



SebastianStrong Foundation

DISCOVERY SCIENCE AWARD

Award Guidelines

SebastianStrong Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness of childhood cancer and accelerating the development of more targeted, less toxic treatments by funding bold, early-stage research. Since 2017, we have awarded over \$4 million to cutting-edge, peer-reviewed pediatric cancer research. Through strategic partnerships, matched contributions, and follow-on funding secured by investigators, our overall impact now exceeds \$6 million.

We exist because kids deserve better. Too many promising ideas in pediatric cancer research go unfunded due to limited institutional support, lack of commercial incentive, and minimal government investment, especially for rare and relapsed cancers. At SebastianStrong, we focus exclusively on childhood cancers, where small patient populations often mean traditional funders and pharmaceutical companies overlook research.

ABOUT THE DISCOVERY SCIENCE AWARD

The Discovery Science Award typically provides up to \$500,000 in funding for groundbreaking research that aligns with our mission. In select cases, proposals demonstrating exceptional potential for impact and scalability may be considered for higher levels of support.

Our Scientific Advisory Board, composed of leading pediatric oncologists and researchers, conducts a two-stage review process. First, **Letters of Intent (LOIs)** are evaluated to identify projects that best align with our mission and funding priorities. Selected applicants are then invited to submit a **full proposal**, which is reviewed in detail to determine final award decisions. Funding recommendations are made by the Scientific Advisory Board and approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors.

To be considered for funding, proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Are focused on pediatric cancer
2. Will lead to less toxic, more targeted treatments
3. Are clearly communicated in lay terms (accessible to our Board and donor community)
4. Demonstrate strong potential to progress toward a clinical trial in 1–3 years

We welcome new, ongoing, and updated peer-reviewed research. However, we **do not** accept in-progress or ongoing clinical trials. Any author or researcher conflict of interest must be disclosed at the time of submission. All submissions are treated as CONFIDENTIAL and are accessible only to members of SebastianStrong's Board of Directors and Scientific Advisory Board until the time of award. We are happy to execute NDAs upon request.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

SebastianStrong funds one or more proposals each year that advance meaningful change in pediatric cancer treatment. We are especially interested in research that:

- Focuses on pediatric cancers with low survival rates or high relapse rates
- Has transitional potential within 36 months

Discovering Hope for Kids with Cancer



- Pursues underfunded or unconventional approaches that could change the status quo

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered, applicants must submit the following via RhythmQ:

- A Letter of Intent (no more than 2–3 pages) written in language accessible to non-scientific audiences (e.g., spell out acronyms, use examples, minimize technical jargon)
- A CV or bio of the Principal Investigator

Submissions will be evaluated to ensure they align with our mission and funding criteria. A limit of two proposals may be submitted from the same institution, researcher, or foundation.

KEY DATES & HOW TO APPLY

MILESTONE	DEADLINE
Letter of Intent Open	October 1st
Letter of Intent Due	November 30th
Invitation to Submit Full Proposal Open	February 15th
Full Proposal Due	March 31st
Award Recipient Notified	May 15th

Applicants with approved LOIs will be notified by February 15th and asked to submit full research proposals for award consideration.

To get started, visit RhythmQ [HERE](#) and log in or create an account. Under **My Programs**, select the **Discovery Science Award**, then click **Create** to begin your application. You may save your draft and return at any time before submitting.

For platform support, click the **question mark icon** in the top-right corner to access the Support Library or submit a ticket. Support Library will lead you to helpful guides and videos.

Details about [past award recipients](#) and our [Scientific Advisory Board](#) are available at sebastianstrong.org.

CONTACTS

For additional questions or help, please email:

aileen@sebastianstrong.org or

medicaladvisory@sebastianstrong.org

Thank you for considering SebastianStrong Foundation for your research funding. We are honored to support scientists and institutions advancing the next generation of pediatric cancer treatments.

Discovering Hope for Kids with Cancer