

The Dream Doctors Research Fund

2017 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR: RESEARCH IN MEDICAL CLOWNING

INTRODUCTION – DREAM DOCTORS PROJECT

The Dream Doctors Medical Clowning project was established in Israel in 2002 and is based on a model that defines Medical Clowning as a professional paramedical discipline whose personnel are integrated into existing multidisciplinary healthcare teams. Over 100 Dream Doctors are currently active in 29 Israeli hospitals and provide services in, among other sites, pediatric and adult medical departments, kidney dialysis centers, oncology day care (outpatient) wards, specialized neurodevelopmental clinics, and preoperative units.

The Dream Doctors Medical Clowning project aims to further develop the practice of Medical Clowning by promoting it as a formally-structured, academic discipline. To that end, it created a unique BA degree program in Clown Therapy and sponsored the first International Conference on Medicine and Medical Clowning, wherein the results of evidence-based research on the effects of Medical Clowning were presented. Subsequently, a research fund was established with the expressed purpose of stimulating and encouraging research in Medical Clowning and its role in the healthcare system. To that end, a committee of prominent researchers, professors and medical professionals was established for the purpose of review of applicants and selection of grantees.

SPECIFIC GOALS OF PROPOSAL

- 1) To encourage academic researchers to develop proper structured-evidence research studies that test and evaluate the clinical effects of Medical Clowning with children using the professional personnel of Dream Doctors.
- 2) To support research that evaluates the underlying hypothesis of the value of the discipline of Medical Clowning with children using the trained professional personnel of the Dream Doctors Project.

LIMITATIONS

Applicants for support from the Dream Doctors Research Fund are limited to individuals who are based in a recognized academic, educational institution or a certified medical facility. Documentation as to who is the sponsoring organization is a prerequisite for submitting an application.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have the organizational experience, available personnel, and understanding of the professional and administrative issues involved in conducting clinical research. Approval by a recognized IRB (Institutional Research Board), such as the Helsinki Committee, is a prerequisite.

Request for support is limited to a maximum of 115,000 NIS for one year. Preference will be awarded to proposals that indicate that there are matching funds from the sponsoring organization. Request for support for travel to medical meetings or for the purchase of major equipment will not be honored. Research must be focused on child patients and conducted using Dream Doctors' professional medical clowns.

Request for projects for a two-year period may be submitted but funding for such projects will be evaluated on a yearly basis. It should be clear that the funding for the second year will be dependent upon the applicant's written report regarding the progress of the research, financial expenditures, and to what end the first year's goals were accomplished. Only then will there be a review and decision made as to the possibility of funding for the second year.

Research articles shall be completed within the committed timeline and published in professional/academic literature.

Grant funds will be transferred only after receipt of notification of Helsinki committee approval.

The Dream Doctors Research Fund reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all submitted proposals or discontinue the RFP process without any obligation or liability
- Accept other than the lowest cost proposal
- Limit the number of grants (without obligation to allocate all available funds)

PRIORITY OF 2017 FUNDING

In order of importance:

- 1) Economic outcomes of integrating medical clowns into healthcare teams (e.g. cost effectiveness for healthcare institution, by reducing hospitalization rates and duration and treatment costs, etc.).
- 2) Measuring biologic endpoints of the effect of exposure to medical clowns (e.g. stress hormones, need for drugs: does and duration, recovery time).
- 3) New populations that benefit from exposure to medical clowning (only children up to age 18).
- 4) Original and innovative use of medical clowns

APPLICATION FORMAT

The detailed proposal should be submitted in a format that includes:

- a. Executive summary (or abstract) of proposal
- b. Underling hypothesis to be tested
- c. Methodology, including addressing issue of sample size, control of biases, recruitment process and method of statistical analysis.

- d. Timeline of study : recruitment, study period, analysis of results and targeted date for completion of project
- e. Detailed budgetary request and allocations including overhead (maximum 15% of total budget). Budget request must be specific, with proper justification for personnel costs (hours, wages, incidental expenses), disposables, and administrative costs
- f. Project staffing (number of staff, professional experience, and degrees)
- g. Evaluation process
- h. Institutional overview (e.g. where applicable: Registered name, address, contact numbers, corporate structure, key personnel)

*Applications will be reviewed and grantees will be selected by an external scientific committee.

TIME LINE

RFP distributed to potential applicants: August 6, 2017

Deadline for submission: November 23, 2017

Review of proposals: December 2017

Announcement of grantees and grant distributions: January 2018

Proposal and inquiries should be submitted to:

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