



**AMERICAN PORPHYRIAS EXPERT COLLABORATIVE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN HEME BIOSYNTHESIS AND PORPHYRIAS PRIZE
2025**

APPLICATION PROCEDURE (TWO-STEP PROCESS)

Step One: Initial Applications

Submission Should Include:

1. A letter from an administrative official of the applicant's medical, hospital or research institute endorsing the Principal Investigator and proposed project
2. Applicant CV and bibliography
3. 3-5 Page Project Description (to be submitted online):

Format: English language, Times New Roman 12pt or Arial 11pt; all margins 0.5 inches

Guidelines for 3-5 Page Project Description:

- Succinctly describe the project, including: background, unmet need, and significance
- Specific aims, objectives, or hypothesis
- Experimental design, description of methods and analyses to be performed for basic and translational research projects. If a clinical trial is proposed, present the trial design with primary and secondary endpoints, as well as a statistical plan. If the project involves the design of a novel device or approach for treating a disease or monitoring therapeutic effectiveness, provide sufficient detail to appreciate its design and novelty.
- Expected results and expected timeframe for completing the project
- Applications may include any additional information, supportive preliminary data within the limit.
- Additional Documents (not included in page limit):
Pertinent References, Estimated Budget, and 1-page of Figures or Tables

- Complete Submission Form and attach all required documents.
<https://form.jotform.com/243165684142154>
All applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their submission.

Step Two: Full Application from Selected Submissions

Following review of initial applications, selected applicants will be invited to submit an NIH-R01 modified application as detailed below, due **May 1, 2025 (23:59pm EDT)** to APEX.

See Research Project (R01): <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/activity-codes/R01>

Should Include:

Cover Page and Applicant Information

- **SF424 (R&R) Form:** This includes general information about the applicant organization and the primary contact.
- **Project Title:** A concise and descriptive title.
- **Budget Information:** Includes an itemized budget (e.g., salaries, equipment, travel, etc.). Not to exceed \$250,000 over a two-year period.

2. Project Summary, Abstract, and Specific Aims

- **Project Summary/Abstract:** A one-paragraph overview that describes the project's goals, importance, and impact.
- **Relevance Statement:** Briefly describe the relevance of the project to public health.
- **Specific Aims:** A one-page summary of the project's objectives, hypotheses, and goals.

3. Research Strategy

- **Significance:** Using NIH space/word limits, Explain the significance of the research problem and how the project will improve understanding, treatments, or preventive measures.
- **Innovation:** Describe any novel aspects, such as concepts, approaches, or methods.
- **Approach:** A detailed plan for the research, including design, methodology, data analysis, and anticipated results. Address any potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.

4. Bibliography & References Cited

- List references cited within the application, supporting the research context, design, and methodologies.

5. Biographical Sketches (Biosketches or CVs and Bibliographies)

- Provide NIH-style CVs and bibliographies for the principal investigator (PI) and key personnel, detailing relevant experience and past accomplishments.

6. Facilities and Other Resources

- Describe the available facilities, equipment, and resources supporting the project.

7. Budget Justification and Budget Forms

- **Personnel:** Names, roles, and percent effort for each team member.
- **Equipment and Supplies:** Specify large equipment needs.
- **Travel and Other Costs:** Justify anticipated travel, publication costs, and other project needs.

8. Letters of Support

- Include letters from collaborators, consultants, or other institutions offering support or resources for the project.

9. Protection of Human Subjects (if applicable)

- If human subjects are involved, outline the study design, risks, benefits, and informed consent process, plus any additional protections.

10. Vertebrate Animals Section (if applicable)

- If animal research is involved, describe species, procedures, justifications, and humane practices.

11. Review Criteria and Scoring

- Applications are evaluated based on criteria such as significance, innovation, approach, investigator qualifications, and environment. A scoring system from 1 to 9 is used (1 being the best score).

2025 REVIEW COMMITTEE

Initial applications will be reviewed by a panel of internationally recognized human heme biosynthesis and the porphyrias, including:

- Professor Robert J. Desnick, MD, PhD (President, APEX)
- Professor John Phillips, PhD (Vice President, APEX)
- Professor Eliane Sardh, MD, PhD (President Elect, International Porphyria Network)

These reviewers will assess the initial projects and select those for submission of full applications.

Selection of the winning project will be based on the evaluation of a review committee composed of members of the National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine, and ad hoc experts as needed who will assess the quality of the research as well as the potential impact of the results.

These committee members will follow a code of conduct to ensure that submissions are reviewed in a fair and equitable manner. The review committee members are bound by confidentiality rules applicable to such committees. Applications from the review committee members will not be considered and they will recuse themselves from evaluating initial applications from their institutions. The Review Committee's decisions are final and there is no appeal mechanism.

Progress Reports

The winning applicant will provide written progress reports to APEX every six months which will be reviewed by the full Application Selection Committee.