

February 1, 2022

**The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group
Letters of Intent (LOI)
Allen Distinguished Investigator (ADI) Program
Protein Lifespan – 2022**

LOI release date: February 1, 2022
LOI submission deadline: March 1, 2022

Purpose

We request letters of intent for Allen Distinguished Investigator proposals for technological innovation for protein lifespan research. There will be up to four awards made for up to \$5M in total research funding (no indirect costs supported). Awards will be \$1,250,000 for 3 years, at the rate of up to \$500,000 per year.

Topic Details

Lifespan at the level of individual proteins *in vivo* is an area of biology that remains full of questions. What are the features of young vs. old proteins? How do cell and organismal factors impact protein homeostasis? Do some proteins not turnover? **We seek innovative proposals for technology development and for research supporting technological innovation that will ultimately deepen our understanding of proteins and how they age, from synthesis to degradation.**

We invite proposals along two tracks:

- **Technology development—proposals to develop new technology and/or refine existing hardware, software, tools, and/or models.** Projects may focus on technology for a variety of purposes relating to how proteins change or behave across their lifespan, including but not limited to visualizing the absolute age of the proteome; determining individual protein ages; following the dynamics of individual or multiple proteins from birth to degradation; and manipulating protein turnover for therapeutic application.
- **Biological discovery for technological innovation—proposals to elucidate biological mechanisms or features of protein lifespan that must be understood before technology development can occur.** Projects may focus on aspects of protein lifespan biology that, if known, could serve as the basis of a new measurement, imaging technology, model, or other tool.

Top ideas will include compelling test or use cases for the proposed technological innovation, or vision for the path from biological mechanisms discovery to technological innovation.

Program Goals

The Allen Distinguished Investigator program supports early-stage research with the potential to reinvent entire fields. The program seeks to have a lasting impact on the direction of research, aiming to serve as a catalyst upon which future research is founded. This program seeks to enable scientists to take risks with new ideas and approaches, and strongly believes in interdisciplinary approaches that allow scientists to look beyond their own disciplines, and to explore approaches with colleagues in other disciplines in order to bring new perspectives to challenging problems where traditional approaches within a discipline may be

‘stuck.’ The program is especially interested in approaches that are unlikely to receive funding from traditional government sources, including methodological and technological advances that are often necessary complements to scientific advance and often difficult to fund through traditional sources. This program encourages and supports researchers including novel methodological, theoretical, and technological elements in their proposals.

Eligibility Requirements

US or international scientists associated with eligible research organizations and pursuing independent research (e.g., faculty or similar positions) are eligible to apply. Allen Institute employees, fellows or advisors are not eligible to apply during their tenure at the Allen Institute. Individuals, including project PIs, co-investigators, and collaborators, receiving support from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation are not eligible to be part of applications while their award is active. No-cost extension periods are part of active awards. Collaborative teams are welcome; all team members must be associated with eligible research organizations. Eligible research organizations are nonprofit institutions with current 501(c)(3) Public Charity status from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), non-federal government entities, IRS-recognized tribes, and other organizations that conduct charitable activities. Applicants may not be private foundations as defined in Section 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. We ask that, if awarded, the leader commit a minimum of 20% effort to the ADI research activities. We believe that diverse perspectives are vital to science. We encourage researchers from across career stages, who are members of underrepresented groups, and/or who have followed less-traditional career paths to apply.

LOI Format

Submissions consist of the following information:

- a) PIs and contact information
- b) Project description

Contact information including names of PIs, potential collaborators, and institutions is collected via the submission portal (see LOI Submission below). Contact information is not shared with reviewers.

Project descriptions are reviewed in a double-blind method: identifying information related to PIs, potential collaborators, and institutions is not shared with reviewers; and reviewer identities and affiliations are not shared with submitters. **Do not include identifying information such as names of PIs, collaborators, or institutions in project descriptions.**

We recommend that submitters use our template when preparing their project description. The project description should indicate the proposal track (technology development or biological discovery for technological innovation), and provide an overview of the project that you are submitting for consideration. No specific information is required. We recommend that you include information such as the relevance or timeliness of your proposed project; the potential impact of your project; and how your approach is particularly suited to complete your proposed project.

We request that all project descriptions be in English on 8 ½ x 11-inch paper size, using Arial, 11-point font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins top, bottom, left, and right. The page limit for project descriptions is 1 page. Up to five references are allowed; references are not included in the page limit of the project description. Up to one figure is permitted and not included in the 1-page limit. Please place references and figure, if any, at the end of the project description.

LOI Submission

LOIs are due by **11:59am PST on March 1, 2022**, and should be submitted by upload [here](#).

The project description must be submitted as a **single PDF** file. The filename should **not** include identifying information. For the filename, we recommend using a shortened version of the project title followed by `_2022ADIProteinL_LOI.pdf`

Questions

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found [here](#). Questions not on this list may be submitted to alexandra.basford@alleninstitute.org. Please use “2022 Protein Lifespan Question” as the email subject.

We try to respond to all emails, but may not be able to due to the volume of questions received. Please note that LOI questions submitted after 11:59pm PST on February 23, 2022, are unlikely to be answered.

Application Key Dates

Letter of Intent Due	March 1, 2022
Notification of LOI Outcome	by May 2, 2022*
Full Proposal Deadline	June 15, 2022*
Finalist Interviews	August 2022*
Notification of Award	September 2022*
Award Start	November 2022*

*Tentative date

Selection Process

Up to 25 LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals for consideration. Up to eight of the submitted proposals will be selected for finalist interviews, which will be held by videoconference. Up to four awards will be made.

LOIs and proposals are confidentially reviewed by a panel of experts tailored for the topic, and this panel will make recommendations to The Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group, a division of the Allen Institute, which acts as the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation’s agent and subject matter expert, provides counsel, and supports the administration of the awards. The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation has the final decision on the award.

Members of the panel of experts and any advisors serve anonymously. Their identities as well as correspondence, evaluations and deliberations are kept confidential. This policy enables advisors and evaluators to provide their honest impressions independent of outside influence. Past awardees may be asked to act as future evaluators and advisors.