

# The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation (TBBCF) 2022 Granting Process

## BACKGROUND:

The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation <http://www.terribrodeurbreastcancerfoundation.org/> is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing critical funding to researchers investigating breast cancer cures and patient treatment options. Terri Brodeur, the Foundation's namesake, was diagnosed with Stage 4 Breast Cancer in June 2003. Effective treatment options did not exist to help Terri. After a two-year battle, marked by courage, grace, and dignity, at the young age of 41 years, Terri succumbed to the disease, leaving behind a beloved husband and three cherished children. The Foundation is founded on the pledge of delivering 100 percent of gross fundraising dollars to breast cancer science and has held fast to this promise since its inception. The Foundation's Grant Program seeks to fund clinical and pre-clinical fellowships in high impact, breast cancer therapeutic research areas.

## AWARDS:

This award is intended to support PhD, MD/Ph.D. and M.D. physician scientists at earlier formative stages of their careers to enable them to develop independent programs and compelling careers in breast cancer research. The foundation seeks to fund broadly the very best proposals across all relevant disciplines and as such focus areas can include basic, preclinical, clinical research and clinical care. The award period is two years with a 1-year interim renewal to occur upon successful completion of the year one research goals. Stipends are \$50,000 per year, with the intention that **all** funds are strictly used for direct support of the grantee or their research program.

The foundation maintains the highest standards and thus no minimum quota of grants are made in any one year. However, given the outstanding quality of candidates requesting support since the founding of the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation, the committee seeks to fund as many meritorious fellowships as is financially possible each year. *As such, it is our expectation that the grant administrators and mentors at each institution proactively carry out prescreening of proposals or applicants as is appropriate. We ask that this occurs as an active process as it greatly enables the administration of the funds.* We are happy to provide additional guidance on this last point as may be needed.

## APPLICATION PROCESS:

**Research Plan:** Prospective applicants are expected to submit a research plan, pre-approved by their mentor or an organization-based board, to the foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee. The Foundation asks that the Institute specifically confirm review of the proposal in one or more of the documents described in the **Supporting Materials**. The research plan must be fundamentally sound and will include statements of (a) scientific and technical merit of the research question placed specifically in the context of current state of knowledge; (b) specific design, methodology, and feasibility of the study; (c) relevance of the proposed research plan to the applicant's career/intellectual objectives; (d) medical and health significance of the proposed research to breast cancer prevention, control and/or treatment; and (e) appropriateness of the research plan as a vehicle for developing necessary research skills. Where appropriate, the applicant is strongly encouraged to report preliminary findings that support the research proposal or concisely recount literature findings that do likewise. The formal proposed research plan portion of the application contained in items (a) through (e) must not exceed **10 pages** in length. This includes diagrams and figures. Applications falling outside of these nominal guidelines will **not** be reviewed and the applicant will not be notified of the failure to comply. However, the review committee reserves the option of asking applicants for additional supportive information, to contact mentors and references directly and to interview any candidate prior to award. Additional Supporting Materials (e.g. references, letters of support, letters of intent etc) requested are counted separately but the committee encourages applicants to be efficient in their submission.

**Supporting Materials:** In addition, and not included in the 10-page limit, the applicant must present Evidence of the Institutional Commitment to the applicant; a statement of the quality and relevance of their research, the adequacy of the research facilities and training opportunities for the proposed project; and the appropriateness of the facilities and resources specifically available to the candidate. This information can be provided as part of personal statement or in the letters of reference that each applicant is required to provide. This part of the submission is very important, and we ask applicants to take it as seriously as the formal scientific proposal. Applications missing supporting materials or submitting inadequate materials will not be reviewed.

## **SOURCE OF FUNDS**

The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation obtains its funds principally from private and corporate donations collected annually by our volunteers, and through organized fund-raising events approved by the Foundation. Funding is recommended by the scientific advisory board and is administered by the sitting board of directors. While awards are never made on the basis of need, the committee asks that applicants disclose other sources of funding or any relevant funding or administrative conflicts in their personal statement letter.

## **DEADLINES:**

An application is mandatory for those applying for a 2022 fellowship grant and must be submitted absolutely no later than November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Proposals should be sent electronically to:

Dr. Nicholas A. Saccomano, Ph.D.  
SAB Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation  
[Nick.Saccomano@Pfizer.com](mailto:Nick.Saccomano@Pfizer.com)

Applications will be reviewed promptly by the scientific advisory committee. The committee will evaluate applications based on the following criteria: (a) the scientific merit, originality, and technical feasibility of the application; (b) the qualifications, experience and productivity of the applicant, and the members of the investigative team; (c) the facilities and resources available; and (d) the promise of the research or training as related to the control of breast cancer or to the benefit to be gained by persons with breast cancer. At the discretion of the committee, interviews will be requested of candidates. The evaluations of the committee are provided to the Foundation's Board of Directors. After considering the relative merit of the applications, the amount of available funds and the Foundation's objectives, the board will determine which grants will be funded. Applications that are not funded may be revised and resubmitted in a future granting cycle under the guidance of the scientific advisory committee.

## **NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION RECEIPT AND REVIEW**

Approximately one month after receipt of the application, the applicant will receive an email acknowledgment confirming receipt of application and an approximate date upon which the committee will communicate a decision back to the applicant. Awards will be made and announced on or around January 1, 2022.

## **PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER RESEARCH COMMUNICATIONS**

We require that publications resulting from research, or training activities supported by this foundation, contain an acknowledgment that the effort was supported by the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation". This action is critical to our future fundraising effort and is required by our trustees and patrons.