Purpose:
Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) is a debilitating, chronic, inflammatory joint disease. PsA develops in approximately 30% of individuals with psoriasis, but it can also occur in the absence of other symptoms. Left undiagnosed for even six months, psoriatic arthritis may cause permanent joint damage. A diagnostic test is needed to prevent missed or delayed diagnosis to allow for the earliest possible identification and intervention.

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) is seeking researchers to submit grant applications that aim to develop a clinically applicable diagnostic test for psoriatic arthritis that may improve detection of PsA in a highly sensitive, specific, and non-invasive manner. The Psoriatic Arthritis Diagnostic Test Grant will fund research initiatives that have the potential to achieve this goal within five years. Projects will occur in two phases, with one year of support to establish proof-of-concept data followed by up to four additional years to complete research, development and validation.

RFP gives highest priority to proposals that:
1) Create, develop or support innovative collaborations among basic, translational, and clinical researchers.
2) Target a multi-faceted, multi-marker approach utilizing a multi-disciplinary team.
3) Explain how their approach will have the highest likelihood of developing a diagnostic test for PsA.

Anticipated number of awards:
As many as six Psoriatic Arthritis Diagnostic Test Grants will be funded during the first year of the program. This award is contingent upon the receipt of sufficiently meritorious applications.

Budget:
Year 1 (Current application): Applicants may request up to $100,000 in year 1. Successful applicants will be required to submit a brief six-month progress report.

Year 2 through Year 5: Following the first year, NPF will provide additional funding for projects that have demonstrated progress during the first year. Renewal will be contingent upon factors including likelihood of achieving the program goals. Specifically, near the end of year one, applicants will have the opportunity to renew their proposal for up to an additional 4 years with up to $300,000 annually in funding.

Project period:
The total project period is up to five years, from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024; it includes Year 1 (proof-of-concept) and Years 2 through 5 (renewal).

The current application is specific to Year 1 of the project, which is a proof-of-concept period to generate preliminary data. Near the end of year one, applicants will have the opportunity to submit a renewal application to compete for a second phase of funding (up to $300,000 per year for up to 4 years).
Eligibility:
The principal investigator must be personally and actively responsible for the conduct of the proposed research, and eligible to apply for research grants under the guidelines of his/her host institution or organization. The principal investigator need not be a United States citizen and the research need not take place in the United States.

Letter of Intent
Researchers interested in applying for this RFP must submit a letter of intent by December 14, 2018.

The letter of intent should include:
- Project title
- Lay abstract (200-word maximum)
- Project description
  - Specific aims and description of methodological approach (one page)
  - A brief rationale justifying why this approach is the best method for developing a diagnostic test for PsA (200-word maximum)
- Anticipated key personnel, their expected roles on the project and how these personnel will support a multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach
- Estimated amount of funding to be requested (up to $100,000 in year 1).

The letter of intent will be used to select qualified reviewers and assess the appropriateness of the proposal as it relates to this funding mechanism and the mission of the National Psoriasis Foundation. Full applications will not be accepted without an approved letter of intent.

Application

- Application Deadline: April 1, 2019
- Application:
  (1) Research Strategy (6-page maximum): The research strategy should focus on Year 1 of the project, which is a proof-of-concept period to generate preliminary data.

  Significance
  Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application.

  Innovation
  Explain how the application challenges and seeks to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms.

  Approach
  Explain in detail the methodological approach to develop the test for PsA, including strengths of such an approach, evidence of a multi-disciplinary, highly collaborative approach, any advantage over existing methodologies, and any anticipated challenges and ways to address them.
• Detailed Budget (for year 1 only)

• Key Personnel:
  NIH-style biosketches (5-page maximum per biosketch)

• Letters of support:
  Please provide relevant letters of support

Award notifications: Anticipated July 1, 2019

Application Submission:
Applicants interested in applying for this grant mechanism should submit the letter of intent materials to research@psoriasis.org by Friday, December 14, 2018.

Questions:
For more information on the Psoriatic Arthritis Diagnostic Test Grant program, please email research@psoriasis.org.