



## **CBA Research Scholar Award, Sponsored by the CBA Foundation**

### **Overview**

The Foundation of the Cord Blood Association is proud to announce a new early-career Research Scholar Award. The award is designed to encourage original investigator-initiated research in the fields of biology, manufacturing, or banking of cord blood and/or tissue derived products and therapeutics.

The award will recognize the efforts and commitment of an individual whose research has the potential to make exceptional contributions to basic, translational or clinical research focused on cord blood and/or tissue. The Research Scholar Awardee will receive \$50,000 to assist with research costs related to their proposed work.

Areas of research interest could include but are not limited to:

- Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)
  - Treating blood cancer (like leukemia, lymphoma)
  - Managing bone marrow failure syndromes
  - Addressing genetic blood disorders (e.g. sickle cell disease, thalassemia)
  - Exploring graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) mitigation strategies
- Regenerative Medicine Research
  - Investigating non-hematologic uses of cord blood stem cells for regenerating damaged tissues
- Cord Blood Derived Cell Therapy/Cellular Immunotherapy
- Cord Blood Banking Studies
- Gene Therapy Research
- Ex Vivo Expansion Research

### **Eligibility**

By the award start date of (November 1, 2025), the applicant must be a PhD candidate, postdoctoral researcher, or early-career faculty (within 5-10 years of earning an MD or PhD degree) and must be affiliated with an academic or research institution.

The applicant must be a CBA member or have an application pending at the time of applying or have a sponsor who is a CBA member. A sponsor must be a current CBA

member and may be the applicant's mentor or another professional collaborator who is committed to the project.

The applicant must be willing to travel to San Diego, October 25-28, 2025 to present their research proposal. The awardee's presentation at Cord Blood Connect will be a featured part of the scientific program, offering networking opportunities and visibility in the field. The Cord Blood Association Foundation hopes that the awardee will attend the Cord Blood Connect 2025 meeting to accept their award in person and will provide financial support for the awardee's travel for this purpose in the amount of \$2,500.

### **Application Submission**

Applications should be submitted as a PDF to [info@cb-association.org](mailto:info@cb-association.org) with "**Research Scholar Award**" in the subject line of the email. The deadline for receiving applications is 11:59 pm CST, Friday August 15, 2025. The applicant will receive an email confirmation within 24 business hours to verify receipt of application.

The application must include the following:

- Cover page with project title, applicant information (name, title, department, address, phone number and e-mail) and mentor information (name, title, department, address, phone number and e-mail)
- Applicant's curriculum vitae preferably an OMB No. 0925-0001 NIH biosketch including a list of all active and pending grants and fellowships
- Research Narrative written by the applicant describing the proposed study. Narrative must not exceed 5 pages (excluding references), and include the following sections:
  - Introduction, specific aims, hypothesis, significance, innovation, research plan/methods, and milestones with timelines.
  - Applicants should be mindful of not squeezing so much into these 5 pages that legibility, especially of figures and legends, is compromised for the reviewers. Font type: Arial; Font size: 11; One-half (1/2) inch Margins.
- Proposed Budget. Itemize direct costs requested for this research. The Award must be used exclusively for research. No indirect costs will be paid. This includes expenses such as institutional overhead, travel and publication fees. Indicate and delineate any additional funding sources or budgetary overlaps.
- Personal Statement (not to exceed 1 page) stating:
  - Interest in cord blood / tissue
  - Prior experience and accomplishments in the transplantation and cellular therapy field
  - How this award would impact your career and ability to work in the field of stem cell transplantation and/or cell therapies, as well as to remain engaged with CBA.

- Mentor Letter of Support. A mentor's letter of recommendation (not to exceed 2 pages) and should specifically Include the following:
  - Emphasize his/her mentoring experience with some specifics
  - Explain the commitment of the mentor AND the applicant to the cord blood/tissue field
  - Outline a mentoring plan for the applicant

### **Evaluation and Selection**

The review committee will consist of two members of the CBA Foundation Board and the Cord Blood Association Executive Committee. Outside reviewers may be consulted at the discretion of the committee. Applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit and originality of the proposal
- Relevance and anticipated overall impact of the potential findings to the field
- Feasibility and appropriateness of proposed project within the award timeline
- Institutional and mentoring environment
- Significant scientific or budgetary overlap with other funded projects of the applicant or mentor

Applicants will not receive written critiques after review.

### **Key Dates and Deadlines**

The application deadline is 11:59 pm CST, Friday August 15, 2025 and should be submitted electronically to [info@cb-association.org](mailto:info@cb-association.org).

- Applicants will be notified of their award status (awardee, alternate, or not funded) by September 15, 2025
- Funds will be disbursed by November 1, 2025
- The award will be publicly announced at the Cord Blood Connect meeting in conjunction with the AABB Annual Meeting, October 25-28, in San Diego, CA
- Final report will be due December 31, 2026

### **Terms and Conditions**

As a condition of acceptance of the Research Scholar Award, it is required that:

- All funds must be used for direct expenses associated with the proposed project and are non-transferable.

- The recipient must submit a final report within 60 days of completion of the project.
- The recipient will be asked to present their proposal at the 2025 CB Connect meeting and may be asked to present at subsequent AABB Annual Meetings.
- The recipient must cite support from the CBA Foundation in any publication describing the research conducted during the award period.
- The CBA reserves the right to list the award recipient in publications and on the website.

### **Further Inquiries**

Questions about the application and/or review process may be directed to Peggy Doherty at the Cord Blood Association via email: [pdoherty@cb-association.org](mailto:pdoherty@cb-association.org).