



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

CALL FOR RESEARCH APPLICATIONS

The American Porphyrias Expert Collaborative (APEX) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, established in 2020, dedicated to advancing fundamental, translational, and clinical research in the porphyrias and human heme biosynthesis and to enhancing knowledge of porphyrias among physicians, scientists, and patients.

APEX's primary objectives are to:

1. Promote basic, translational, and clinical research in human heme biosynthesis and the porphyrias, aiming to discover new insights that benefit the health and well-being of porphyria patients and families worldwide, and
2. Encourage and support young academic investigators in their research and training within this field.

Toward these goals, APEX has established a \$250,000 research prize.

ELIGIBILITY

Young investigators of all nationalities working in the fields of human heme biosynthesis and porphyrias are eligible. Applicants must be independent research track or tenure track junior faculty (Assistant Professors, Associate Professors, or equivalent) not more than 10 years from their terminal degree or 8 years from completing their fellowship and are employed full-time by an academic institution or not-for-profit research institute. Individuals employed by biotech or pharmaceutical companies are not eligible.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research projects, which may span two years, must focus on basic, translational, preclinical, or clinical research related to human heme biosynthesis or the porphyrias. Proposals involving mammals and animal models directly related to human heme biosynthesis and the porphyrias are eligible.

Areas of particular interest include, but are not limited to: Characterization of the regulation and expression of mammalian/human ALAS; Regulation of the heme biosynthetic pathway in the brain and other organs; Identification and characterization of the hepatic "free heme pool"; Mechanism for the movement of heme from mitochondria to the cytosol; Modifying genes that protect or predispose to acute porphyria attacks; Pathogenic mechanisms triggering acute porphyria attacks; Mechanism of ALAS1 expression in patients that are "chronic high excreters"; Factors modulating the clinical severity of the acute and/or erythropoietic porphyrias; Translational development of novel treatments and/or cures for the porphyrias; Other research related to human heme biosynthesis and porphyria pathogenesis.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process will occur in two steps:

1. 3-5 Page Project Description (to be submitted online) including:

See application procedure guidelines for submission details.

Following expert review, selected initial applications will be invited to submit a final NIH R01 modified application for this prize.

2. Final Application:

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a NIH R01 modified proposal as detailed in the Application Procedure below.

Note: As a nonprofit educational organization, APEX does not allow institutional indirect costs (e.g., overhead) to be added or subtracted to/from this research prize, similar to that by other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. In exceptional cases, a special request must be made to APEX outlining the circumstances. If approved, the indirect cost rate would be capped at 10%.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 15, 2024:	APEX Research Prize “Call for Applications”
February 15, 2025 (23:59pm EDT):	Initial Application Due
April 1, 2025:	Invitations to Submit Final Applications Sent
July 1, 2025 (23:59pm EDT):	Full Applications Due
August 1, 2025:	Research Prize Recipient Selected and Informed
October 12, 2025:	Research Prize Recipient Announcement at the International Porphyrias Symposium

SUBMISSION

Online application <https://form.jotform.com/243165684142154>

QUESTIONS

For inquiries regarding this research prize, please contact info@porphyria.org.