Purpose:

Preventing the onset of disease, relapse or the related comorbidities would overcome many of the obstacles that continue to challenge patients, health care providers and significantly improve the lives of those affected by psoriatic disease.

The National Psoriasis Foundation (NPF) has long recognized the importance of research to improve the lives of those living with psoriatic disease. The first pillar of our new five-year strategic plan is to lead collaborative, transformational research in psoriatic disease to support this mission. NPF is uniquely positioned to bring the research and the clinical community together to advance psoriatic disease research and support the use of successful strategies and models to address these challenges. To this end and inspired by the NIH Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP), NPF will invest an estimated $6.5 million over the next five years to establish the Psoriasis Prevention Initiative (PPI) – a multi-institution, multi-disciplinary, team-based research network whose stated aim is to identify an intervention that will prevent the onset of psoriatic disease, disease relapse or relevant comorbidities.

The NPF is seeking research proposals for this initiative based upon input from the PPI Steering Committee, a group composed of members of the NPF’s Scientific Advisory Committee, NPF’s Medical Board, clinical advisors, bench and translational researchers, board members and patient constituents. Proposals will be solicited from the international research community, with funding decisions based on a competitive, peer-review process.

Highest priority will be given to proposals based on their ability to:

1. Establish or develop innovative collaborations among basic, translational, and clinical researchers.
2. Identify a multi-faceted, multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional collaborative team and research approach.
3. Explain how their approach will have the highest likelihood of developing an intervention that will:
   a. prevent the onset of psoriatic disease, or
   b. prevent the onset of psoriatic disease relapse, or
   c. prevent the onset of related comorbidities

Anticipated number of awards:
Up to two applications will be funded during the first year of the program. This award is contingent upon the receipt of sufficiently meritorious applications for the first year, as well as for subsequent renewal.

Budget:
The initiative will fund proposals that have the potential to achieve significant progress toward this aspirational goal within five years and will occur in three phases:

   Stage 1 (Current application): One to two grants will be awarded for up to $250,000 for Year 1.
Stage 2: Upon demonstration of progress and promising future potential, one grantee will be awarded Year 2 funding of up to $1,500,000.

Stage 3: Upon continued demonstration of progress the grantee has opportunity to renew their proposal for up $1,500,000 annually for an additional three years of funding.

Project period:
The initial project period is for one year, from August 1, 2020 – July 21, 2021. The potential project period is up to five years, but is contingent on a successful application for renewal.

The current application period is for Year 1 of the project. Near the end of the first year, applicants will have the opportunity to submit a renewal application to compete for a second and third stage of funding as outlined above.

Eligibility:
Applications must include co-principal investigators from a minimum of two institutions and three different disciplines, and there is no limit to the number of co-principal investigators proposed for the project. All principal investigators 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. Only one application may be submitted by a lead principal investigator.

Initial Letter of Intent:
Researchers interested in applying for this RFP must submit a letter of intent by December 13, 2019.

The letter of intent should include:
- Project title
- Lay summary with figure (200-word maximum)
- Project description (2 page maximum not including references)
  - Specific aims and description of methodological approach
  - A brief rationale justifying how this multi-disciplinary approach will achieve prevention of psoriasis, disease relapse, and/or associated comorbidities highlighting the significance and strategy of the project
- Project timeline for the 5 year project period listing aims with associated high-level tasks and indicate what year they will be completed
- List of all principal investigators, their institutions, their expected roles on the project and how these personnel will support the multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach. This form must designate the lead PI and justify that designation. There must be at least 2 different institutions and 3 different disciplines represented.
- Letters of support and accompanying biosketch for each principal investigator.
- Estimated amount of funding to be requested (up to $250,000 in year 1, up to $1.5 million in years 2-5).
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. It is important to note that proposals should highlight the applicability to human psoriatic disease and the potential clinical translation of the work. Full applications will not be accepted without an approved letter of intent. Instructions for the LOIs must be followed or the submission will not be considered for full application.

**Invited Application:**

- **Invited Application Deadline:** April 1, 2020
- **Application Components:**
  - **Research Strategy (6-page maximum):** The research strategy should focus on Year 1 of the project and present the following:

    **Significance**
    Describe the scientific premise for the proposed project, including identification of critical needs or knowledge gaps and consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of published research or preliminary data crucial to the support of your application. This should include evaluation of the scientific rigor of the previous research and how any weaknesses will be addressed in your approach.

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

    **Specific Aims**
    List the aims supportive of your project goal and outline key steps to fulfill project objectives.

    **Approach**
    Explain in detail the methodological approach to achieve your specific aims, 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. This should include elements to evaluate the scientific rigor of the approach including experimental controls, reduction of bias, power analyses and statistical methods.

  - **Leadership Plan (3-page maximum):** The leadership plan should address each PI’s respective roles and responsibilities, governance and organizational structure of the team, process for making decisions on scientific direction and allocating resources and funds, procedures for resolving conflicts, data sharing between PIs, and intellectual property issues.

  - **Detailed Budget and Budget Justification (for Year 1 only)**

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

  - **Letters of support:**
    Please provide relevant letters of support for other principal investigators and any key personnel.
**Award notifications:** Anticipated by **July 1, 2019**

**Submission:**
Applicants interested in applying for this grant mechanism should submit the letter of intent materials at the link provided at [www.psoriasis.org/grants](http://www.psoriasis.org/grants) by **Friday, December 13, 2019**. Full application instructions will be provided to selected applicants no later than **February 1, 2020**.

**Questions:**
For more information on the Psoriasis Prevention Initiative program please email research@psoriasis.org or call 503-546-8403.