



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Sparks, on behalf of the Batten Disease Family Association (BDFA), would like to invite grant applications for medical and scientific research into Batten disease.

Applications are invited for high quality research into the causes and treatments for the following forms of Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses, NCL (Batten disease) CLN1, CLN5, CLN6, CLN7 and CLN8. Collaborative applications between the UK and other international research groups are particularly encouraged. All applications will undergo competitive scientific peer-review. We will consider applications from overseas but please contact us for more information.

Guidance for Applicants:

Applications are welcome for project grants of up to 1 year for a maximum award of £50,000.

Grants can cover any combination of salaries, equipment and consumables as long as all costs are fully justified within the application. Please note we will not cover the salaries of the principal applicant or any tenured staff members.

Grants are only made for research projects where the principal applicant has a contract at the host university that extends beyond the life of the proposed project. Researchers who are making a substantial intellectual contribution to the project and require personal support from the grant may apply as co-applicants.

The deadline for submission of full applications is 5pm Tuesday 5th May 2015. Grants will be awarded in October 2015.

Please contact Dr Virginie Bros-Facer (medical.team@sparks.org.uk) for an application form and further details.

Peer review:

All complete applications are assessed by full peer review, firstly by independent external referees and then by Sparks Medical Advisory Committee. Sparks is a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) – a membership organisation of the leading medical and health research charities in the UK. www.amrc.org.uk. The final award decision will then be made by the BDFA Board of Trustees and approved by Sparks.

Sparks holds an AMRC Certificate of Best Practice in Medical Research and Health Research Peer Review. This signifies that Sparks is demonstrating best practice in Medical and Health Research peer review as audited by AMRC in 2011.