



**Gorlin Syndrome Alliance
Cure Accelerator Grant 2026**

Request for Proposals

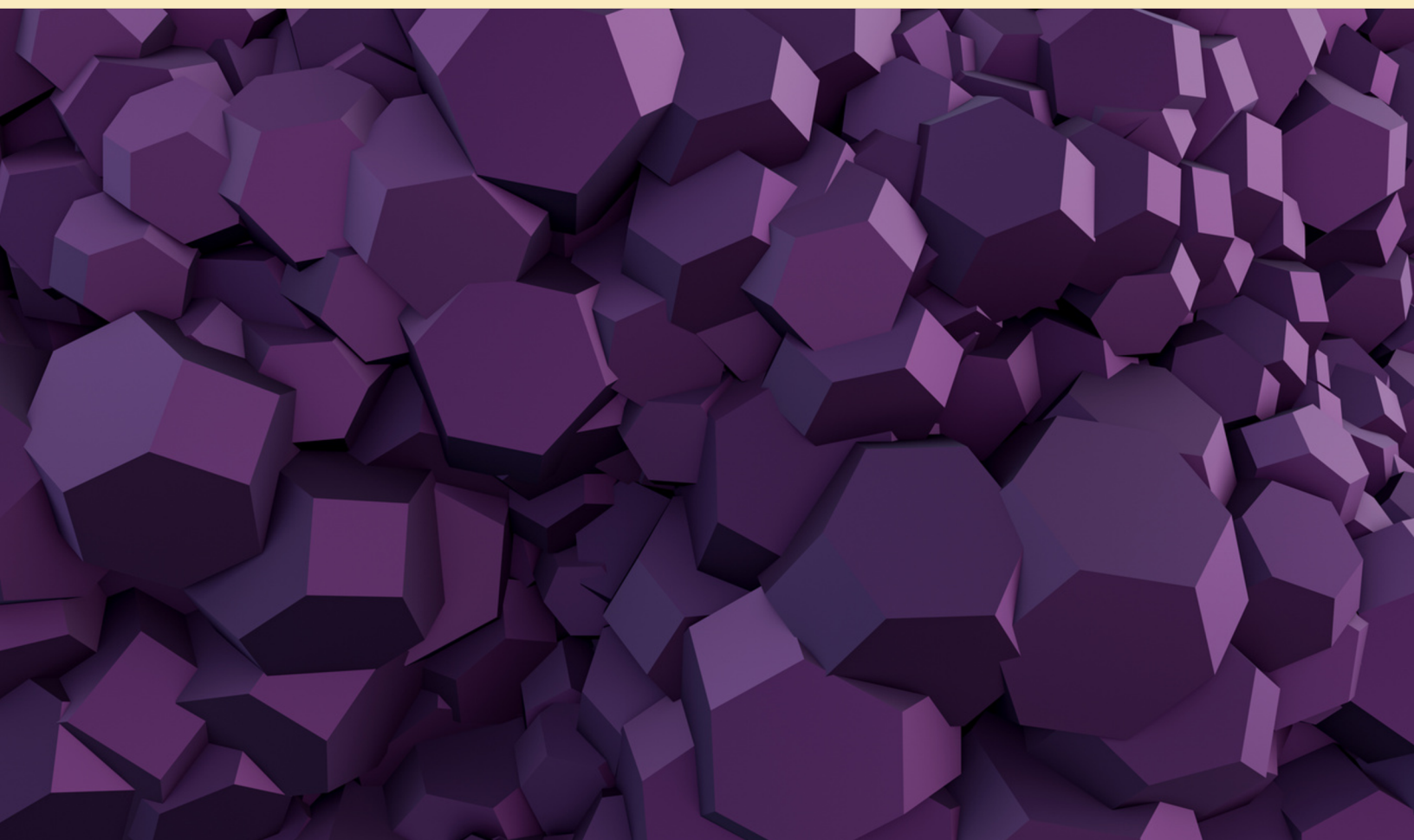


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Research Overview

The Gorlin Syndrome Alliance (GSA) is committed to accelerating research that improves the lives of individuals and families affected by Gorlin syndrome and moves the field closer to a cure. Gorlin syndrome, also known as nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome, is a rare genetic disorder most commonly caused by pathogenic variants in PTCH1 and associated with lifelong risk of basal cell carcinomas (BCCs), odontogenic keratocysts (OKCs), skeletal findings, and other multisystem manifestations.

Despite important advances in understanding the hedgehog signaling pathway and the genetic basis of Gorlin syndrome, major gaps remain in prevention, early intervention, treatment, disease monitoring, patient-centered outcomes, and therapeutic development. Individuals with Gorlin syndrome often face a substantial lifelong burden of procedures, scarring, pain, surveillance, and uncertainty. New approaches are needed to reduce this burden and advance the long-term goal of cure.

For the purposes of this grant, GSA defines progress toward cure in practical and patient-centered terms. **Preventing, intercepting, delaying, or substantially reducing the development and burden of new BCCs and OKCs represents a meaningful and transformative outcome for the Gorlin syndrome community.** While the ultimate goal remains the elimination of all disease manifestations, GSA recognizes that significant reductions in disease burden, procedural burden, and patient anxiety may represent important milestones on the path toward a cure.

This definition serves as a guiding framework for GSA's research priorities and emphasizes strategies that can prevent disease, modify disease progression, reduce the need for repeated procedures, and improve long-term quality of life.



The GSA Cure Accelerator Grant is designed to support innovative research that advances the knowledge, tools, treatments, and infrastructure needed to move Gorlin syndrome research toward disease modification and cure.

Research Overview (continued)

Proposals may use basic, translational, clinical, computational, population health, or other approaches. Applications focused on therapeutic development, prevention, interception, natural history, clinical and genetic data resources, biomarker development, or clinical trial readiness are all responsive to this funding opportunity.

The GSA is not requesting applications in specific topic areas for this funding cycle; rather, applicants are encouraged to propose high-impact studies that meaningfully advance the field toward prevention, disease modification, improved treatment, or cure.

The GSA Cure Accelerator Grant will provide funding of up to **\$100,000** over a one-year project period. **Applications are due October 1 at 11:59 PM ET.**

The award is intended to support research that has the potential to accelerate progress toward a cure for Gorlin syndrome. Projects may be translational, clinical, computational, or infrastructure-building in nature. Applications should include preliminary data or other supporting evidence that demonstrates a strong scientific foundation and feasibility for the proposed work.

Applicants must clearly explain how the proposed project will advance Gorlin syndrome research and contribute to progress toward prevention, disease interception, disease modification, improved treatment, clinical trial readiness, or cure.

Award Description

Key Details

- Up to \$100,000 in direct costs
- One-year project period
- Applications due October 1 at 11:59 PM ET
- Translational, clinical, or computational
- Preliminary data encouraged
- Infrastructure-building eligible
- No indirect costs allowed
- Strong scientific foundation required
- Cure-directed research focus

Eligibility and Requirements

Applicants must hold an advanced doctoral or equivalent professional degree and have the training, institutional appointment, and research environment necessary to lead the proposed project. Eligible degrees may include, but are not limited to, PhD, MD, DO, DDS, DMD, or equivalent.

Applicants must be affiliated with a nonprofit research organization, medical institution, educational institution, hospital, or other appropriate research setting.

Applications must focus on Gorlin syndrome or a closely related area with clear relevance to Gorlin syndrome biology, treatment, prevention, clinical care, or cure-directed research.

Applicants may propose basic science, translational research, clinical research, computational approaches, therapeutic development, natural history studies, biomarker discovery, patient-reported outcomes research, or other research relevant to the mission of the GSA.

Collaborative and multidisciplinary proposals are encouraged.

Applicants must demonstrate that the proposed work can be completed within the one-year award period or that the award will generate a clearly defined milestone, dataset, tool, model, or preliminary evidence to support future work.

The use of patient-derived samples, genetic data, disease models, clinical datasets, natural history data, or other relevant resources is encouraged when appropriate but is not required.

Proposed research must comply with all applicable institutional, federal, human subjects, animal welfare, biosafety, and data privacy requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to review GSA's Research Reinvestment and Commercialization Policy prior to submission.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by a panel selected by the GSA based on scientific, clinical, and/or patient advocacy expertise. Reviewers may include scientists, clinicians, patient advocates, and members of the Gorlin syndrome community, as appropriate.

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Scientific merit and rigor
- Relevance to Gorlin syndrome
- Potential to accelerate progress toward cure-directed research
- Innovation
- Feasibility within the one-year award period
- Qualifications of the investigative team
- Strength of the research environment
- Potential for future funding, translation, collaboration, or impact
- Clarity and accessibility of the lay abstract



Because the GSA is committed to patient-centered research, the lay abstract will be shared with a select lay reviewer panel.

Final funding decisions will be made by the GSA based on review scores, alignment with the GSA mission, available funds, and overall program priorities.

Applicants should ensure that the lay abstract clearly explains the purpose, importance, and potential impact of the proposed research in language understandable to non-scientists.

Award Administration and Reporting

The project period is one year.

Awardees will be required to sign an award agreement accepting GSA's terms and conditions, including the GSA Research Reinvestment and Commercialization Policy, before funds are released.

GSA anticipates distributing funds as a lump-sum payment following execution of the award agreement and receipt of any required institutional documentation.

Awardees will be required to submit a final scientific and financial report within 60 days of the end of the award period. The final scientific report should summarize the work completed, major findings, challenges encountered, publications or presentations, resources generated, and next steps.

Awardees will be required to submit a brief scientific update approximately midway through the award period.

Awardees are expected to acknowledge support from the Gorlin Syndrome Alliance in any publications, presentations, abstracts, posters, press releases, or other materials resulting from the funded work.

A no-cost extension may be considered with appropriate justification and written approval from the GSA.

Scientific Data Sharing

The GSA encourages the responsible sharing of data, tools, models, protocols, and other resources generated through GSA-funded research whenever possible and appropriate.

Applicants should include a brief Data and Resource Sharing Plan describing whether the project will generate data, specimens, models, code, analytic tools, protocols, or other resources, and how these may be shared with the broader research community.

For studies involving human participants, patient samples, genetic data, clinical data, or other sensitive information, all sharing must comply with applicable consent, privacy, institutional, and regulatory requirements.

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their work may contribute to future Gorlin syndrome research infrastructure in these areas:

KEY SHARING AREAS



Data:

Clinical datasets, genetic data, and patient-reported outcomes



Specimens:

Patient-derived samples and biobank contributions



Models:

Disease models, cell lines, and animal models



Code & Tools:

Analytic tools, software, and computational pipelines



Protocols:

Standardized methods and experimental procedures



Natural History:

Contributions to longitudinal disease understanding



Biomarkers:

Biomarker discovery and validation resources



Clinical Trials:

Clinical trial readiness infrastructure



Therapeutics:

Therapeutic discovery and development resources

Application Instructions

Applications should include the following components:

1. Title Page

The title page should include:

- Project title
- Principal Investigator name, degree, title, and institution
- Co-investigator names, if applicable
- Contact information
- Total amount requested
- Project period

2. Scientific Abstract

Applicants should provide a scientific abstract summarizing the objectives, rationale, methods, expected results, and significance of the proposed work.

Suggested length: up to 3,000 characters, including spaces.

3. Lay Abstract

Applicants must provide a lay abstract written for non-scientists, patients, families, advocates, and community reviewers.

Suggested length: up to 3,000 characters, including spaces.

The lay abstract should be written at approximately a 6th–8th grade reading level. Applicants should avoid jargon whenever possible. If scientific terms are necessary, they should be briefly explained in plain language.

The lay abstract should answer the following questions:

- What problem are you trying to solve?
- Why does this problem matter to people with Gorlin syndrome?
- What will you do in this study?
- What do you hope to learn?
- How could this work help move the field closer to better treatments, prevention, or a cure?

The lay abstract will be distributed to a select lay reviewer panel and may be used by the GSA in public-facing materials, including website content, newsletters, donor communications, and educational materials.

Application Instructions (continued)

4. Research Plan

The research plan should be concise and should include enough information for reviewers to evaluate the project.

Suggested length: up to 6 pages, not including references.

The research plan should include:

- Specific aims or project objectives
- Background, rationale, and significance
- Relevance to Gorlin syndrome and the GSA's cure-focused mission
- Preliminary data or prior work, if available
- Research design, methods, and analysis plan
- Expected outcomes and milestones
- Potential challenges and alternative approaches
- Future directions, including how the work may support future funding, collaboration, translation, or therapeutic development
- References

5. Budget and Budget Justification

Applicants may request up to \$100,000 in direct costs for a one-year project period.

The budget should be appropriate for the scope of work and may include personnel, supplies, sequencing or other core services, data analysis, patient engagement activities, publication costs, travel directly related to the project, or other justified research expenses.

Indirect costs are not allowed.

Major equipment purchases should be well justified.

The budget justification should briefly explain each major expense and how it supports completion of the proposed work.

6. Biosketches

A biosketch or abbreviated curriculum vitae should be provided for the Principal Investigator and key personnel.

NIH-style biosketches are acceptable.

Application Instructions (continued)

7. Other Support

Applicants should provide a brief list of active and pending research support relevant to the proposed project. Any scientific or budgetary overlap should be clearly described.

8. Institutional Letter of Support

A letter of institutional support is encouraged. The letter may come from a department chair, division chief, center director, mentor, or other institutional leader familiar with the applicant and research environment.

9. Regulatory Approvals

Applicants should indicate whether the proposed research involves human subjects, animal models, recombinant DNA, genetic data, patient samples, or other regulated materials. If IRB, IACUC, biosafety, data use, or other approvals are required, applicants should indicate whether approvals are already in place, pending, or will be obtained before the relevant work begins.

10. Data and Resource Sharing Plan

Applicants should provide a brief description of how data, tools, models, or other resources generated by the project will be managed and shared, when appropriate.

Review Criteria

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

Cure-Directed Impact

Does the applicant clearly explain how the proposed work moves the field closer to improved prevention, better treatments, reduced disease burden, clinical trial readiness, or cure?

Patient and Community Relevance

Is the potential impact on individuals and families affected by Gorlin syndrome clearly described? Is the lay abstract understandable, meaningful, and appropriate for community review?

Significance

Does the project address an important problem in Gorlin syndrome? Could the work meaningfully advance understanding, prevention, treatment, clinical care, research infrastructure, or cure-directed strategies?

Innovation

Does the project introduce a new idea, method, model, dataset, collaboration, technology, or approach? Does it have the potential to open new directions for the field?

Approach

Are the research design, methods, analysis plan, and milestones clear and appropriate? Can the proposed work be completed within one year?

Investigator and Team

Does the investigator or team have the expertise needed to complete the project? Are appropriate collaborators included?

Environment

Does the institutional or collaborative environment support successful completion of the work?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the amount and duration of the award?

The GSA Cure Accelerator Grant provides up to \$100,000 over one year.

What is the application deadline?

Applications are due October 1 at 11:59 PM ET.

Does the project need to focus on a specific topic area?

No. The GSA is not requesting proposals in specific topic areas for this funding cycle. Applicants are encouraged to propose the strongest research idea that advances the GSA's mission of accelerating progress toward a cure for Gorlin syndrome.

Are clinical, translational, basic science, computational, or patient-centered studies eligible?

Yes. The GSA welcomes a broad range of research approaches, provided that the proposal is clearly relevant to Gorlin syndrome and the goal of advancing prevention, treatment, research infrastructure, or cure-directed work.

Is preliminary data required?

Preliminary data are encouraged but not required. Applicants should provide enough rationale to support the feasibility and importance of the proposed work.

Will patients or lay reviewers review the application?

The lay abstract will be shared with a select lay reviewer panel. Applicants should ensure that the lay abstract is written in plain language and clearly explains why the project matters to people affected by Gorlin syndrome.

Are indirect costs allowed?

Indirect costs are not allowed.

Can the award support pilot studies?

Yes. Pilot studies are eligible if they have a clear rationale and potential to generate data, tools, or collaborations that advance future Gorlin syndrome research.

Who should applicants contact with questions?

Questions about the GSA Cure Accelerator Grant should be directed to research@gorlinsyndrome.org.

Does GSA claim ownership of intellectual property?

No. Intellectual property remains with the recipient institution. GSA's Research Reinvestment and Commercialization Policy describes the circumstances under which recipient institutions will make a modest Research Reinvestment Contribution to support future Gorlin syndrome research.

Looking Ahead

The GSA Cure Accelerator Grant represents our commitment to accelerating research that improves the lives of individuals and families affected by Gorlin syndrome.

We invite investigators from all relevant disciplines to propose innovative, high-impact research that advances the field toward prevention, disease modification, improved treatment, or cure.

Applications are due October 1 at 11:59 PM ET.

Questions should be directed to research@gorlinsyndrome.org.

Together, we can build a future where Gorlin syndrome no longer defines the lives of those it touches.

Every advancement that prevents lesion formation, reduces procedures, improves quality of life, or lessens the burden of lifelong disease management represents meaningful success for individuals and families living with Gorlin syndrome.

By strategically investing in patient-centered research, therapeutic development, collaborative partnerships, and research infrastructure, the Gorlin Syndrome Alliance seeks to help build a future in which Gorlin syndrome can be managed more effectively and ultimately cured.

The path to a cure will be defined by the collective progress we make together.

www.gorlinsyndrome.org

