



## Letter of Inquiry for a Research Grant

### Example (Medical Research Related)

Foundation representative, name of the foundation, address

Dear Mr. Alfred:

I am writing to inquire if the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation would consider a proposal from the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York University requesting a research grant of \$150,000 per year for two years, to support our research project entitled "Calcific Aortic Stenosis: Mechanisms of Calcification and Development of Biological Markers." The ultimate purpose of our research is to improve the clinical outcomes and quality of lives of patients suffering from cardiovascular diseases; this parallels the mission of Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation to extend and enhance human life.

After hypertension and coronary artery disease, calcific aortic stenosis (AS) is third most common cardiovascular disease in the Western world. With a prevalence of 39%, calcific AS is also the most frequent valvular disease and the main cause for valve replacements in patients over the age of 60. Despite the high prevalence and mortality associated with calcific AS, there is no effective medical therapy for the disease and little is known about the molecular mechanisms driving its pathogenesis. The aim of our research is therefore twofold: (1) to identify proteins in patients with calcific AS that can be used to diagnose and monitor the progression of AS, and (2) to investigate the biological mechanism by which such proteins promote calcific AS so that we can identify possible therapeutic targets.

This research is a collaborative effort between clinicians within the Department of Cardiology and basic science researchers and surgeons with the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York University. This collaboration gives us the ability to comprehensively study the disease process of AS, from its initial diagnosis by Cardiologists to its ultimate treatment by Surgeons. The union of the clinical expertise from both Cardiologists and Surgeons with the analytical proficiency of Basic Scientists makes this an exciting and innovative project that will certainly increase our understanding of the pathogenesis of AS and hopefully serve to impact its future treatment.

The Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at New York University Medical Center is an internationally recognized program performing over 1,200 open heart operations per year. Through the partnership between our research and clinical divisions, our Department is uniquely poised at the forefront of cardiothoracic surgery as we have the capability to both,



## Grant Training Center

1901 N Fort Myer Drive  
Suite 1016  
Arlington, VA 22209

study the molecular basis of diseases and to apply the knowledge gained through research in the development of novel clinical therapies.

Thank you for your kind consideration of our project. I will be contacting you within the next three weeks for any feedback you may have. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you desire additional information or if you have any questions. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

Lawrence B. Green, M.D., FACS, FACC  
Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery