

Health and Science Research Request for Proposal

TOPIC

Assess Body of Research on Nicotine's Role in Human Health

Issue date	March 31, 2022
Closing date	May 16, 2022
Closing time	12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST)
Submit proposals to	(See submission instructions in RFP)
Financing instrument	Grant
Financing amount	Budget not to exceed US \$200,000 Paid in US dollars, amount consistent with proposal and work plan
Financing duration	Maximum of 6 months, consistent with proposal and work plan
Contact information	support@smokefreeworld.org

Introduction

Globally, 14% of all deaths from noncommunicable diseases among adults aged 30 years and over are attributable to tobacco.¹ Though the list of constituents associated with smoking-related death and disease is relatively well established, misperceptions regarding the role of nicotine persist, with many perceiving the nicotine molecule as responsible for tobacco-related health risks (including cancer). Moreover, several studies have demonstrated that these misperceptions are not unique to the public but also are widespread among the medical and healthcare communities.²

A broad understanding of the actual risk of nicotine is vital to advancing tobacco cessation and harm-reduction efforts globally. These efforts extend to correcting misperceptions; supporting users through the recommendation, development, and application of best-practice interventions; and advancing research to address evidence and knowledge gaps.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World (“the Foundation”) is seeking proposals for research that will lead to the development of a scientific report on the human health effects of nicotine, including its role(s) in medical conditions, and practical recommendations for further research. The goal of this RFP is to address the misperceptions regarding nicotine and support independent research that has the potential to build on the current evidence base and improve smoker outcomes in areas of unmet need, which are consistent with the [Foundation’s strategy](#) for funding research in the areas of health and science. Work performed pursuant to this RFP will assist the Foundation in determining what (if any) studies and interventions should be carried forward.

Objective: Conduct a literature review of existing nicotine research, including its role(s) in human health and medical conditions, leading to the identification of research gaps and further research relating to the potential impacts of nicotine.

¹ <https://ncdalliance.org/why-ncds/risk-factors-prevention/tobacco-use>

² <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-020-06172-8>

Deliverable

A comprehensive report leading to publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

Expected Qualifications

Eligible institutions include universities, medical centers, research facilities, and other research partner organizations with clinical research experience in pharmacological interventions. Clinical research experience in nicotine and public health is desirable.

Proposals should be submitted by entities registered in their country of origin with an ability to accept research grants from not-for-profit foundations incorporated in the United States.

Geographic Focus

Global

Estimated Budget and Duration

- Budget not to exceed US \$200,000
- Duration not to exceed 6 months

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate submissions:

- Expertise and prior experience, including demonstrated ability to perform on similar projects
- Research presence
- Ability to meet the objectives of the RFP
- Cost and timeline
- Adequate resources (quantity and type) to satisfy project scope and timeline
- Key organizational documents provided to the Foundation as part of the due diligence process, as outlined in [Grant Policies and Procedures](#)
- The Foundation will prioritize proposals that demonstrate a commitment to our values, including diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that provide the Foundation with the opportunity to interact with diverse teams, bringing a range of perspectives.

Submission Instructions

Applications should be submitted through the Foundation's online portal, which can be accessed [here](#). This link will start the new application form. Upon clicking the link, you will be prompted to log in, and then taken to the application form.

The application form has links to three templates, which are also listed here for your convenience:

- [Proposal template](#)
- [Budget template](#)
- [Work plan template](#)

You may save your application at any time by using the Save & Finish Later button at the end of each page.

To return to an in-progress application, [log in to the portal](#).

A list of application portal FAQs can be found [here](#).

If you have any technical issues, please contact us via support@smokefreeworld.org, and we will be happy to help.

Key Information

The Foundation may disclose proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted in response to this RFP to its employees, consultants, legal counsel, contractors, and potential co-funders. The applicant should carefully consider the content of submitted materials if there is any concern about the impact of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information. Although submissions will not be disclosed publicly during the evaluation process, all funded projects (scoping and final awards) will be made public. The Foundation will work with awardees to ensure that any materials made public will not disclose any protected information.

To be considered for an award, the applicant agrees that the Foundation may:

- Amend or cancel the RFP, in whole or in part, at any time
- Extend the deadline for submitting responses
- Determine whether a response does or does not substantially comply with the requirements of the RFP
- Issue multiple awards

The applicant must ensure that it has responded to the RFP with complete honesty and accuracy. If information in the applicant's response changes, the applicant will supplement its response in writing with any deletions, additions, or changes within five days of the change. Any material misrepresentation, including omissions, may disqualify the applicant from consideration for an award.

About Foundation for a Smoke-Free World

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World is an independent, US nonprofit [501\(c\)\(3\)](#) private foundation with the purpose of improving global health by ending smoking in this generation. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking in three broad categories: health and science research, agricultural diversification, and industry transformation. Funded by annual gifts from PMI Global Services Inc. ("PMI"), the Foundation is independent from PMI and operates in a manner that ensures its independence from the influence of any commercial entity. Under the Foundation's [Pledge Agreement](#) with PMI and [bylaws](#), PMI and the tobacco industry are precluded from having

any control or influence over how the Foundation spends its funds or focuses its activities. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.smokefreeworld.org.