

# Frequently Asked Questions for ABTA Research Grants and Fellowships

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## I. Funding Opportunities

### I'd like to apply for an ABTA grant. Where can I find more information on submitting an application?

Thank you for your interest in the ABTA's research funding. Please visit the Brain Tumor Research section of our website – <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information regarding funding opportunities, deadlines, and anticipated RFA release dates. There, you can also sign up to receive email alerts about the ABTA's grant opportunities!

### How do I know if I have already started an application/How do I find an application that I already started working on?

Avoid initiating multiple proposals by editing/viewing the same proposal. You can save your progress multiples times before submitting the final proposal.

To access an initiated proposal:

- Go to <https://proposalcentral.com/> and log in on the "APPLICANT OR AWARDEE" tab.
- Click on the "Proposals" tab to see the list of your initiated proposals.
- Click on "Edit" next to the proposal you would like to edit or view.

NOTE: To prevent any confusion when submitting proposals or receiving emails from the ABTA, we suggest that you avoid initiating multiple proposals. Please delete initiated proposals that you will not be submitting.

### What is the deadline for application submissions?

General timelines for submission deadlines are outlined in the table below. Actual deadlines will be posted at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> when the opportunities become available.

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>LOI Due</b>	<b>Application Due</b>
Basic Research Fellowship	Annual	December	Mid- to Late March
Discovery Grant	Annual	December	Mid- to Late March
Research Collaboration Grant	Biennial	December	Mid- to Late March
Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowship	Annual	N/A	Mid-January

### Can I have an extension on the deadline?

As stated in the Request for Applications (RFA), applicants are strongly encouraged to complete applications with sufficient time to allow for technical difficulties, time zone differences, sickness, travel, etc. It is ABTA's policy not to accept late applications. If you miss the deadline, we encourage you to look for future grant opportunities on our website at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>. There, you can also sign up to receive email alerts about the ABTA's grant opportunities.

### May I apply for more than one ABTA grant?

Applicants may submit only one application per grant mechanism each grant cycle; however, applicants may submit applications to more than one ABTA grant mechanism in a grant cycle, should they fit the eligibility criteria for each mechanism.

*Please note: each applicant will only be awarded one ABTA grant per grant cycle.*

### May I apply for a second ABTA grant while holding a currently-funded ABTA grant?

ABTA grantees can be the Lead PI on only one ABTA grant at a time. Current ABTA grantees may apply for an additional ABTA grant; however, if a second grant is awarded and the grant terms would overlap, applicants would have to terminate the existing grant in order to accept the new grant.

### May I use an application from a previous year?

ABTA does not distinguish resubmissions from new applications. Applicants may submit any previously submitted, non-funded applications; however, they will be reviewed as new applications.

*Note: Applications that are not responsive to the current year RFA will be administratively withdrawn.*

### My LOI was approved and I will submit a Full Application. Do I need to get new Letters of Support for my Full Application?

The ABTA will accept Letters of Support from mentors and Co-PIs that are submitted with the LOI for the Full Application. Applicants are encouraged to consider carefully whether the content of the letters is still accurate or if additional information is needed. Applicants should note that application attachments from the LOI, including letters of support, will not be automatically carried into the Full Application and will have to be uploaded again before submitting a Full Application.

*Note: All applicants who are submitting a full application MUST submit a new signature page, completed with the required signatures for the Full Application.*

### My LOI was approved and I will submit a Full Application. May I respond to specific reviewers' questions and/or comments?

Responses to specific questions/comments that reviewers brought up in the LOI stage may be included in the Project Narrative attachment of the Full Application. However, applicants are not permitted additional space within the Project Narrative, the narrative must still adhere to the page limit stated in the Full Application Instructions.

### My application was administratively withdrawn. Why has this happened?

The ABTA thoroughly reviews each application for completeness and eligibility prior to peer review. This process is performed following the submission of the LOI and Full Application (as applicable). There are a variety of reasons for why applications at any stage are administratively withdrawn from consideration and all applicants whose application is administratively withdrawn will receive an email detailing the reason for withdrawing the application. The most common reasons for withdrawal are:

- Applicant is not eligible for the grant mechanism.
- Missing Letter(s) of Support or signature(s) from Mentor(s).
- Missing biosketches or biosketches that exceed the five-page limit.
- Page limits, text font, page size, and/or page margins do not adhere to the format described in the RFA/application instructions.

*Note: All font types allowed by NIH are now allowed for the Project Narrative for ABTA Grants. A4 page size will not be accepted.*

### When uploading my documents to the application portal, I received a red notification of file corruption or password protection. How do I fix this?

When an error is received, please remove the uploaded documents and reopen this on your computer using your preferred document program. If the file is password protected or encrypted, remove the password requirement or encryption and save as a new document. If the document is not password protected or encrypted, select Print to PDF (not Adobe PDF), save as a new document. Upload the new document to the portal. If these efforts do not fix the issue, you may submit your application. The documents are usually accessible to reviewers; however, the document will not be included in the single PDF file of your application, which is the preferred method most reviewers when reviewing applications. Reviewers will have to download that document separately when they review your application. Note: PDF documents must not be password protected or encrypted in any way.

### What information is needed for biosketch regarding current, pending, and completed research funding within the past three years for Section A of biosketch (e.g., project title, project period, total amount requested/funded, etc.)?

Biosketches must be no longer than five pages each, in [NIH standard format](#) (such as Arial, 11 point or larger). As applicable, biosketches may include, in Section A, details from ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years (e.g., project title, project period, total amount requested/funded, etc.) that you feel are relevant or important for the review committee to know about as they review your application.

### Do I need to include an eRA commons username on my biosketch?

While applications for ABTA grants require that the PI, Co-PI, Mentors and some key collaborators (if applicable) submit a biosketch in NIH format, we do not require that any PIs or Key Personnel have an eRA Commons username or include them on the biosketch form. For information about formatting for NIH Biosketches, please refer to the [NIH guidelines](#).

### Can indirect costs be charged to an ABTA grant or fellowship?

No, indirect costs are not allowed expenses for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants, Basic Research Fellowships, Discovery Grants, or Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowships. Please reference the RFAs or the Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships, available on the [ABTA grant funding opportunities page](#), for the current grant cycle for more details.

### Do I need the Grants and Contracts Office to approve/sign my application?

Yes, an institutional signing official (usually a member of the grants/sponsored research office at your institution) must sign your application. See the Signatures section of the RFA or Full Application Instructions for more details.

*Note: Many institutions require a minimum of two weeks' notice to sign your application, applicants are highly encouraged to notify their grants office, of their intent to apply for an ABTA grant, well in advance of the application deadline.*

### Can you tell me when the funding decisions will be released?

Applicants will be notified by email in **early August** for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants, Discovery Grants, and Basic Research Fellowships. ABTA Jack and Fay Netchin Medical

Student Summer Fellowship applicants will be notified in **early May**. Public announcements of the awarded grants typically follow within 2-3 months of notifying the applicants.

### How many grant applications did ABTA receive last cycle? Where did my application rank?

ABTA does not provide specific information related to the funding rate, ranking, or number of applications received for any mechanism. Final allocations of funding for research are based on available funds, and we are committed to funding as many meritorious research grants as possible. A listing of our currently funded research grants is available at [www.abta.org/research/research-funding-impact/](http://www.abta.org/research/research-funding-impact/).

### I am not a U.S. citizen. Am I eligible for an ABTA research grant?

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents to apply for an ABTA research grant.

### Will there be any exceptions to the eligibility requirements for an ABTA research grant?

For ABTA Research Collaboration Grants and Discovery Grants, applicants must be within ten years of starting their first faculty position, and for ABTA Basic Research Fellowships, applicants must be within five years of completing their doctoral degree or residency training. Exceptions may be granted for a documented leave of absence from research, such as parental leave or other documented, well-justified leave from research of generally less than twelve months. To get an exception, applicants must send a request to [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org) prior to the application deadline and include their biosketch along with a description of the leave and how it will be documented within the application.

### How do I know if my institution is a non-governmental institution?

At this time, we are not able to support investigators at governmental institutions. If the only government funding your institution receives is through competitive grants or a similar funding and it is a non-profit institution, then it is eligible. If your institution receives direct, non-competitive support from the government, then it is not eligible. NCI-approved fellows may submit applications for the ABTA Basic Research Fellowship. NCI fellows may inquire at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org) for more information.

### Can I appeal the funding decision?

Each application is rigorously reviewed by a committee of scientific experts, and it is our policy not to re-review proposals. If your proposal is not funded in this grant cycle, we encourage you to look for future grant opportunities at <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>.

### Does the ABTA participate in Open Science practices?

The ABTA requires journal articles resulting from ABTA funding be freely available in PubMed Central within 12 months of publication. Data sharing is required for “omics” data within 12 months of the end of the grant term. Costs related to data sharing may be included in the budget for your ABTA grant. All applicants for Basic Research Fellowships, Discovery Grants and Basic Research Fellowships are required to submit a [Data Management and Sharing Plan](#) as part of their application (optional for Medical Student Summer Fellowship applicants). For more information, please see our Open Science Policy (Appendix B of the ABTA Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships) and our Open Science FAQs near the top of the [ABTA's grant opportunities page](#).

### How do I become a reviewer?

Thank you for your interest in being a scientific reviewer for the ABTA. We are always open to adding new reviewers to our panels. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please contact the ABTA Research Programs by email at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org). Please include an updated biosketch and link to your institutional profile or lab webpage.

### Does the ABTA have a policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technologies to develop my grant application?

Yes, the policy can be found on the [ABTA's grant funding opportunities page](#) and in Appendix C of the ABTA Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships.

## II. Discovery Grants

### What are Discovery Grants?

Discovery Grants are one-year, \$50,000 grants for high-risk/high-impact projects deemed to have the potential to change current diagnostic or treatment paradigms for adult and pediatric brain tumor care. These grants are intended to support early-stage ideas and to provide the funding for investigators to develop the additional preliminary data needed to secure a larger grant.

### How do I apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant?

Applications for Discovery Grants are pre-screened by a Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. The ABTA grant application portal opens in **early November**. Discovery Grant LOIs are due in **December**. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

Invitations to submit a full application will be extended by e-mail in **February** and will include application instructions. If you receive an invitation and will not be submitting a full application, please notify us at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org).

### How do I apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Discovery Grants. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle if you meet the eligibility criteria.

### Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or residents and can be conducting research at a non-profit, non-governmental research institution anywhere in the world.

### Do I need to have a faculty position to apply for an ABTA Discovery Grant?

Applicants do not need to be in a faculty position at the time of application; however, applicants who do not have a full-time faculty position must include a signed offer letter with their Letter of Intent, which includes a start date no later than the start of the grant term. Applicants cannot have been in a faculty position for more than ten years at the start of the grant term. Please refer to the current RFA for full eligibility criteria. [If the independent research positions at your](#)



institution do not follow traditional academic rank titles (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor), provide a brief explanation in the Personal Statement of your biosketch. The Letter of Support (LOS) from the Institution, submitted by the department head as part of the full application, should confirm the position held by the Applicant.

### My institution is not an academic institution and does not have faculty positions, am I eligible to apply for a Discovery Grant?

Researchers who hold a doctoral degree, hold a position that is equivalent to a faculty position such as the head of a laboratory or group, or an independent investigator, and have not been the head of the laboratory or an independent investigator for more than ten years at the start of the grant term, are eligible to apply for Discovery Grants, provided that they and their institution meet all the other eligibility criteria listed in the RFA. If the independent research positions at your institution do not follow traditional academic rank titles (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor), provide a brief explanation in the Personal Section of your biosketch. The Letter of Support from the institution, submitted by the department head as part of the full application, should confirm that the position held is equivalent to a faculty position/independent investigator. If your institution uses non-traditional titles for independent investigators, please notify us in advance of the application deadline at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org).

### One of the mentors on my application is also my department chair, can I submit just one letter for both the letter of support from the mentor and the letter of support from the institution, for my full application?

No, each letter of support should contain different information; therefore, the mentor/department chair must provide a separate letter of support for each role on the grant. Please refer to the RFA for details on what to include in each letter of support.

## III. Basic Research Fellowships

### What are Basic Research Fellowships?

The Basic Research Fellowships are two-year, \$100,000 grants supporting postdoctoral fellows entering careers dedicated to the field of brain tumor research. By providing funding to fellows under the guidance of a mentor, ABTA hopes to ensure that a diverse pool of well-trained scientists remain in the field and emerge as the next generation of scientists leading the field of brain tumor research.

### How do I apply for a Basic Research Fellowship?

Applications for Basic Research Fellowships are pre-screened by Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. The ABTA grant application portal opens in **November**. Basic Research Fellowship LOIs are due in **December**. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

Invitations to submit a full application will be extended by e-mail in **February** and will include application instructions. If you receive an invitation and will not be submitting a full application, please notify us at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org).

### How do I apply for an ABTA Basic Research Fellowship if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Basic Research Fellowships. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle if you meet the eligibility criteria.

### My PhD will not be conferred by the time of application, but my coursework will be complete. Am I eligible for an ABTA Basic Research Fellowship?

Applicants must have their doctorate conferred no later than the Letter of Intent submission deadline, typically in December). Actual deadlines will be listed in the RFA.

### I have a doctoral degree, but I have not started my postdoctoral position. Am I eligible to apply for the ABTA Basic Research Fellowship?

Applicants who are not yet at their mentor's institution are eligible to apply provided that they will be starting their position at their mentor's institution no later than the Full Application deadline (usually in March) and that they meet all other eligibility criteria. Please refer to the Request for Applications in the year that you are applying for more information.

### May I apply for a one-year Basic Research Fellowship?

The Basic Research Fellowships are training grants intended to provide a two-year experience. Therefore, one-year fellowships are not awarded.

### May I have two Fellowship mentors?

Basic Research Fellowships allow for up to two mentors to be included in the application. One mentor must serve as the Lead Mentor, be at the same institution as the applicant and conduct brain tumor research. A single Co-Mentor is optional for all Basic Research Fellowship applicants, is not required to be at the same institution as the applicant, and does not need to have a track record of brain tumor research, but should provide additional expertise and mentorship. Each mentor must submit a Letter of Support and a biosketch as part of the Letter of Intent submission. Please refer to the Request for Applications for additional information.

### Can my mentor or other lab members take salary support from an ABTA Fellowship?

No, salary support for personnel other than the Applicant/PI is not allowed for ABTA Basic Research Fellowships.

### Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants do not have to be U.S. citizens or residents and can be conducting research at a non-profit, non-governmental research institution anywhere in the world.

### One of the mentors on my application is also my department chair. Can I submit just one letter instead of a separate letter of support from the mentor and letter of support from the institution, for my full application?

No, each letter of support should contain different information; therefore, the mentor/department chair must provide a separate letter of support for each role on the grant. Please refer to the RFA for details on what to include in each letter of support.

## IV. ABTA Research Collaboration Grants

### What are ABTA Research Collaboration Grants?

ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are two-year, \$200,000 grants and are intended to promote team science in a way that will streamline and accelerate progress and effect the desired change in clinical outcome for brain tumors. The research projects under this mechanism must be conducted by a team of two co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) from distinct institutions.

### How do I apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

*Note: ABTA Research Collaboration Grant Request for Applications (RFAs) are typically posted every other year.*

Applications for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are pre-screened by Letter of Intent (LOI). Selected LOI applicants will be invited to submit a full application. When offered, ABTA Research Collaboration Grant RFAs are posted in November and LOIs are due in December. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

### How do I apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant if I did not submit a Letter of Intent?

A LOI is required as part of the application process for ABTA Research Collaboration Grants. Full applications are only accepted by invitation following a successful LOI. Should you miss the LOI deadline, you are welcome to apply in the next funding cycle in which ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are offered should you meet the eligibility criteria.

### Can Co-PIs from the same institution apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

ABTA Research Collaboration Grants are intended for inter-institutional collaborations only. Therefore, the Lead PI and the Co-PI must be from two distinct institutions.

### Which institution should be designated as the Lead Institution when applying for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

The Lead Institution is the Institution where the Lead PI has a faculty position. The Lead Institution must be a non-profit, non-governmental institution in the U.S. or Canada and must agree to adhere to ABTA's Policies and Procedures for Research Grants and Fellowships, located at the top of the ABTA Grant Opportunities page (<https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/>). The Lead Institution will serve as the administrator of the Grant funds and will hold responsibility for the management of the budget and submission of all required documents and reports.

### Are international applicants eligible to apply?

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents. However, the Lead PI must have a full-time faculty appointment at an institution in the United States or Canada. Co-PIs must have a full-time faculty appointment at a non-profit, non-governmental institution anywhere in the world.

### Do I need to have a faculty position to apply for an ABTA Research Collaboration Grant?

Applicants do not need to be in a faculty position at the time of application; however, applicants who do not have a full-time faculty position must include a signed offer letter with their Letter of Intent, which includes a start date no later than the start of the grant term.

Applicants cannot have been in a faculty position for more than ten years at the start of the grant term. Please refer to the current RFA for full eligibility criteria. If the independent research positions at your institution do not follow traditional academic rank titles (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor), provide a brief explanation in the Personal Statement of your biosketch. The Letter of Support (LOS) from the Institution, submitted by the department head as part of the full application, should confirm the position held by the applicant.

### My institution is not an academic institution and does not have faculty positions. Am I eligible to apply for a Research Collaboration Grant?

Researchers who conduct their research at a non-academic research institution, but hold a doctoral degree, hold a position that is equivalent to a faculty position such as the head of a laboratory or group, or independent investigator, and have not been the head of the laboratory/independent investigator for more than ten years at the start of the grant term, are eligible to apply for Research Collaboration Grants, provided that they and their institution meet all the other eligibility criteria listed in the RFA. If independent research positions do not follow traditional academic rank titles (e.g., Professor, Associate Professor), provide a brief explanation in the Personal Section of your biosketch. The Letter of Support from the Institution, submitted by the department head as part of the full application, should confirm that the position held is equivalent to a faculty position/independent investigator. If your institution uses non-traditional titles for independent investigators, please notify us in advance of the application deadline at [grants@abta.org](mailto:grants@abta.org).

## V. ABTA Jack & Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowships

### What are ABTA Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowships?

ABTA Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowships are \$3,000 grants, awarded to current medical students, to spend a summer conducting brain tumor research with an established scientist-mentor. The intent of this mechanism is to empower talented medical students to pursue a career in neuro-oncology research. Medical Student Summer Fellowship applications are due in **mid-January**. Please visit <https://www.abta.org/research/for-researchers/> for the most up-to-date information.

### May I have two Medical Student Summer Fellowship mentors?

Medical Student Summer Fellowships allow for up to two mentors to be included in the application. One mentor must serve as the Lead Mentor, be located at the institution where the medical student will conduct the research project and currently conduct brain tumor research. A Co-Mentor is optional for all applicants, is not required to be at the same institution as the applicant, and does not need to have a track record of brain tumor research, but should provide additional expertise and mentorship. Each mentor must submit a separate Letter of Support and a biosketch. Please refer to the Request for Applications for additional information.

**Will the ABTA pair me with a mentor in the brain tumor field for an ABTA Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowship?**

No, applicants must seek out a mentor in the brain tumor field on their own. Students interested in applying are encouraged to seek out a mentor early in order to develop the project proposal and gather all required documents in advance of the submission deadline.

**Can my Lead Mentor's lab be at a separate institution from my Medical School?**

Medical Student Summer Fellowships are intended to give medical students the opportunity to conduct research in a laboratory under the guidance of a brain tumor research mentor.

Therefore, the medical student is allowed to travel to a different eligible institution where the Lead Mentor is conducting brain tumor research and is not required to stay at the institution where they attend medical school.

**Can my mentor take salary support from an ABTA Jack and Fay Netchin Medical Student Summer Fellowship?**

No, salary support for personnel other than the Applicant/PI is not allowed for Medical Student Summer Fellowships.

**Can the funding be used for supplies or for attending a meeting?**

Funds may be used to buy supplies for the project and can be used to attend a scientific meeting, during the grant term, for the purposes of presenting findings or career development.

**Are international applicants eligible to apply?**

Yes, applicants are not required to be U.S. citizens or residents. However, the institution where the research is being conducted (referred to as the Lead Institution) must be an institution in the United States or Canada.

**One of the mentors on my application is also my department chair. Can I submit just one letter instead of a separate letter of support from the mentor and letter of support from the institution?**

No, each letter of support should contain different information; therefore, the mentor/department chair must provide a separate letter of support for each role on the grant. Please refer to the RFA for details on what to include in each letter of support.