



## Summary Background for EMZ Foundation Grant Applications

**The E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc. (EMZ Foundation)** was founded in New York City in 1907 by Electa Matilda Ziegler (1841-1932), the mother of a blind son. The EMZ Foundation announces the availability of funds to support promising young investigators performing innovative vision research. The EMZ Foundation is particularly interested in supporting basic or translational research that enhances our understanding of normal visual function, or dysfunction as the result of innate or acquired visual disorders.

Many of our grantees have gone on to make unique discoveries in the areas of macular degeneration, gene therapy, stem cell research, visual system development, optic nerve regeneration and the neuroscience of visual pathways. Appropriate candidates are basic scientists or clinician scientists of exceptional insight and ability, with strong potential for making significant contributions to understanding the root causes of and developing cures for blindness. Projects with a clinical focus (clinical observations, clinical trials) are not appropriate.

**Funds Available:** Awards will be made for up to \$100,000 in direct costs. Indirect costs are not allowed.

**Eligibility:** Principal Investigators must have an independent, primary (tenure track) faculty appointment at the level of Assistant Professor (or its equivalent) or higher. This seed grant program is specifically appropriate for early career junior faculty who have not yet successfully competed for significant outside federal research support. The EMZ Foundation seeks to support innovative, high-risk/high-reward vision research in its early stages. Investigators who have or have had NIH R01 support (or its equivalent), or are working outside of the U.S., are not eligible for this award.

**Application Review and Award:** Letters of intent (LOI) meeting technical requirements will be reviewed for scientific merit and relevance to vision research by the EMZ Foundation scientific advisory board. Selected investigators who submitted LOIs will be invited to submit a full grant proposal.

Full grant proposals meeting all technical requirements will be reviewed on the basis of merit by the EMZ Foundation scientific advisory committee. Final funding decisions will be based on the availability of funding, scientific merit, relevance and the suitability of the research with respect to the goals of the EMZ Foundation.

**Application Guidelines:** LOIs and invited full grant proposals should be submitted by email to Marcia Cleary at: [mcleary@swisher.com](mailto:mcleary@swisher.com), the EMZ Foundation Administrator. Full grant proposals are limited to a 6-page research plan (not including references). Application instructions, review considerations and a list of currently funded projects, can all be found at <http://www.emzfoundation.com>.

**Letter of Intent Due Date:** September 30, 2021, 11:59 PM EST

**Full Application Due Date:** November 15, 2021 (for invited applicants only)

**Questions:** [mcleary@swisher.com](mailto:mcleary@swisher.com)

**For more information about the E. Matilda Ziegler Foundation for the Blind, Inc., and a description of previously funded projects, please visit <http://www.emzfoundation.com>.**