



## HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA PILOT GRANT 2023 Request for Proposals

### Overview

Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a devastating chronic inflammatory disease that manifests as recurrent painful nodules under the skin in the intertriginous areas of the body. It is associated with significant impacts on quality of life, psychosocial well-being, and long-term health outcomes of patients as well as consequences for families and caregivers. HS is prevalent, affecting between 1 and 4% of the population, and affects most patients in the prime of their life while also impacting many children. Despite the impact of HS, it remains underdiagnosed, undertreated, and understudied particularly in the pediatric and adolescent populations. Contributing to this dynamic are unknowns related to a complex disease etiology, stigma associated with HS symptoms (e.g., sweating, itching, and scarring commonly in the genital region), and limited treatment options to date with even fewer available for children under the age of 12.

Promisingly, there has been a recent surge of activity around HS and there is an evolving pipeline of emerging treatments. However, much of the focus of HS research and therapy development is on the adult population, with a gap remaining to address the needs of children, adolescents, and individuals transitioning from adolescence to adulthood. Yet the burden on these vulnerable populations is severe, the gravity of decisions regarding long-term disease progression and management significant, and the consequences of psychological and social impairment devastating.

To address these needs, the Pediatric Dermatology Research Alliance (PeDRA) is offering the 2023 Hidradenitis Suppurativa Pilot Grant with the aim of improving the quality of care and long-term health outcomes for HS patients for whom disease onset occurs before adulthood.

### Focus

**Proposals should address research questions relevant to the transition of care for patients transitioning from adolescence to adulthood.** Proposals may be submitted by a single principal investigator or team of investigators, as they seek to build and sustain a larger-scale research program within this critical field of study. Areas of interest within the primary focus include, but are not limited to:

- Understanding healthcare needs and overcoming challenges faced by HS patients during the transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- Understanding the social, psychological, and physical factors influencing the transition of care for HS patients and their impact on the overall patient experience and health outcomes.
- Understanding the use of biologics in adolescent patients transitioning to adulthood.

Projects may be conducted in the areas of basic science, translational research, clinical research, epidemiology, technology, or other areas related to transition to care. Priority consideration will be given to projects led by early-to-mid-career principal investigators who are part of multidisciplinary teams including researchers, clinicians, and patient stakeholders. Additional priority will be given to applications that support PeDRA's commitment to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion and those that demonstrate a plan to leverage outcomes to form the basis for larger-scale future projects.

## Number of Awards

One (1) Pilot Grant is available for the 2023 funding cycle. This is a one-year non-renewable grant, with the earliest possible start date of April 1, 2024.

## Eligibility

Applicants need not be trained in pediatric dermatology but must hold the degree of MD and/or PhD (or equivalent) and be eligible to apply for grants under the guidelines of their host institution. Principal Investigators need not be United States citizens and the research need not be conducted in the United States. Evidence of IRB or IACUC (or equivalent) approval is required for all studies when relevant.

## Application

Applications must be submitted by email to [research@pedraresearch.org](mailto:research@pedraresearch.org) as a single pdf that includes the following:

1. Application form (fillable pdf available at <https://pedraresearch.org/hs-pilot-grant/>)
2. Abstract (250 word maximum)
3. Layperson's Summary (150 word maximum)
4. Cover Letter (2-page maximum)
5. Project Proposal (5-page maximum, not including references) must include:
  - a. Specific Aims (one page)
  - b. Background and Rationale
  - c. Project Description
    - i. Methods and study/experimental design
    - ii. Primary and secondary outcome measures (if applicable)
    - iii. Statistical analysis
  - d. Potential pitfalls
6. Budget (2-page maximum) – Provide a detailed budget and brief justification that includes an explanation of any actual or anticipated overlapping funds and plans for support beyond the award period (if applicable)
7. Biosketches (5-page maximum per biosketch) – Provide NIH-style biosketches for the Principal Investigator and any Co-Investigators.
8. Letter(s) of support – (Optional) While not required, letters of support are recommended from Co-Investigators, key collaborators, and the chairperson of the Principal Investigator's department.

Applications must be written in 11pt Arial font or larger with at least one-half inch margins. Total file size for the combined pdf may not exceed 20MB.

## Review

Applications will be reviewed by a team of peer reviewers based on criteria that includes the following:

1. Significance
2. Clarity
3. Strength of approach and feasibility (including statistical analysis)
4. Strength of investigator(s) and research environment (including strength of mentorship, if applicable)
5. Strength of budget

## Award

Applicants may request up to **\$25,000 for one year. Direct costs only**. Award recipients are expected to actively engage with PeDRA's Acne and HS Focused Study Group and to share their project at the PeDRA Annual Conference. Applicants may request salary support as part of their budget and are encouraged to use budget to compensate support staff necessary for the efficient completion of the proposed research. Refer to [PeDRA's Grant Guidelines](#) for more information.

## Important Dates

Application deadline: **11:59 PM PT, Thursday, December 7, 2023**

Awards made: no later than February 15, 2024

Earliest start date: April 1, 2024

## Questions

Email [research@pedraresearch.org](mailto:research@pedraresearch.org) for additional information or with any questions on the Pilot Grant, application, or review process.