



2024 INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE AWARD

Introduction: CLL Society is pleased to announce a new funding opportunity for scientists who are specifically interested in researching how integrative medicine approaches might improve the lives of those living with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and small lymphocytic lymphoma.

Award Amount: CLL Society's 2024 Integrative Medicine Award will be in the amount of \$100,000 dollars dispersed in two annual payments of \$50,000. The first \$50,000 will be paid within 30 days of the Effective Date and the second \$50,000 will be paid within 30 days after CLL Society's approval of the first submitted annual progress and financial report.

Eligibility: Principal Investigators (PIs) can be junior or mid-career faculty, as well as established investigators from any academic institution or discipline.

Background: Integrative medicine is a patient-centered, evidence-informed field of comprehensive cancer care that uses mind-body practices, natural products, and lifestyle modifications from different traditions alongside conventional cancer treatments to promote optimal health and well-being. The integrative medicine approach ideally combines the best of Western medicine, evidence-based complementary approaches, and lifestyle practices by addressing the full range of physical, emotional, mental, social, spiritual, and environmental influences that affect an individual's overall health. Although many integrative medicine interventions are widely available to the public, strong evidence about whether they are safe and offer clinical benefits for specific medical conditions (such as CLL/SLL) and symptoms are lacking.

Goal: This award is designed to support exceptionally innovative research projects that aim to provide an understanding of the mechanistic basis or clinical outcomes related to the use of integrative therapies, specifically for those living with CLL and SLL. The award aims to encourage early exploration of research ideas that incorporate an integrative approach to addressing the many health challenges of those living with the disease, help to address gaps in current research, and build a strong evidence base to improve quality of life.

Study Design: The purpose of this program is to provide early funding for innovative projects in the field of integrative medicine including basic, translational, pre-clinical, and pilot research. Integrative health research projects currently not funded and aimed at obtaining preliminary results for a full application for extramural funds will be given priority. Emphasis will be placed on the innovation and transformative potential of submitted proposals. Collaborative projects are encouraged.

Sufficient product information must be included in the application to allow the peer reviewers to evaluate the significance, feasibility, and scientific strength of the project. Investigators must demonstrate that their investigative team has the appropriate product and analytical expertise to select the agents being used for their study.

Projects Considered: Proposals must focus exclusively on patients with CLL/SLL and significantly contribute to and accelerate progress for the patients CLL Society serves. The research should



ultimately aim to optimize health, quality of life, and clinical outcomes for those living with CLL and SLL by incorporating an integrative medicine approach to care.

Integrative therapies, as defined by NIH, include the use of natural products (botanicals, dietary supplements, probiotics, and small molecules derived from plants, fungi, bacteria, marine organisms, or animals), mind and body approaches (meditation, hypnosis), body-based approaches (acupuncture, massage, reflexology), different types of exercise (yoga, Tai Chi), and art or music therapies. In addition to integrative health research studies, these awards are also open to proposals that pilot new methodologies to assess multimodal approaches to integrative or whole-person care.

Budget: Funding should be used to support the Grantee's salary, with a maximum allowable institutional overhead of 10%. It is expected that the hosting institution (and/or additional supporting grants) will cover expenses for research consumables, equipment, and all other incidental costs required for the project. The estimated funding period is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.

Funds cannot be used to support equipment purchases or travel, and no overhead will be provided for outside institutions. Funds are intended to directly cover research rather than administrative costs. We understand that some institutions require a certain proportion of grants to cover indirect and/or modified direct costs. CLL Society will allow for up to 10% of the total award to be used as indirect and/or modified direct costs, including any indirect costs associated with sub-awards. We encourage applicants to work with their institutions to reduce administrative costs so that the maximum amount of the award can be used for the research project.

Request for Letters of Intent: Applicants should submit their Letter of Intent through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#) **no later than November 6th, 2023 at 11:59 PM EST**. Letters of Intent will not be received after this date/time. Applicants will be notified via email whether to then submit their full research proposals by **December 4th, 2023**.

Request for Full Research Proposals: Full proposal submissions are by invitation only, after review and approval of the Letter of Intent. Those approved will be invited via email to submit their full research proposal through [ProposalCentral's application portal](#). The deadline for submission is **no later than January 12th, 2024, at 11:59 PM EST**. Any applications received after this date/time will not be considered. Incomplete applications will also not be considered.

Required Documents: Please read through the [Application Instructions](#) and [Program Guidelines](#) in full prior to beginning the application process.

Selection Process: Full research proposals will undergo a formal peer-review process by CLL Society's Research Review Committee and will be critiqued and ranked for funding priority based on strategic and scientific merit. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application no later than **May 3rd at 11:59 PM EST**. Written critiques will be available to the applicants who were invited to submit a full research proposal. In submitting a full proposal, researchers agree to allow CLL Society's Research Review Committee to access your full application materials.