

## GRANT AWARD GUIDELINES

The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health (JRF) is requesting proposals for the 2024-2025 Thoracic Aortic Research Impact Grants, one-year grants of up to \$100,000 per year. These grants are designed to provide financial support for investigators studying thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections. Grants will be determined based on a comprehensive proposal evaluation and milestone review by The John Ritter Foundation Grants Advisory Committee, with final approval from the JRF Board of Directors.

The objective of this grant is to fund projects that have the potential to make significant impact on clinical care and quality of life for people with or at risk for thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissection. Research projects may address diagnosis, treatment, management of disease, or the pathophysiology of thoracic aortic disease using clinical (observational/interventional), translational, or epidemiologic study approaches.

Areas of interest include but are not limited to physician and other clinician education, non-syndromic genetic aortic disease, postmortem intervention, early identification of genetic aortic disease, and cascade screening in genetic aortic disease.

### Schedule

Applications due: July 15, 2025

Award announcement: August 15, 2025

Funding available: August 20, 2025

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### Contact

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**A. Introduction**

The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health (JRF) provides funds to support research related to thoracic aortic aneurysms and dissections. Funding for most investigator-initiated research awards is a tier two process.

**B. Proposals solicited**

Specific areas of interest include but are not limited to physician and other clinician education, non-syndromic genetic aortic disease, postmortem interventions, early identification of genetic aortic disease, and cascade screening in genetic aortic disease. The objective of this grant is to fund projects that have the potential to make significant impact on clinical care for people with or at risk for thoracic aortic disease. Contact us in advance of your application if your proposal falls outside of these priorities or focuses on a specific subpopulation.

**C. Budget**

Applicants may request funding of up to \$100,000 per year. Indirect costs are limited to 10%. Prior approval is required for changes in percent effort of key personnel. Any unexpended funds shall be returned to the JRF upon completion of the grant period unless extension is approved by The JRF.

1. Salaries & Benefits: Names, positions, and percent effort of all professional and non-professional personnel involved in the project, whether or not salaries are requested. In accordance with The National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy, salary requests may not use an institutional base salary in excess of the current federal salary cap (FY2024) of \$221,900.
2. Travel: Include any travel related to the proposed project. Travel expenses should not exceed \$2000 per year. Additional travel related expenses may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Registration fees associated with conferences should be listed under "Other Expenses."
3. Major equipment: List all requested items of equipment greater than \$5000.
4. Patient Research Costs.
5. Other Expenses.

**D. Duration**

The one-year funding period begins August 31, 2025, and ends August 31, 2026.

**E. Qualifications of the principal investigator (PI)**

The PI should be graduate level trained in an appropriate field. The JRF encourages early-stage investigators to collaborate with senior investigators with experience in the field of thoracic aortic disease.

**F. Review Process**

Proposals will be reviewed based on their merit and strength. Applications will be reviewed for completeness and relevance by JRF staff. The JRF Grants Advisory Committee will review and score project proposals based on impact and feasibility. The final decision to fund a project is at the discretion of the Board of Directors for The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health.

**G. Diversity and Inclusion**

Aortic disease affects people of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. The JRF is committed to ensuring funded research is designed to make a meaningful difference in the lives of all people with aortic disease. We strongly encourage proposals to address the inclusion of diverse participants.

**H. Changes of Status of PI**

If the PI changes institutions, the award will follow only after approval of transfer by The John Ritter Foundation. If the PI ceases research, the award will terminate, and the remaining balance will be returned to The John Ritter Foundation.

**I. Publications**

All discoveries resulting from work supported in part by The John Ritter Foundation should be made available to the public and scientific community through approved scientific channels. Publications will acknowledge the support of The John Ritter Foundation for Aortic Health. A PDF of each publication must be shared with The John Ritter Foundation at the time of publication.

## RESEARCH GRANT AWARD PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

### Application process

All applications must be saved in a PDF format with the following file title: *PI last name\_PI first name\_JRF2025*. Email the completed application to [info@johnritterfoundation.org](mailto:info@johnritterfoundation.org).

- Completed grant application cover sheet (page 5)
- Current Curriculum Vitae for PI
- Project abstract
- Lay narrative
- Research plan (no word limit)
- Budget and justification (no word limit)

### Project abstract (1 page limit)

Briefly describe the aims, methods, and anticipated impact of the proposed research. The description should address how the project fits within the scope of JRF funding priorities.

### Lay narrative (1 page limit)

Provide an abstract in language suitable for presentation to laypersons.

### RESEARCH PLAN (10 page limit)

Include Objectives; Rationale; Methodology; Evaluation. Please comment on the significance of the research you propose for the community of patients with or at risk for thoracic aortic disease. Provide a proposed timeline based on expected milestones that will be accomplished for each specific aim. Include a discussion of potential difficulties and/or limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve aims.

### Budget and justification (no limit)

List full budget with amount requested. Budget should include names, titles, time/percentage effort of all participants, requested salaries and fringe benefits, and supplies needed. Overhead costs are limited to 10%.

**2025 grant application cover sheet**

<b>TITLE OF PROJECT</b>			
<b>Total funding solicited</b>			
<b>PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR</b>			
Name		Degrees(s)	
Institution		Department	
Mailing address		City	State      Zip code
Phone number		Email	

<b>CO-INVESTIGATORS</b>	
Name & Degree(s)	Affiliation