



OSTEOSARCOMA INSTITUTE

concentrating on the cure®

2026-2027 Grant Cycle Application Instructions

Letter of Intent Due: Thursday, September 10, 2026 (by 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time)

Full Proposal Due: Friday, March 5, 2027 (by 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time)

Submit via ProposalCentral:

<https://proposalcentral.com>

Recommended Browsers: Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox

For additional questions or information, please email:

submissions@osinst.org

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THE OSTEOSARCOMA INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

MISSION

To dramatically increase treatment options and survival rates in osteosarcoma (OS) patients through identifying and funding the most promising and breakthrough OS clinical trials and science.

HISTORY

The Osteosarcoma Institute (OSI) was established in 2017 with the goal of improving the outcomes of patients with OS. It was envisioned by the What Would Willie Want (QuadW) Foundation, which was created in 2005 to honor the memory of Willie Tichenor, who lost his life to OS at age 19. QuadW convened a conference in 2015 to challenge experts in OS research to expedite work that could improve outcomes. This meeting led to the formation of OSI, with a foundational grant from QuadW.

GRANT STRATEGY

OSI is a science-driven organization whose strategy is guided by its active and engaged Strategic Advisory Board (SAB) of preeminent physicians and other researchers from academia and industry. In pursuit of its mission, OSI employs a multi-faceted strategy in which grant funding plays an important role. Four main grant programs guide OSI's funding strategy and focus: (1) Clinical Trials, (2) Correlative Science, (3) Preclinical/Translational, and (4) High-Risk/High-Impact. OSI strives to provide both immediate hope to patients through clinical trials and long-term hope through earlier-stage translation of scientific ideas that have the potential to result in a new treatment. Our correlative science grants are designed to answer critical questions that are too often ignored during clinical trials due to lack of funds, such as: Is the drug under study having the biological effect in patients that it was hypothesized to have based on preclinical data? If not, why not? With this information, even a failed clinical trial can point the way to an advance. Our fourth category, High-Risk/High-Impact grants, exists to enable the study of novel, untested but intriguing ideas that would otherwise be rejected by the customary, risk-averse criteria of grant proposal evaluation. The objective of all our preclinical grants is to identify and advance scientific ideas toward the clinic.

Today, OSI has committed \$11.8 million toward a comprehensive portfolio of 29 funded studies. We maintain a high level of involvement and accountability with our grantees through regular and rigorous progress reporting.

UPDATED 2026 SCIENTIFIC STRATEGY

OSI is committed to funding research that will improve our understanding of OS biology and advance new ideas towards therapeutic value for patients. We have sharpened our scientific strategy to respond to new discoveries and opportunities. As part of this refreshed scientific strategy, OSI seeks to fund research in the following high-priority therapeutic areas:

MINIMAL RESIDUAL DISEASE (MRD) AND METASTATIC PROGRESSION. The presence of MRD following resection of all measurable lesions is widely believed to drive metastatic recurrence in OS patients. Advancing the science to better define, detect, and therapeutically target MRD and the process of metastatic progression in OS patients is considered essential to OSI's mission.

DNA DAMAGE RESPONSE (DDR). Based on the uniquely complex and chaotic genomes of OS cells, targeting DDR pathways is believed to be a promising approach in OS.

- We seek innovations to help understand how cells with such chaotic genomes survive cell division and to use this new knowledge to define therapeutic dependencies related to this complex genome.
- OSI has supported a [clinical trial](#) evaluating combinations of conventional DDR inhibitors. Early results support further investment, particularly to determine whether specific disease subgroups demonstrate enhanced sensitivity to specific DDR inhibitors, and to better characterize mechanisms of action and resistance of DDR inhibitors in the context of OS.
- We seek new knowledge on the importance and targeting of transcriptional stress and the common finding of activation of the alternative lengthening of telomeres (ALT) pathway in OS.

MULTI-TARGETED TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS (mTKIs). The development and clinical use of mTKIs have been encouraging, and the hints of activity create a clear need to better understand the mechanisms underlying their therapeutic effects and to explain the sporadic OS exceptional responders.

IMMUNOTHERAPY. **OSI will NOT consider immunotherapy LOIs for the 2026-2027 Grant Cycle. Projects related to antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) are not necessarily categorized as immunotherapy.** OSI recognizes the importance of cancer immunotherapy and the need to more effectively utilize existing and novel immunotherapy approaches in OS patients. This recognition has motivated OSI to undertake a focused strategic analysis of immunotherapy in OS. Until this strategic analysis is complete, we will not accept immunotherapy submissions. If you have an immunotherapy project that addresses a critical unmet need in OS research, please contact OSI directly.

GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

CLINICAL TRIALS

SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

The primary objective of proposed Phase I/II or Phase II clinical trials in relapsed/refractory OS should be to improve event free survival (EFS) beyond known historical rates. The proposed trial may be carried out in a single institution, a clinical trial consortium, or through an existing clinical trial infrastructure. OSI will not prioritize the launch of new infrastructures to conduct clinical trials. Specific timetables for protocol development, regulatory approvals, industry agreements, IRB approvals, activation, accrual, and reporting are required. We will consider the applicant's history of efficiently entering agreements, opening trials, and meeting accrual expectations for trials of relapsed OS patients. Our expectation is that results will be available within three years of trial initiation. Other desirable characteristics for proposals include:

- Answering an important question
- Strong preclinical rationale
- Rigorous trial design and correlative endpoints to allow for productive failure
- Budget reasonableness (per patient and total)
- Leverage from concurrent financial support of the trial (e.g., direct institutional support, industry and/or philanthropic support, securing drug, etc.)

BUDGET

Up to \$800,000 total over two to three years (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs).

CORRELATIVE SCIENCE

SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

Correlative studies should seek to generate data from clinical trials aimed at improving EFS of recurrent and metastatic OS patients. Our highest priorities for correlative science proposals are 1) to create the opportunity, should the associated clinical trial fail, to understand the reasons for that failure and allow for productive iteration of the approach; and 2) to identify specific predictors of response. Proposals may include hypothesis testing and/or exploratory, hypothesis generating elements, but all proposals must include/prioritize the following:

- The generation of new biology data associated with a clinical trial that will improve our understanding of OS metastasis and/or accelerate the launch of future clinical or translational OS studies.
- Power analyses demonstrating the number of samples from patients needed to answer each correlative question proposed, and the rationale for asserting that the required samples will be obtained.
- Preliminary data demonstrating technical ability to apply desired technology for biological analysis to relevant OS biospecimens.

BUDGET

From \$200,000 – \$500,000 total over two years (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs).

GRANT PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS (CONTINUED)

PRECLINICAL/TRANSLATIONAL

SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

A translational imperative for OSI is to cultivate and support a research agenda that will identify biological dependencies in the disease that can be targeted in patients with a focus on the above-described therapeutic area priorities. Proposals that include some or all the following features will be prioritized: the use of novel laboratory approaches and bioinformatic tools applied to OS cells and a diversity of in vivo models across species and human patient samples. We value both projects designed to enable new clinical studies and foundational research studies that will identify the desired biological dependencies/targets.

BUDGET

Up to \$500,000 total over two years (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs).

HIGH-RISK/HIGH-IMPACT

SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

OSI believes that grantmaking involves balancing the potential impact of a successful research project with the risk of experimental failure. Risk mitigation is traditionally accomplished during the research proposal review process in several ways, usually including heavily weighing preliminary data. While the historical balance point has proven broadly effective and successful, the lack of progress in OS suggests that alternatives should be considered. The aim of this grant program is to place less emphasis on preliminary data to encourage projects exploring bold innovations that may fall within any stage of the drug development path, and that seek to deliver curative outcomes to patients with OS. Proposals of high value will be based on innovation and sound scientific hypothesis, and the likelihood that the approach will expand our understanding of OS biology, rather than a narrower focus on testing the potential therapeutic activity of a novel therapeutic approach.

Criteria for this High-Risk/High-Impact (HRHI) OS drug development research are:

- Bold ideas that will generate evidence of success or failure within 12 months.
- A new research direction rather than a continuation of ongoing funded research.
- While preliminary data are not required, the applicant must demonstrate feasibility of a persuasive research plan.
- Rigorous, quarterly interactive grant progress reviews to guide ongoing direction and distribution of research support.

A successful HRHI grant proposal must have one or more of the following characteristics:

- A proposal that, upon successful conclusion of the project, may mature into a successful submission for a traditional OSI grant or launch a translational development plan with investigators, institutions, or commercial biopharma companies.
- An existing relationship that makes the development of a therapeutic asset in biopharma feasible.

BUDGET

From \$25,000 – \$125,000 total over one year (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs).

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAMS

GRANT PROCESS OVERVIEW

OSI utilizes a two-stage grant process. In late summer of each year, we issue a call for LOI submissions. Before the end of the year, we convene expert review committees to evaluate the LOIs and select finalists who progress to the second stage and are invited to submit full proposals in the spring. The full proposals are evaluated, and grants will be awarded in June 2027.

We do not limit our work by geography or primary institutions. Instead, we invite the brightest minds in the field to apply for funding for research studies and revolutionary trials of unexplored aspects of OS. We are committed to providing meaningful reviewer feedback to help investigators strengthen future applications. Applicants invited to submit a full proposal will receive feedback on their LOI. Those who submit a full proposal will also receive detailed reviewer feedback following the full proposal review process.

APPLICATION DEADLINES AND REVIEW TIMELINES

Letter of Intent Deadline	Thursday, September 10, 2026 (by 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
Letter of Intent Decision	December 2026
Full Grant Submission Deadline	Friday, March 5, 2027 (by 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
Funding Decisions Sent to Applicants	June 2027

Note: While OSI's annual Grant Cycle is our primary funding mechanism, we recognize that important scientific opportunities do not always align with the annual application timeline. Off-Cycle Grants provide investigators with an opportunity to request consideration for projects involving exceptional scientific opportunities that cannot reasonably wait until the next annual Grant Cycle. Please visit OSI's website [here](#) for more information on off-cycle grant programs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (MUST BE MET AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION)

- Funds must be granted to nonprofit/charitable institutions or organizations. While we allow for any individual institution to submit multiple LOI submissions, we are unlikely to fund more than one grant per institution in any grant cycle.
- Grantee organization does not need to be based in the United States.
 - However, to fund a foreign entity, OSI requires documentation that if the entity were a United States-based organization, the entity would qualify as a charitable organization. This is usually straightforward when dealing with entities in countries with a tax regime similar to the U.S. by way of a government-issued letter or other document designating the entity as a charitable institution or as performing a charitable purpose (for example, research or education). It might also be a determination from the relevant taxing authority that the entity qualifies for tax-deductible contributions.
- Applicants need not be United States citizens.
- Applicants must have an MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent and be appointed as faculty (or equivalent) at an academic institution.
- Applicants must have a track record of publication and funding productivity that demonstrates the project can be accomplished by the investigators.
- Research projects may be an extension of ongoing research but cannot overlap with any funded studies unless the applicant clearly demonstrates that new funding will not duplicate existing support.
- Applicants can submit only one LOI.

GRANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

- Applicants selected for funding will permit OSI to publicize the grant for fundraising purposes, including, but not limited to a five-minute video discussing the research project, photos of lab, and photos of patients participating in clinical trials, where applicable.
- Applications that do not follow the specific grant application instructions and/or submission process will not be considered.
- Applications received after the due date will not be considered.
- Applications which do not fall under [OSI's mission](#) will not be considered.
- **Resubmissions:** Only one resubmission of a previously reviewed application is permitted.

INDIRECT COSTS

Indirect costs cannot exceed 10% of the total direct costs AND budgets may not exceed the amounts stated above in the grant program descriptions **inclusive of indirect costs**. OSI adheres to the NIH salary cap for principal investigators.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

First time users must register as a new user in [ProposalCentral](#) to begin the application process. The recommended browsers for accessing the application are Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox. Only applicants who submit an LOI and are approved may submit a full proposal. The Applicant/PI will be notified via email if the LOI is approved or rejected. If approved, the PI will then have access to the full proposal in ProposalCentral. The PI who submits the LOI should be the same PI that submits the full proposal.

To locate OSI Grant Programs, select the “Grant Opportunities” tab and enter “Osteosarcoma Institute” in the search box. The application form is available by clicking “Apply Now” on the appropriate line for the following grant programs:

- Clinical Trials Grant Program
- Correlative Science Grant Program
- Preclinical/Translational Grant Program
- High-Risk/High-Impact Grant Program

Note: Access can be granted to other users by using the “Enable other users to access this proposal” link.

FORMATTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTACHMENTS

- Calibri or Times New Roman Font (minimum 11-point font for text and no smaller than 9-point font for figures, legends, and tables).
- Single-spaced text is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.
- In the Project Description, pages must be numbered consecutively.
- 0.75-inch minimum margin.
- Only PDF files are accepted.

CONTACTS

- ProposalCentral Tech Support: pcsupport@altum.com / Phone: 800.875.2562
- The Osteosarcoma Institute: submissions@osinst.org

SUMMARY OF GRANT AGREEMENT TERMS

Agreement with the following is required to receive an OSI grant. Please ensure that you and your institution can accept these terms. This section is for informational purposes only; the grant will be governed by a formal written agreement negotiated between the grantee and OSI, which will be the controlling, authoritative document.

GENERAL

Customary organizational assurances from the lead institution regarding such matters as, where applicable, adherence to GLP, compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and applicable chapters of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, subcontracting including the requirement that subcontractors comply with the terms of the grant agreement, and other matters as are typically covered in a research grant agreement.

We desire that the project work start as quickly as possible and are intent on an expeditious path to execution of the grant agreement with no unresolved contingencies. In negotiating the grant agreement, your institution must commit to assign persons with sufficient authority to avoid multi-level, multi-step approvals and meet the contract execution timelines. Any subcontracts must be fully executed before grant funding and must be reviewed and approved by OSI.

FUNDING SCHEDULE

Grant funding typically includes an initial, start-up payment for a portion of the full grant amount. The initial payment will be due only after grantee, in consultation with the PI, advises OSI that work on the project is ready to begin. Subsequent scheduled grant payments are subject to the receipt by OSI of scheduled deliverables demonstrating satisfactory progress toward the completion of the proposed research aims/objectives and/or expenditures consistent with the budget. Grants are not renewable; however, recipients may request **one** no-cost extension (NCE). Projects with a **one-year** term may request an NCE of up to 6 months. Projects with a **two or three-year term** may request an NCE of no more than one year. **NCE requests must be submitted at least 3 months before the project end date and include the work to be performed during the extension.**

REPORTING

The PI must submit scientific and financial progress reports throughout the project term in accordance with the reporting schedule established by OSI. Reporting requirements and deliverables will be finalized during the contracting process. Timely submission of all required deliverables is a condition of continued funding (if applicable) and is subject to OSI Executive Committee review and approval. At OSI's option, annual and end-of-project, in-person, or videoconference review of grant progress with members of OSI's scientific staff is required. OSI will reimburse reasonable travel and associated out-of-pocket costs incurred by the PI in connection with any in-person progress reviews.

Periodic updates, including but not limited to, email requests, phone calls, and video interviews, may be requested on occasion to support OSI's fundraising efforts, major donor engagement, and other operational needs. Customary confidentiality provisions will apply.

PUBLICATION AND PUBLICITY

Subject to reasonable and customary intellectual property considerations, PI will agree to publicize the results of the project at scientific conferences and use reasonable best efforts to have results published in a scientific journal. OSI's support of the project will be cited. The Principal Investigator will promptly advise OSI of all such activity. Grantee will permit OSI to publicize the grant, including a synopsis of the project, identifying the PI and institution, and allowing the use, solely for this purpose, of grantee or its appropriate division's logo. OSI will abide by grantee's guidelines for such use.

GRANT PROGRAM-SPECIFIC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

CLINICAL TRIALS GRANT PROGRAM

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS

The LOI Project Description can be no more than 10 pages. **It is REQUIRED that you include all the sections below in this specific order for your LOI to be considered (pages must be numbered consecutively):**

1. Trial rationale and expected impact of a successful outcome
2. Hypothesis
3. Objectives (primary, secondary, and exploratory)
4. Endpoints (primary and secondary)
5. Key inclusion/exclusion criteria
6. Summary treatment plan with trial schema
7. Statistical Plan: expected sample size, sample size justification, analysis plan, interim monitoring for futility
8. Data handling and monitoring patient safety
9. Trial sites and labs
10. Description of correlative studies
11. Timeline from grant award to reporting of results: please provide specific timetables for protocol development, regulatory approvals, industry agreements, IRB approvals, activation, accrual, time on study, analysis, and reporting.
12. Budget summary by project year (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs)
13. Summary of other anticipated support (Institutional/Philanthropic/Industry/Other)
14. References Cited

In addition to the above, applicants are required to complete the following sections in ProposalCentral:

- Title Page
- Download Templates & Instructions
- Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
- Applicant/PI
- Institution & Institutional Contacts
- Attachments
 - Biosketch – Applicant/PI (5-page maximum)
 - Project Description (to include all sections listed above in order; 10-page maximum)
- Sign/Print Application
- Validate
- Submit

GRANT PROGRAM-SPECIFIC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)

CLINICAL TRIALS GRANT PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

FULL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please be sure to address the comments provided to you by OSI from your LOI submission. Additionally, certain fields on the application in ProposalCentral are pre-populated from your LOI submission. You may leave these as-is, add to, or otherwise modify them.

The Project Description Template can be found on ProposalCentral. **It is REQUIRED that you include all the sections in this specific order for your full proposal to be considered (pages must be numbered consecutively).** If a section is not relevant, still include the section title and denote it as not applicable.

Applicants are also required to complete the following sections in ProposalCentral:

1. Title Page
2. Download Templates & Instructions
3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
4. Applicant/PI
5. Institution & Institutional Contacts
6. Letters of Support
7. Key Personnel
8. Collaborators
9. IRB/IND Approval
10. Intellectual Property
11. Patient Advocacy
12. Budget Period Detail
13. Budget Summary
14. Other Support for Research
15. Proposal Attachments
 - Biosketches (2 to 5 biosketches allowed per application; 5-page maximum per biosketch)
 - Budget Justification (2-page limit per institution)
 - Clinical Trial Project Description
 - Clinical Trial Project Timeline
 - Letters of Support (minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 letters are allowed)*
 - Protocol/White Paper
16. Sign/Print Application
17. Validate
18. Submit

***Additional guidance regarding Letters of Support:** Two Letters of Support are required. If there is only one institution involved and no other collaborators or companies, you could have two different people from your institution's leadership submit a Letter of Support. As far as who should write the letters, that is at the PI's discretion and can be an individual in a leadership position at the institution. For instance, we often see applications with Letters of Support from the PI's department head and/or a dean, assistant dean, director, etc.

GRANT PROGRAM-SPECIFIC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)

CORRELATIVE SCIENCE · PRECLINICAL/TRANSLATIONAL · HIGH-RISK/HIGH-IMPACT

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) INSTRUCTIONS

The LOI Project Description can be no more than 5 pages. **It is REQUIRED that you include all the sections below in this specific order for your LOI to be considered (pages must be numbered consecutively):**

1. Project rationale and expected impact of a successful outcome
2. Hypothesis
3. Specific aims
4. Statistical plan
5. Research strategy (including protocol/s)
6. Budget summary by project year (inclusive of indirect costs not to exceed 10% of the total direct costs)
7. Summary of other anticipated support (Institutional/Philanthropic/Industry/Other)
8. References Cited

In addition to the above, applicants are required to complete the following sections in ProposalCentral:

- Title Page
- Download Templates & Instructions
- Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
- Applicant/PI
- Institution & Institutional Contacts
- Attachments
 - Biosketch – Applicant/PI (5-page maximum)
 - Project Description (to include all sections listed above in order; 5-page maximum)
- Sign/Print Application
- Validate
- Submit

GRANT PROGRAM-SPECIFIC APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS (CONTINUED)

CORRELATIVE SCIENCE · PRECLINICAL/TRANSLATIONAL · HIGH-RISK/HIGH-IMPACT (CONTINUED)

FULL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Please be sure to address the comments provided to you by OSI from your LOI submission. Additionally, certain fields on the application are pre-populated from your LOI submission. You may leave these as-is, add to, or otherwise modify them.

The Project Description Template can be found on ProposalCentral. **It is REQUIRED that you include all the sections in this specific order for your full proposal to be considered (pages must be numbered consecutively).**

Applicants are also required to complete the following sections in ProposalCentral:

1. Title Page
2. Download Templates & Instructions
3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
4. Applicant/PI
5. Institution & Institutional Contacts
6. Letters of Support
7. Key Personnel
8. Lay Project Summary
9. Budget Period Detail
10. Budget Summary
11. Other Financial Support
12. Proposal Attachments
 - Biosketches (2 to 5 biosketches allowed per application; 5-page maximum per biosketch)
 - Budget Justification (2-page limit per institution)
 - Letters of Support (minimum of 2 and maximum of 5 letters are allowed)*
 - Project Description (Proposal)
 - References Cited
13. Sign/Print Application
14. Validate
15. Submit

***Additional guidance regarding Letters of Support:** Two Letters of Support are required. If there is only one institution involved and no other collaborators or companies, you could have two different people from your institution's leadership submit a Letter of Support. As far as who should write the letters, that is at the PI's discretion and can be an individual in a leadership position at the institution. For instance, we often see applications with Letters of Support from the PI's department head and/or a dean, assistant dean, director, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

2026-2027 GRANT CYCLE

<https://osinst.org/researchers/#grants>

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

<https://osinst.org/researchers/#sign-up>

Sign up as “doctor/researcher” to receive information on our annual grant cycle.

RESEARCHER RESOURCES

<https://osinst.org/researchers/>

THE FRONTLINE BLOG

<https://osinst.org/blog/>