



2027 Program Guidelines

Letters of Intent	Invited Applications	Grant Period
Due October 16, 2026	Due January 25, 2027	July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028

2027 Program Guidelines

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ABOUT MIB AGENTS

MIB Agents is a leading pediatric osteosarcoma nonprofit dedicated to Making It Better for our community of patients, families, medical professionals, researchers, and industry partners through programs, education, and research. We are devoted to creating and instilling hope with and for our inclusive and collaborative osteosarcoma community. We do this through mutual trust, transparency, and compassion.

ABOUT THE MIB AGENTS OUTSMARTING OSTEOSARCOMA GRANT PROGRAM

Launched in 2017 and powered by MIB Agents Family Funds, the [OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Research Grant](#) has fueled discovery by awarding \$2.9 million to 37 dedicated investigators working to advance osteosarcoma research.

Collaboration between the scientific and patient communities is a defining hallmark of MIB Agents. Our OutSmarting Osteosarcoma grants are made possible by [MIB Agents Family Funds](#), established by osteosarcoma patients and families who raise funds in honor of an OsteoWarrior or OsteoAngel. Their dedication to Making It Better and to advancing collaboration and education within the scientific community makes every MIB Agents award deeply meaningful.

ABOUT THE MIB AGENTS OUTSMARTING OSTEOSARCOMA 2027 AWARDS

For 2027, MIB Agents is thrilled to offer two funding mechanisms.

OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Hero Award is a \$100,000 grant over one year to any investigator with a compelling study that will Make It Better for osteosarcoma patients.

OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Young Investigator (YI) Hope Award is a \$50,000 grant over one year to any young investigator with a compelling study that will Make It Better for osteosarcoma patients.

Awards may be sponsored by one MIB Agents Family Fund or an individual donor, which is co-branded in honor of the Family Fund.

The number of grants by award type will be determined based on budget and program goals during programmatic review.

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FUNDING PRIORITIES

To have the most immediate impact on patient care and outcomes, MIB Agents funding priorities are:

- **Late-stage translational research** that may lead to clinical benefit or a clinical trial in less than five years.
- **Studies with promising preclinical data** that have a specific funding need to secure an IND and move forward to a clinical trial.
- **Specific funding gaps in clinical research.** Examples include correlative studies associated with and/or before an already funded clinical trial.
- **Projects that facilitate and enhance collaboration and shared learnings.**

FOCUS AREAS

Proposals should address at least one of these focus areas:

- ☒ Children, adolescents & young adults
- ☒ Decreasing toxicities
- ☒ Immunotherapies
- ☒ Molecularly targeted therapies
- ☒ Precision medicine
- ☒ Systemic therapy combinations
- ☒ Preventing metastasis
- ☒ Treating recurrent disease

APPLICATION PROCESS

Investigators who are interested in applying for the **OutSmarting Osteosarcoma 2027** grant must submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI)** in Proposal Central by the **October 16, 2026** deadline.

Applicants who submit an LOI and are approved will then be invited via email to submit a **full application** in Proposal Central by the **January 25, 2027** deadline. Invited applications must reflect the same project described in the approved LOI.

Please refer to the LOI and Application Submission Requirements section for more details.

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REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

LOI Review Process

Letters of Intent (LOIs) will be reviewed by the MIB Agents OutSmarting program team to assess eligibility, compliance with submission requirements, and alignment with the MIB Agents mission, funding priorities, and focus areas. LOIs that meet these criteria will be advanced to scientific peer review.

Peer Reviewers will score LOIs on innovation, translational potential, and impact. LOIs that score above a threshold will be invited to submit a full application.

Invited Applications Review Process

Invited applications are evaluated with a two-tier review process.

1. **The Scientific Review Committee** is composed of Peer Reviewers, who are subject-matter experts. First, proposals undergo independent peer review by the MIB Agents Peer Reviewers and are scored based on scientific merit.
2. **Family Fund Stakeholder Reviewers.** Family Funds and donors contributing more than \$5,000 to the annual award are invited to participate in the review process as Stakeholder Reviewers, scoring proposals on patient impact.

Proposals scoring above a predetermined threshold are eligible for funding and will be invited to present their work via video conference to the **MIB Agents Research Advisory Committee** and all **MIB Agents Family Funds**. Following these presentations, proposals enter Programmatic Review, where final funding decisions are made by the MIB Research Advisory Committee. Selections are based on scientific review scores, alignment with the MIB Agents priorities and programs, and available funding. The Committee includes members of the MIB Agents Leadership Team, the Family Funds Advisory Council, and the Junior Advisory Board and NextGen Presidents and Vice Presidents.

This two-tiered review ensures a rigorous and collaborative process that uniquely integrates patient and family perspectives.

Peer Reviewers will use the NIH 9-point rating scale to score full applications on the standard NIH criteria:

- Significance
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

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ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for the OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Hero Award

- The **principal investigator (PI)** must be an independent investigator with experience in translational research.
- **Academic ranks** of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, and research scientists with M.D., D.O., D.V.M., and/or Ph.D. degrees may apply.

Eligibility for the OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Young Investigator Hope Award

- **At the time of the application due date (January 25, 2027)**, applicants must be within 5 years post-fellowship with experience in translational research.
- Academic rank may not exceed Assistant Professor
- M.D., D.O., D.V.M., and/or Ph.D. degrees may apply.
- At the time of application or successful award, the applicant must not hold an NIH independent (R or P) Award. Institutional training grants (K12, T32) are permitted.
- A research mentor must be identified. The application must document the mentor's involvement in experimental design and execution and describe a career development and training plan.

For all OutSmarting Osteosarcoma Awards

- Applicants must be legal US or Canadian residents engaged by an institution located in the US or Canada for the duration of the grant period.
- Per the MIB Agents strict conflict of interest policy, Peer Reviewers and Scientific Review Committee members may not apply.
- The Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with a nonprofit academic or research institution.
- No application limit per institution.
- Only one application per PI as the lead investigator in an award year. Collaborations are accepted.
- Proposals may be for a new or ongoing initiative.
- Funding cannot overlap with any funded studies unless the applicant clearly demonstrates that new funding will not duplicate existing support.
- Past winners are permitted to apply after 2 years - eg, a 2024 grant recipient can apply again in the 2027 grant cycle. Proposals must be for a project distinct from their previously funded work.

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ELIGIBILITY (CONT)

- Resubmissions are allowed if the proposal addresses peer review feedback from previous submissions and continues to meet the current MIB Agents funding priorities and focus areas.
- Proposals for research utilizing human embryonic stem cells or non-human primates are not eligible. Research with human induced pluripotent stem cells is permissible.
- Applications proposing human clinical trials are not eligible, but canine trials and correlative studies for active human or canine trials are accepted and welcome.
- Certification for the protection of human subjects should be obtained for all applicable projects, following NIH guidelines.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- **MIB FACTOR Conference:**
 - a. The recipient is highly encouraged to attend the FACTOR 2027 conference for an in-person check presentation.
 - b. The recipient must be available in person to present work underway and completed at the FACTOR 2028 Conference, and may use grant funds for travel to the FACTOR 2028 conference.
- **Six months after the grant start date:**
 - a. Recipients are required to submit a progress report outlining progress toward project aims, along with a budget report. At the discretion of MIB Agents, recipients may also be asked to host an on-site lab visit and check in with MIB Agents representatives. For co-branded grants, a separate one-hour Zoom update will be scheduled with the funding partner.
- **One month after the grant end date:**
 - a. Recipients must submit a progress report detailing progress toward project aims. The final budget report is due two months after the grant end date. Results from studies funded through the OutSmarting Osteosarcoma grant must be made publicly available regardless of outcome and will be shared with the community via the MIB Agents website. For co-branded grants, a one-hour update will also be scheduled on Zoom with the funder.
- **Post-award:**
 - a. Recipients will also be asked to submit a brief annual report each year to help us track funding impact.
 - b. To help share findings with the broader community, the PI is required to present a summary of outcomes on the MIB Agents OsteoBites series.
 - c. Any resulting materials (including publications, presentations, posters, press releases, website content, interviews, abstracts, and articles) featuring results of the study funded by a MIB Agents OutSmarting Osteosarcoma grant should acknowledge MIB Agents. Please share copies with kat@mibagents.org.

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RESOURCE SHARING PLAN

MIB Agents is dedicated to encouraging collaboration among our community of patients, caregivers, doctors, and researchers. To that end, we require a resource-sharing plan included in the application.

- **Please describe the data generated by your research**, how it will be FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable), and your plan for sharing and dissemination.
- **Please describe how the data will be shared** both during and after the award. Discuss any intellectual property considerations and how they will be addressed. For any algorithms or tools developed, please discuss what software license will be leveraged and why.
- **Awardees are required to place data into a publicly accessible repository** (e.g., dbGaP for genomics, cBioPortal, Osteosarcoma Explorer). We highly encourage that the study data be submitted to the following directories and repositories:
 - **Directory:** [The Childhood Cancer Data Initiative \(CCDI\) Data Catalog](#)
 - **Data Repository:** A data repository relevant to the type of data generated, that is publicly accessible, such as one of the [repositories included in the CCDI](#). (e.g., dbGaP for genomics, cBioPortal, [The Osteosarcoma Explorer](#))
- Finally, please describe your plan to **share your research findings** with the wider scientific community.

PAYMENT

- **Allowable Costs**
 - a. Travel to **FACTOR 2028** (up to \$1,000 for travel expenses)
 - b. Fringe up to 30% of salary requested
 - c. Publication and meeting-related printing costs
- **Unallowable Costs**
 - a. Equipment purchases not included in the original budget
 - b. The formation of a new organization
 - c. Planning stages of research
 - d. Overhead or indirect costs
 - e. Secretarial/administrative salaries
 - f. Student tuition
 - g. Office and laboratory furniture
 - h. Office equipment and supplies
 - i. Recruiting and relocation expenses
 - j. Non-medical services to patients
 - k. Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
 - l. Professional association membership dues
 - m. Scientific publication subscriptions

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PAYMENT (CONT)

- **Payment Schedule**

Funds are distributed at 3 milestones:

1. **50%** upon signing of the agreement
 2. **40%** after the project progress report and budget report are submitted, six months after the grant start date
 3. **10%** after the project final report and budget report are submitted, two months after the grant end date
- **If work is not completed within the 12-month award period**, then unused funds must be returned to MIB Agents unless a no-cost extension has been granted.
 - **If the project has not been initiated within three months** of the award start date, the full award amount must be returned to MIB Agents, unless a written explanation of the delay is submitted and approved by MIB Agents at least two weeks before the three-month milestone. A no-cost extension is only required if the delay impacts the study's end date.
 - **No-cost extensions** may be considered with a written request at minimum **60 days** before the original end date.
 - **Funds are non-transferable**
 - a. Unused and remaining funds must be returned to MIB at the end of the grant year.
 - b. If a Principal Investigator (PI) terminates their position or transfers to another institution during the grant period, the grant will be terminated, and all unspent funds must be returned to MIB Agents. However, the PI may submit a written request to transfer the grant to the new institution. Transfers are subject to written approval by MIB Agents and require a final financial report from the original institution. The new institution must also submit a proposed budget for review and approval before any funds are transferred and the project can resume.

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LOI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Letters of Intent (LOI) must be submitted online at [ProposalCentral](#), an electronic grant submission system.

- **If you are a first-time user in ProposalCentral**, click the link “Need an account?” and complete the registration process.
- **If you are already registered** in ProposalCentral, access the site and log in with your User ID or email address. If you have forgotten your password, click on “Forgot your password?”
- **Once you are logged in** to Proposal Central, search for MIB Agents under Grant Opportunities.

For the LOI submission, there are 12 sections to complete in Proposal Central. For text boxes, ProposalCentral character limits include spaces.

- Section 1: Title page
- Section 2: Download templates and instructions
- Section 3: Enable other users to access this proposal
- Section 4: Applicant/PI
- Section 5: Institution
- Section 6: Key Personnel
- Section 7: Project Summary
- Section 8: Required and Optional Attachments
- Section 9: PI Data Sheet
- Section 10 Validate
- Section 11: Esignature
- Section 12: Submit

For the LOI submission, required and optional attachments can be uploaded in Section 8 in Proposal Central. For attachments, please use Arial font, 11 point, with a minimum 0.75” margin on all sides. Please submit uploads as PDFs.

- **Required:** Bibliography
- **Required:** Biographical Sketch Common Form
- **Required for Y1 applications:** Mentor Biosketch (Common Form)
- **Required for Y1 applications:** Mentor Letter of Recommendation
- **Optional:** One page maximum for figures/graphs
- **Optional:** Letters of Support from a pharmaceutical company

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FULL APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted online at [ProposalCentral](#), an electronic grant submission system.

For text boxes, ProposalCentral character limits include spaces. Note that any information provided in the LOI stage will be pre-populated in the full application, and the applicant may modify responses in the full application. **Denotes sections that are NOT in the LOI submission.*

- Title page
- Download templates and instructions
- Enable other users to access this proposal
- Applicant/PI
- Institution and Contacts
- Key Personnel
- Project Summary
- *Scientific Abstract
- *Budget Period Detail
- *Budget Summary
- *Resource Sharing Plan
- *Organizational Assurances
- Required and Optional Attachments
- PI Data Sheet
- Validate
- Esignature
- Submit

For the Full Application submission, required and optional attachments can be uploaded in the *Required and Optional Attachments* section in Proposal Central. For attachments, please use Arial font, 11 point, with a minimum 0.75" margin on all sides. Please include a header at the top of each page - PI full name, Institution, and Project Title. Please submit uploads as PDFs.

- **Required:** Scientific Abstract (5pp total max - Max 3pp of text; Max 2pp of images)
- **Required:** Bibliography
- **Required:** Biographical Sketch Common Form
- **Required:** Institution completed W9 form
- **Required:** Institution IRS Letter of Determination
- **Required** for YI applications: Mentor Biosketch (Common Form)
- **Required** for YI applications: Mentor Letter of Recommendation
- **Optional:** Letters of Support (Pharma)

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TIMELINE

LOI Submission Opens	September 9, 2026
Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Deadline Electronic Submission via ProposalCentral	October 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET
LOI Applicants Notified	Early December 2026
Full Application Deadline Electronic Submission via ProposalCentral	January 25, 2027 by 11:59 pm ET
Award Notification	Early May 2027
Grant Period	July 1, 2027 - June 30, 2028

CALENDAR VIEW

Sep 2026 LOI Submission Opens September 9, 2026	Oct 2026 Letter of Intent (LOI) Submission Deadline Electronic Submission via ProposalCentral October 16, 2026 by 11:59 pm ET	Nov 2026	Dec 2026 LOI Applicants Notified Early December 2026
Jan 2027 Full Application Deadline Electronic Submission via ProposalCentral January 25, 2027 by 11:59 pm ET	Feb 2027	Mar 2027	Apr 2027
May 2027 Award Notification Early May 2027	Jun 2027	Jul 2027 Grant Period July 1, 2027 thru June 30, 2028	Aug 2027

CONTACT / QUESTIONS

Grant Questions? For MIB Agents OutSmarting Osteosarcoma grant program questions, please contact **Kat Azima** at kat@mibagents.org.

Technical questions regarding the online submission process, please contact **ProposalCentral** Customer Service at **(800) 875-2562** or via email at pcsupport@altum.com, during business hours, Monday–Friday, 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (Eastern Time). There is no technical support available on weekends or holidays You can also access Proposal Central's [FAQ help page](#).