MDSRF General Questions

Can I submit more than one Letter of Inquiry to the program?
You may submit only one LOI.

Does this grant allow multiple PIs to apply?
There should be one lead PI. Any others would be co-investigators.

Is this fund only available for researchers in the United States?
Yes, an institution must be recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code based in the United States and not a private foundation.

Should the PI’s salary follow the NIH salary cap?
Yes, the PI’s salary must follow the NIH salary cap.

I am entering the Tax ID number for my institution, but I keep getting the following message: “The Tax ID that you entered was not found in the IRS database. We cannot accept applications from organizations whose tax information is not on file.” How should I proceed?
As noted on the Foundation’s website, an institution must, “Be recognized as tax-exempt under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code based in the United States and not a private foundation.” Contact the Advancement Office to determine if there is a 501(c)3 Tax ID number that is used for research and grant applications.

Our legal department has some concerns about the Foundation’s Grant Agreement. Would you be able to make any modifications?
No. As noted on the MDSRF Research Guidelines as well as the application, “All research awards are contingent upon the acceptance of the Research Grant Agreement stipulations. If an applicant does not have institutional approval to accept the Research Grant Agreement terms, please do not proceed with submission.” We include the Grant Agreement on the website, so that investigators, as well as their respective Legal Departments have an opportunity to review in advance of submitting a request to the Foundation.

MDSRF Letter of Support Questions

According to the eligibility guidelines, a letter of support from a Division/Department Chair confirming support and sponsorship is a component for an application. There is nowhere to upload this on the LOI submission portal. How do I submit the letter of support?
A letter of support is needed from the Division/Department Chair for the second stage of the application, the Full Proposal. It is not necessary for the LOI.
Do Established Investigators need a letter of support from a departmental/division chair?
Yes, Established Investigators need a Letter of Support from a Division/Department chair as a part of the Full Proposal. Please review the Attachment section in the online grant portal for full details.

MDSRF Mentor Questions
I am not sure about who I should define as a mentor in my current career stage. Should it be the department or division chief or my post-doctoral PI?
This is something you will have to determine based on your field of research and your proposed project.

Can a mentor be from outside of my current institution?
This would only be considered in rare situations, on a case-by-case basis. Typically, the primary mentor is from an investigator's institution.

Can I act as a mentor for an Early Career Investigator and submit an Established Investigator Letter of Inquiry?
No, you may not act as a mentor for an Early Career investigator and submit a request as an Established Investigator.

For any additional questions, including technical questions and clarifications on the application guidelines, please email queries to info@dresnerfoundation.org.