

Research Support Announcement

2026 MSTS/Sarcoma Strong Request For Application (RFA) - Mentored Research Award

I. Key Dates

- RFA Release Date: January 22, 2026
- Application Deadline: March 23, 2026 (pdf file to info@msts.org)
- Peer Review: April – May 2026
- Funding Announcements: June 2026
- Start Date: July 1, 2026
- End Date: June 30, 2027 (a No Cost Extension is possible until December 1, 2027)
- Final Reporting: Due within 6 months of the completion of the research. It is expected that awardees will submit abstracts to the MSTS Annual Meeting and/or Specialty Day

II. Program Description

The Sarcoma Strong Foundation will support the MSTS to provide \$25,000 one-year grants for developing research under the direction of an experienced mentor in translational research. The Mission of the Sarcoma Strong Foundation is "...to generate funds to sponsor research that may improve the ability to diagnose and treat sarcoma." The MSTS and the Sarcoma Strong Foundation recognize the urgent need to provide MSTS members with opportunities to perform clinical, translational, or basic sarcoma research by exploring such subjects as comparative clinical trial, cancer detection, immunotherapy, cellular signaling, genomic sequencing, liquid biopsy, artificial intelligence, prospective registry, and other contemporary research concepts. Descriptive research on data collection will be of lesser priority. It is expected that recipients of this award will apply for NIH K08/R03/R21/R01 Grants and/or OREF Grants within 2 years of the last grant funding cycle.

III. Eligibility

Applicants should be at least MSTS Candidate Members within their first 6 years of faculty appointment. Mentors do not need to be MSTS members or from the same institution but should have an independent research program and mentoring experience. Applicants should articulate concrete plans for the development of grant-writing skills and should state how the Mentored Research Award will generate preliminary data for future applications. Recipients of prior or simultaneous major NIH, DOD, NSF, or equivalent funding will not be eligible.

IV. Grant Application Format and Page Limit (Arial font size 11; 0.5 inch margin top, bottom, right, left)

- Cover Page (SF 424 R&R form is available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/standard-form-424-research-related>). Click on SF424(R&R) (PDF).
- NIH-format 5-page biosketches for the PI and other Key Personnel (samples and forms are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
- One-page Specific Aims
- Up to 6-page Research Plan including figures (Significance, Innovation, Approach including Preliminary Data)
- Literature Cited; IRB and/or IACUC approval; Letters of support; Other forms (not included in the page limit)
- IACUC/IRB approval will be required before funds are disbursed.
- An itemized budget must be included
- One-page Mentoring Plan must be included**

V. Review Criteria & Peer Review

NIH Review Format: Overall Impact (Significance; Innovation; Investigators; Approach; Environment; **Fitness to the mission of Sarcoma Strong** as articulated above). Proposals will be reviewed by MSTS Research Committee members. Established MSTS investigators may be recruited as reviewers on an *ad hoc* basis.

VI. Inquiries

Bang Hoang, MD, Research Committee Chair (info@msts.org)