scientific merit will be considered, however before an award is issued compliance with international funding regulations must be confirmed when applicable.
- Funds cannot be used for indirect costs, overhead or PI salary, unless otherwise indicated in the RFP.
- Grant awards are expressly subject to compliance review, operational feasibility and risk assessment.
- NORD reserves the right to approve, condition, or decline any application based on funding source restrictions, regulatory considerations, audit risk, or other factors deemed relevant to the organization's fiduciary responsibilities.

## INITIAL APPLICATION

Interested applicants should submit a completed application and letter of intent electronically to research-programs@rarediseases.org with "NORD Letter of Intent" as the subject line. Applicants can complete the requested information directly in the document provided below and/or merge any additional required documents into a single PDF file. Incomplete applications may not be considered. All initial applications must be received by **January 19, 2027 (11:59 pm PT)**.

| | PAGE | ✓ |
|---|---|---|
| **Application summary** | 5 | |
| **Letter of Intent** (Maximum Length 2 Pages) | 6 | |
| **Biographical sketch** | 7 | |
| **List of co-investigators, if applicable** | 8 | |
| **Budget outline** | 8 | |
| **OPTIONAL ELEMENTS** | **PAGE** | **✓** |
| **Reviewer information** | 8-9 | |
| **Letter of support** | 9 | |

## APPLICATION SUMMARY

**Deadline for Initial Applications: January 19, 2027 (11:59 pm PT)**

| **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR INFORMATION** | |
|---|---|
| Name | |
| Position/Title | |
| Email | |
| Mailing Address | |
| Telephone | |
| **PROPOSAL INFORMATION** | |
| Project Title | |
| Project Term | |
| Funding Amount Requested ($ US)<br>*not to exceed $50,000 US* | |
| Institution(s) where research will be conducted | |
| City, State/Province, Country of Institution(s) | |
| Will research involve human subjects? | [ ] YES<br>[ ] NO |
| Will research involve animals? | [ ] YES<br>[ ] NO |
| How did you hear about this RFP? | ☐ NORD ☐ Academic Organization<br>☐ Rare Disease Organization ☐ Referral from Colleague<br>☐ Professional Organization ☐ Other (please specify) |
| Please be as specific as possible: | |
| Did you hear about this RFP via: | ☐ NORD Website ☐ Email<br>☐ Google ☐ Medical/Research Publication<br>☐ Social Media ☐ Rare Action Network<br>(Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram)<br>☐ Other (please specify) |
| Please be as specific as possible: | |

## LETTER OF INTENT

Please provide a Letter of Intent addressing the following elements of your research. Applicants may use the form below or attach a separate document to address the following details.

| **Letter of Intent (Not to exceed 2 pages)** | |
|---|---|
| Summary Statement | |
| Statement of Need<br>● What issue will the research address<br>● Significance of the work<br>● Why you have chosen this issue<br>● Who will benefit from this research<br>● Why this funding is essential | |
| Project Activity<br>● Overview of research activities<br>● Why this approach is novel<br>● How the research builds upon and differs from previous research (if applicable) | |
| Credentials<br>● Why your institution/program is best equipped to do this research | |
| Closing | |
| Principal Investigator Signature<br>**REQUIRED** | |

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Please provide a biographical sketch and bibliography for the principal investigator. Applicants may use this form or the NIH Biosketch form. Please modify the form to include, when applicable, the following:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Name**<br>Position/Title | | | | |
| **Education/Training**<br>Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education and include postdoctoral training. | Institution and Location | Degree | Year(s) | Field of Study |
| | | | | |
| **Research and Professional Experience**<br>Concluding with present position, list in chronological order previous employment, experience, and honors. Include present membership on any advisory committee. | | | | |
| **Honors and Awards** | | | | |

## CO-INVESTIGATOR(S)

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Co-Investigator | |
| Position/Title | |
| Institution | |
| Email | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Co-Investigator | |
| Position/Title | |
| Institution | |
| Email | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Co-Investigator | |
| Position/Title | |
| Institution | |
| Email | |

## BUDGET

Please provide a brief budget outline describing how the funding will be used. **Do not include PI salary, overhead, or indirect costs.** Funding can be used to cover expenses such as staff salary, technical assistance, supplies, and small equipment.

## REVIEWER INFORMATION (OPTIONAL)

**Please list up to five areas of scientific/medical expertise needed to review this application (optional). Do not list names of individuals.**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

**Please list below any individuals who should not review this application (optional).**

| NAME | INSTITUTION | JUSTIFICATION |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

## LETTER OF SUPPORT (OPTIONAL)

Please include a letter of support for your research from an individual advocate (e.g., patient, care partner) or patient advocacy group in this disease space (optional but encouraged).

**To receive notification of future funding opportunities through NORD, sign up for NORD research news here:** https://rarediseases.org/communications-sign-up/