

## 2024 Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO)

### Request for Applications (RFA)

#### OVERVIEW

The Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO) will provide up to \$25 million USD in 2024 (the total budget planned over 5 years is \$115M USD) to fund projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience (no clinical trials). Hevolution envisions funding approximately 40-60 projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience in 2024. Projects are 4 to 5 years in length, and with a budget range of \$300-500k USD direct costs/year; Funding will be made available to independent investigators with labs in the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK.

Calls for other regions, including Asia and Latin America, will be announced at a later time.

The Letter of Intent (LOI) submission deadline for the 2024 program is **April 26, 2024**, and the expected award start date is **late 2024**.

#### THE PROGRAM

Based on the success of the 2023 HF-GRO effort, Hevolution Foundation is now re-issuing a call for applications for the 2024 iteration of the program. HF-GRO is an international effort to accelerate progress in healthy aging research. The major goal is to identify and support research that will further the Foundation's mission of "extending healthy lifespan for the benefit of all humanity".

The program provides support for research projects in the basic biology of aging, as well as projects that translate advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic (translational geroscience). The work should focus on strategies to improve healthy aging **by addressing basic principles of aging biology and geroscience**. Projects that deal strictly with clinical problems such as the diagnosis or treatment of disease, or the social context of aging are **not eligible**.

Therefore, this initiative will support research approaches that address:

- The maintenance and/or improvement of the mechanisms underlying aging.
- How this might improve health and delay/improve the outcome of age-related diseases and conditions.

#### FUNDING RANGE

Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO) will provide up to \$25 million USD in 2024 (the total budget planned over 5 years: \$115M USD) to fund approximately 40-60 projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience in 2024.

Overhead/indirect costs of up to 25% of the total research cost of the grant are allowed but will also be commensurate with regional levels of government research project funding (see [FAQ](#) for more details).

Preference, both in length and funding level, will be given to projects that advance basic biology knowledge towards translation (geroscience). The final project length and budget will be decided by Hevolution Foundation, based on the likelihood of the project leading to improvements in healthy aging. Applicants will be notified after LOI review. Therefore, the table below should be used solely as a general reference.

**Aging Biology Budget (in US Dollars) up to 4 years total:**

Region	Direct Cost
Canada	\$ 300K/year
Europe & UK	\$ 300K/year
USA	\$ 400k/year

**Geroscience Budget (in US Dollars) up to 5 years total:**

Region	Direct Cost
Canada	\$ 400K/year
Europe & UK	\$ 400K/year
USA	\$ 500k/year

Final funding decisions will be made by Hevolution Foundation and will be non-appealable.

## ELIGIBILITY

**Eligibility criteria:**

- The proposed research project must be in the basic biology of aging or geroscience.
- Applicants must be based in the United States, Canada, Europe or the UK.
- Applicants must be independent academic investigators/group leaders (government-funded or non-profit institutions) with independent research space and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.
- Each applicant is allowed to submit only one project as Principal Investigator to the HF-GRO grant program, but participation in multiple applications as a Co-I or collaborator are acceptable.
- Multiple PIs, Co-Is, and collaborators are allowed if they also meet all previous criteria. However, the award will go to the primary institution, where a substantial proportion of the work (at least 50%) must be conducted, including appropriate oversight of all matters related to the grant (scientific, programmatic, and financial).
- Co-Is or collaborators on current (2023) HF-GRO grants are eligible.
- Investigators who received other funding (not HF-GRO) from Hevolution Foundation are eligible, provided they meet all the HF-GRO eligibility criteria.

**The HF-GRO initiative does not provide support for:**

- Research on age-related diseases without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging.
- Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes.
- Projects that focus on the behavioral social determinants of aging, without addressing the underlying biology.

- Projects that include clinical trials.
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution.

HF-GRO PIs who were funded in response to the 2023 HF-GRO RFA are not eligible to apply in 2024 as Principal Investigators or MPI.

For eligibility and administrative questions please contact us at [hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org)

### SELECTION CRITERIA:

The following criteria will be used to determine the merit of an application:

- Quality of the proposed research.
- Alignment of the research topic with [Hevolution's mission and goals](#).
- Innovation and creativity of the approach.
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant.
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed.

### APPLICATION PROCESS:

To simplify the application and review process, HF-GRO will use a 2-step approach, whereby applicants will:

1. Submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI).
2. Applicants whose ideas are deemed meritorious by a peer review panel will be notified and advised to submit a full proposal.

Please refer to the [LOI instructions document](#). All LOIs must be submitted to ProposalCentral (link is provided in the LOI instructions). Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

At both stages, LOIs and full proposal, applications will be reviewed by Selection Committees composed of international experts in aging biology and geroscience. Programmatic support will be provided by AFAR, but Hevolution Foundation will be solely responsible for funding and other decisions. Neither Hevolution Foundation nor AFAR will provide reviewer critiques to any applicants at any review level.

Click [here](#) for our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). If you are using rodents or human subjects in your research, please review these [guidelines](#).

## TIMELINE:

The LOI application deadline for the 2024 HF-GRO program is **April 26, 2024**, and the expected award start date is December 2024.

Phase	Date
LOI Open Submission	March 2024
LOI Deadline	April 26, 2024
Deadline to Submit Full Application (if invited)	August 2024
Award Start Date	December 2024

## AWARD AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Awards will be subjected to an annual scientific and financial progress report, as well as final scientific and financial reports.

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