Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce that the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation Myositis Discovery Fund will be supporting grants to investigators (including faculty members and fellows) at Johns Hopkins. Proposals may be submitted by investigators regardless of whether they are associated with the Johns Hopkins Myositis Center.

The objective of these grants is to provide the “seed money” needed to develop preliminary data that can be used to apply for larger, project-sustaining grants from the National Institutes of Health and other grant making agencies. Grant applications should include proposals that have the potential to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with one or more of the various forms of myositis.

We envision funding 4-6 new projects at a level of $25K to $50K for one year, though collaborative projects of outstanding interest requiring a higher budget (up to $100k max) and involving more than one investigator will also be considered. Projects that have made good progress during the first year may be eligible for a second year of funding. Although projects should focus on the inflammatory muscle diseases, consideration will be given to proposals relevant to the extramuscular manifestations of these diseases, including involvement of the lungs, skin, and joints.

Proposals must be 2 pages or less and include the following sections (i) Hypothesis, (ii) Specific Aim(s), (iii) Relevance to Myositis, and (iv) Methods (please provide sufficient detail for reviewers to understand the approach). A budget and NIH biosketches for the PIs should be attached to the proposal. In general, these grants will support the costs of conducting research (including personnel) but will not cover salary support for the PI.

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by an advisory committee that includes faculty members from the Department of Neurology, the Division of Rheumatology, and the Division of Pulmonary Medicine. Acceptance of an award will require a progress report at 6 months and adequate progress must be demonstrated for the second installment to be paid.

Proposals are due on July 15th, 2023. Funding decisions should be made by the end of July for an anticipated start date of September 1, 2023. Submit applications to Aja Payne apayne14@jhmi.edu

Sincerely,

Raf Llinas and Andy Mammen