

# **Roderick D. MacDonald Research Fund at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center 2025**



### ***Introduction to the Fund***

The Fund was established in 1953 by Zoe Blount MacDonald in memory her husband, Roderick D. MacDonald. Mrs. MacDonald and Bishop Clinton S. Quin, the Bishop whose dream was to establish a not-for-profit Episcopal hospital in Houston, wanted to see the MacDonald Fund support the mission of the hospital by helping to fight disease through scientific discovery. The current MacDonald Fund Committee is made of researchers committed to St. Luke's with experience in building scientific programs. The Committee is looking for proposals that will provide key scientific information that can be used to attract larger grants and contracts in the field or area of interest to expand the science and increase the impact of the supported work.

### ***MacDonald Research Fund Awards***

The MacDonald Fund customarily makes one type of award for single-year research proposals. Awards are made for a single year, although by sending a letter to the Chair toward the end of year one, a second year no-cost extension to the grant will be granted. An extension will not be granted beyond a second year. The purpose of MacDonald support is to facilitate research at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and to help investigators working in the St. Luke's environment to develop fundable and creative research programs.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the fund is to provide financial support to investigators in conducting original research or in collecting preliminary data that will lead to external funding or improvements in patient care.

### ***Funding Guidelines for Research Proposals***

- ◆ Grants up to \$50,000 are available for a one-year period. A priority is given to smaller grant requests (\$15,000-\$40,000) to allow multiple grant awards during a meeting. The funds are to be used for supplies, technical, computer and data management.
- ◆ Funds for salaries and fringe benefits of the principal investigator and other co-Investigators must not exceed \$10,000 in total. Equipment less than \$5,000 may be purchased. Use of funds for larger equipment items will not be approved. Rental of special equipment needed for the project is acceptable. Funds ordinarily will not be approved for items for basic office or laboratory infrastructure, such as computers, refrigerators, and freezers. It is assumed that the investigator has a pre-existing and functional research environment. Funds for travel, publications, and indirect costs (overhead) will not be approved.
- ◆ At the end of the second year after the grant is awarded, the principal investigator must submit an annual report with a detailed account of the funds expended. The report will be graded with scores made available for committee members. The research is graded according to the following factors: presentation of work at a national meeting, publication of results from the studies if the MacDonald Fund is acknowledged, application for or receipt of grants or contracts using the data collected from the funded study, and implementation of improved patient care as a result of the award. Any funds not expended will be returned to the MacDonald Fund. The scores of awarded grants will be made available to the Committee if the PI submits a new application to the Fund.
- ◆ The MacDonald Fund Committee anticipates that St. Luke's investigators will be able to carry out innovative research with the encouragement and startup money provided. The funding will allow the completion of a limited scientific study or lead to a more permanent funding base.

- ◆ Members of the BSLMC professional hospital staff or associated investigators are encouraged to submit proposals for research studies. Health care professionals from other institutions with collaborative research projects involving St. Luke's staff members are encouraged to submit applications. The actual clinical investigations must take place within BSLMC and its affiliated institutions, including the Texas Heart Institute and Baylor College of Medicine, or with BSLMC patients.
- ◆ On all publications including abstracts reflecting sponsored work, the investigator must acknowledge support from the Roderick D. MacDonald Research Fund at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center.

### ***Priority for Research Proposals Considered by the Committee***

- ◆ The Committee expects that the research proposal to be hypothesis-driven, to reflect one or more original research questions with strong likelihood of completion during the time period of the funding.
- ◆ Proposals are expected to generate preliminary data that could be important to the investigator in efforts to acquire external funding from another, usually national, especially federal funding agency.
- ◆ The proposal must demonstrate an appropriate sample size to test the hypothesis.
- ◆ Ordinarily research should be carried out at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center with hospital patients or with biologic materials derived from hospital patients.
- ◆ Projects that have clinical application that have the potential to improve the quality of patient care or safety of hospitalized patients at BSLMC, including outcomes research are given highest priority.
- ◆ Research programs with an opportunity to expand project scope by receipt of matching funds from another granting source are of special interest to the committee.
- ◆ Evaluations, surveys, or retrospective studies are usually not given sufficient priority to receive funding.
- ◆ A priority is given to smaller grant requests (\$15,000-\$40,000) to allow multiple grant awards during a meeting.

### ***Application Process for Research Proposals***

Before the MacDonald Fund will consider a proposal for financial support, an investigator must obtain approval for the research protocol by a St. Luke's-accepted IRB (BRANY, Baylor, UT, CHI, WIRB and others).

- ◆ IRB information can be obtained from the St. Luke's research website at <https://www.stlukeshealth.org/locations/baylor-st-lukes-medical-center/research/conducting-research-baylor-st-lukes-medical-center> or from the Coordinator at (713)798-6064. The website contains guidelines for submitting the protocol for BSLMC administrative review.
- ◆ If partial funding support is available from another source, a copy of the investigator's agreement, and letter of indemnification from the sponsor will be submitted with the IRB application.
- ◆ For proposals from nursing staff members, review and approval must be obtained from the Nursing Research Committee from the Division of Nursing prior to application to the IRB.

- ◆ For projects involving medical record reviews, a request should be made along with a complete description of the study in lieu of a proposal which will also require IRB approval.
- ◆ Following IRB review, the principal investigator receives a letter of notification concerning approval status.

### ***MacDonald Application***

The following information is to be included in MacDonald application request:

- ◆ Title of proposal
- ◆ Principal Investigator(s) (***include contact information***)
- ◆ Co-Investigator(s) and Consultants
- ◆ BSLMC Department or Clinical Service
- ◆ Sponsoring/Granting Agency (if applicable)
- ◆ Time period for granted funds (maximum 12 months)
- ◆ Costs to subjects, BSLMC and collaborating hospitals or institutions.

The outline of the research proposal will include:

- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Hypothesis being tested (one sentence)
- ◆ Lay Abstract that includes a brief summary of background, study methods, expected outcome and potential importance of the project using lay terminology and concepts.
- ◆ Background and Preliminary Studies
- ◆ Study design
- ◆ Sample size calculation
- ◆ Method of data analysis
- ◆ Relevance to St. Luke's patient care
- ◆ Informed consent procedure
- ◆ Budget and budget justification
- ◆ Plans for project development for future research grant application.
- ◆ Other external grant or contract applications for this project.
- ◆ Biographical sketch (not to exceed two pages) for each PI and Co-PI that contains: name, current position, education/training, positions/honors, selected peer review publications, and other research support.

The application should be limited to four pages or less in length, with additional appendices to support the proposal. **Deadlines for submitting proposals are January 7, March 7, May 7, August 7, and November 7, 2025.**

Submissions are online only – paper copies are no longer required. Link to online application: <https://orit.research.bcm.edu/R5T80IF3WH2/BSLMCResearchFund/Default.aspx>

For administrative questions, please contact the Coordinator at (713)798-6064 ([aresquiv@bcm.edu](mailto:aresquiv@bcm.edu)), and for scientific and technical issues please contact the Chair of the MacDonald Fund Committee, Herbert L. DuPont, MD, (713) 500-9366, ([DupontHerbert@gmail.com](mailto:DupontHerbert@gmail.com)).

## ***Approval Process and Receipt of Funds***

The MacDonald Fund Committee meets 5 times per year, normally within three weeks after proposal deadlines, to review proposals for financial support. Investigators will be given the opportunity to discuss their proposal briefly with the membership and answer questions posed by the Committee. Principal Investigators (PI) are not required to meet with the Committee to answer questions about the proposal but if the committee has important questions about methods, consideration of the proposal will be postponed until the next meeting when the issues can be addressed.

- ◆ For all submitted awards, a letter will be sent to the PI from the committee chair within two weeks of the meeting indicating whether the proposal was approved with the requested level of support or with a reduced budget, whether it was approved without funding or if the proposal was not approved.
- ◆ For proposals not approved, the PI will be informed about major committee concerns. If the committee feels the proposal could possibly be improved to meet an approvable status with funding, this may be included in the letter.
- ◆ Once a protocol is approved, the investigator will receive  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the total award.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the budget will be paid when the PI has made successful progress on the project and makes the request. The final  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the budget is paid when the project is well underway, and the PI is assured of completing the project.
- ◆ PIs of all approved and funded proposals must submit an annual report on the progress of the research while the funding is active and on the first anniversary after termination of funding.
- ◆ Any assets acquired during research will remain the property of Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center at conclusion of the research. Investigators are advised to keep all receipts and supporting documentation for a period of at least two years, since all grants are subject to audit.
- ◆ The PI may obtain approval of carrying over funds to the second year by writing the MacDonald Fund Chair requesting a no-cost extension. In no circumstances will funds be available beyond two years.

## ***MacDonald Research Fellowship***

Under special situations where there are clear and documented institutional plans for the applicant, the MacDonald Fund Committee may approve support for a one-year research fellowship. The research planned must be scientifically important and the institution (either St. Luke's Hospital, Texas Heart Institute or Baylor College of Medicine) must have plans for grooming the fellow for a later full-time research position. Fellow candidates planning research dealing with quality of medical care or patient safety will be given special consideration. The application should be in greater detail than for a standard MacDonald grant proposal and must include a career development plan with plans for education and future grant applications. Letters of support documenting institutional plans for the fellow must come from administrative authorities for the institution.

- ◆ The fellowship is in the amount of \$50,000 per year for one year. A majority of the dollars are to be used to pay the fellow's salary with remaining funds available to cover the costs for laboratory supplies, travel, etc.

- ◆ Equipment and indirect costs (overhead) are not allowable expenses.

### ***Application Process for a MacDonald Research Fellowship***

Acceptable applicants are individuals who have completed their clinical training or who are interrupting their clinical training to carry out a research fellowship.

- ◆ The research fellow must have a M.D., DO or Ph.D. degree.
- ◆ The research fellow will be required to spend at least 90% of their time conducting research under supervision at BSLMC. Private practice or employment outside the scope of the clinical research project during the time of the award or clinical training is not allowed.
- ◆ Mentors are limited to support for one fellow at a time. Priority is given to hospital areas not previously supported when candidates of equal caliber are being evaluated. The MacDonald Committee recognizes that an award may need to be made up to 18 months before the research fellowship is to begin.
- ◆ The application must identify career development plans and institutional plans for the fellow after the period of training. A letter from the division, department or unit head describing institutional plans is advised.

### ***Application Process***

The following information should be provided by the applicant's mentor in the application request:

- ◆ Name of the fellow candidate
- ◆ Fellow's mentor at BSLMC
- ◆ One-page description of research
- ◆ Brief plan for the individual once the fellowship is completed.
- ◆ Fellow's and Mentor's *Curriculum Vitae* and list of publications.

The candidate will be evaluated on a number of factors:

- ◆ Background and potential for growth
- ◆ Scientific merit of the program to be undertaken
- ◆ Track record of the mentor
- ◆ Future institutional plans for the candidate.

The research fellow must submit scientific data for publication in a peer-reviewed journal during the time of the fellowship. The candidate also must list themselves as a Roderick D. MacDonald Research Fellow at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in all correspondence and publications.

**Deadlines for submitting applications are January 7, March 7, May 7, August 7, and November 7, 2025.**

Submissions are online only – paper copies are no longer required. Link to online application:  
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### ***Approval Process***

The MacDonald Fund Committee meets 5 times per year, normally within three weeks after proposal deadlines, to review proposals for financial support.

- ◆ Once a fellowship is approved, the mentor will submit an annual report on the progress of the fellow on the first anniversary after termination of funding.
- ◆ Mentors are advised to keep all receipts and supporting documentation for a period of at least two years, since all grants are subject to audit.
- ◆ Mentors for research fellowships will receive a letter within two weeks of the quarterly Committee meeting which will detail approval status and level of funding for research proposals.
- ◆ The research fellow will acknowledge the Roderick D. MacDonald Research Fund and Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center on all presentations and publications of research supported by these funds.

### ***Final Report***

A final report is due within two years of the granting of the award and the following information is required:

- ◆ Project title, award number, and investigator name
- ◆ Brief description of the project
- ◆ Detailed results obtained with MacDonald support including all available tables and figures.
- ◆ Summary of major findings in bullet form
- ◆ List of all formal presentations of data obtained through MacDonald support including copies of published abstracts.
- ◆ List of all publications of data including copies of published papers and typed manuscripts in press.
- ◆ Indicate plans for project and how data obtained will be used in the future including plans for application for Federal grants and contracts and grants with Industry.
- ◆ If you have applied for or obtained a funded grant as a result of MacDonald funding, please detail this.
- ◆ Accounting of funds (unused funds must be returned)

*Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and Texas Medical Center researchers derive great benefit from The Roderick Duncan MacDonald General Research Fund. The MacDonald family's contribution to the research efforts of the hospital is providing seed money for a number of significant research protocols conducted at BSLMC. The Roderick Duncan MacDonald General Research Fund gratefully accepts additional gifts to further advance the research efforts of BSLMC physicians. To make a contribution, please contact St. Luke's Foundation, P.O. Box 20269 (MC 3-206), Houston, TX 77225 or by calling (832) 355-6822. You may also visit the web site at [www.supportstlukes.org](http://www.supportstlukes.org).*

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*Roderick MacDonald, though active in the lumber business, was known primarily as a landowner and trader. He increased his holdings by buying large tracts of land across the Gulf Coast of Texas, then selling the land itself and retaining the mineral rights to the property. At one point in this career, he sold 30,000 acres in Polk and Liberty counties to Champion Paper Company. The bulk of his estate, however, came from Sweeney, Texas, a small town he founded in western Brazoria County. It was here in 1936 that Harrison and Abercrombie discovered Old Ocean Field, an oil field for which Mr. MacDonald held the largest royalty rights. Mr. MacDonald shortly thereafter became a prosperous leasing agent for the Abercrombies.*

*Mrs. Zoe Blunt MacDonald, who survived her husband by only two years, loved music and was a major supporter of the Houston Symphony. Talented as both a musician and a music teacher, Mrs. MacDonald numbered among her students several friends of Bishop Clinton S. Quin – the Bishop whose dream it was to establish a not-for-profit, Medical Center that would provide a needed service to Houston. Through Mrs. MacDonald's friendship with Bishop Quin, her interest in St. Luke's grew and developed. She established the MacDonald Fund at a time when a close friend was ill with nephritis. Her goal was to help research efforts fighting this disease, as well as demonstrate her support of the mission of St. Luke's Medical Center.*



St. Luke's Foundation  
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Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, located in the Texas Medical Center, was founded in 1954 by the Episcopal Church. A nonprofit, multispecialty teaching hospital, St. Luke's is home to the world-renowned Texas Heart Institute. St. Luke's offers a full range of outpatient services, as well as community outreach programs, and is affiliated with leading physicians and managed care plans throughout the Houston area. Year after year, St. Luke's and the Texas Heart Institute have been named among the top 10 cardiology centers in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.