



Research grants awarded by the National Ataxia Foundation ("NAF") are governed by the policy set forth herein. Terms of the policy herein are subject to revision or alteration at any time.

## National Ataxia Foundation Annual Research Grants Policies

Updated May 2025

### Table of Contents

1. GENERAL INFORMATION .....	2
2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE.....	2
3. APPLICATION REVIEW .....	2
4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.....	2
5. GOOD STANDING POLICY.....	2
5.1. Timely Compliance.....	2
5.1.1. Good Standing Status:.....	2
5.1.2. Not in Good Standing.....	2
6. DURATION OF GRANTS .....	3
7. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND DELAY IN ACTIVATION.....	3
8. SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES.....	3
9. UNEXPENDED FUNDS AND NO COST EXTENSION.....	3
10. CHANGE IN STATUS.....	4
10.1. WITHDRAWAL FROM PROJECT .....	4
10.2. CHANGE IN PI .....	4
11. LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	4
12. MOVE TO NEW INSTITUTION.....	5
13. BUDGET REVISIONS.....	5
14. AUTHORIZED COSTS .....	5
14.1. DIRECT RESEARCH EXPENSES:.....	5
14.2. SALARY AND STIPEND GUIDELINES .....	6
14.2.1. POLICY: Michael Lundquist Grant to Advance MSA-C Research, Research Seed Money Grants, Early Career Investigator Grants, and SCA3 Pioneer Translational Grant Mechanisms: .....	6
14.2.2. POLICY: Post-doctoral Fellowship Award .....	6
14.2.3. POLICY: Pre-doctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Ataxia Research, National Ataxia Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship: .....	6
14.3. SUB-CONTRACTING.....	6
14.4. INDIRECT COSTS AND OTHER UNALLOWABLE COSTS.....	6
15. AVAILABILITY OF RESEARCH RESULTS .....	7
15.1. NAF Grant Communications .....	7
15.2. Rights in Data (Publications, Copyrights, and Press Releases).....	7
15.3. Sharing Data .....	8
15.4. Research Resource Sharing.....	8
16. PATENT AND LICENSING POLICY .....	8
17. MONITORING AND REPORTING.....	9
17.1. End of Funding Term Report .....	9
17.2. Longitudinal Follow Up Reporting .....	9
17.3. Right to Audit .....	9

## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Ataxia Foundation (NAF) was established in 1957 to help people with all forms of ataxia and their families. NAF's mission is to accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia. Head-quartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, NAF is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

NAF provides annual support for research studies that demonstrate the potential to further our mission ***to accelerate the development of treatments and a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia.***

NAF supports studies spanning from early discovery research to late-stage clinical trials. Eligible proposals must demonstrate the potential to advance scientific and/or medical knowledge of ataxias or improve upon the diagnosis and treatment of ataxias. NAF's research grants are intended to sponsor research focused on ataxias and ataxia-related disorders, including hereditary, sporadic, or acquired forms of ataxia. NAF research can fund research proposals from investigators from public and private nonprofit universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, government agencies, biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies, and other for-profit entities. Most but not all NAF grant programs are open to studies irrespective of country of origin.

## 2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Grant proposals are submitted and reviewed in a two-step process. A Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted by all applicants in accordance with grant mechanism instructions and deadlines. LOIs undergo competitive peer review, and the top 30-50% scored are invited to submit a full grant application. Please see the specific grant mechanism instructions and [Letter of Intent instructions](#) for full information about process, deadlines, and applicant requirements.

## 3. APPLICATION REVIEW

All LOIs and applications are peer-reviewed by members of NAF's grant review committee to assess their scientific merit, relevance to ataxia, and alignment with NAF's mission and research priorities. NAF's Board of Directors has the sole authority to award research grants.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility criteria vary across NAF grant mechanisms. Please see the specific grant mechanism instructions for full eligibility criteria. The following are shared eligibility requirements across all NAF grant mechanisms:

- Applicants who were the lead Principal Investigator (PI) or fellow on a funded NAF grant within the past two fiscal years are ineligible.
- Only one application may be submitted per applicant (as lead PI) per year; applicants should carefully select the program that best matches their career stage and research proposal.
- Applicants must be in good standing with any previous NAF awards, as defined by the NAF Research Grants Policy.

## 5. GOOD STANDING POLICY

To remain in good standing with the National Ataxia Foundation (NAF), Principal Investigators/fellows and the applicant or grantee institution must adhere to the following compliance requirements. Individuals or institutions not in good standing will be ineligible to apply for additional funding from NAF until all deficiencies are resolved, as described below:

### 5.1. Timely Compliance

**5.1.1. Good Standing Status:** All required financial reports, research progress updates, regulatory filings, and other deliverables agreed upon with NAF are submitted on time and receive NAF approval. Any unspent grant funds are returned to NAF by the designated deadline.

**5.1.2. Not in Good Standing:** Required reports or deliverables are missing, submitted late, or not approved by NAF. Unspent funds have not been returned to NAF by the specified deadline.

## **6. DURATION OF GRANTS**

Research grants are awarded for one or two years in duration in accordance with the specific grant mechanism and conditions of the Notice of Award (“Funding Letter”). A request for a no-cost extension of up to one year will be considered if the reason for the request is compelling. See section 9 below for further details on no-cost extensions.

## **7. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS AND DELAY IN ACTIVATION**

Automatic Clearinghouse (ACH) and international wire payment transfers are processed in accordance with the awardee’s Funding Letter and the payment schedule detailed therein, provided all required funding and project initiation deliverables are submitted and approved. All grant awards are made payable to the PI’s institution only. The institution’s financial officer should establish an account from which grant expenses may be paid under the terms and conditions of the awarded grant. NAF does not allow for any indirect costs to be paid from awarded funds; all funds must be allocated to direct research expenses.

All grant payments are contingent upon the availability of grant funds, approval of the awardee’s research and budget plans, and confirmation that required Institutional and Regulatory approvals are current and on file at the funded institution and NAF. All contingencies and project deliverables stated in the Funding Letter must be submitted by the grantee by the stated deadline and approved by NAF, prior to the release of grant funds. NAF will make every attempt to replace a missing or lost payment. However, the missing or lost payment must be brought to the attention of NAF Finance Department staff by sending an email to [finance@ataxia.org](mailto:finance@ataxia.org) within six (6) weeks of the issue date on the original payment or a reissuance of the payment will not be authorized. NAF has the right to withhold or cancel grant payments for non-compliance of the policies herein and the grantee shall be subject to NAF’s Good Standing policy.

The activation of a research grant by the principal investigator (PI) may not be delayed. If the PI is unable to begin the grant on the start date designated in the Funding Letter, the PI must relinquish the award by notifying NAF in writing prior to the start date. In extreme situations, a delayed start date may be requested by contacting the assigned NAF grant manager detailing the reason for the delay. Such requests will be reviewed and approved by NAF, at its sole discretion.

## **8. SUPPORT FROM OTHER SOURCES**

A PI may not apply for, use, or accept NAF grant funds for a research project or part of a research project already supported for the same purpose either by NAF or by funds from another public or private source. If funds from other sources become available to the applicant during the review process or to the grantee that has been allocated to the proposed activities during the award period of an NAF grant, then the PI must inform NAF’s Research Department in writing. NAF will then review the disclosure and inform the applicant or grantee about the financial allocation and/or award status of the application at its sole discretion.

## **9. UNEXPENDED FUNDS AND NO COST EXTENSION**

At the conclusion of the grant period, any unexpended funds must be returned NAF without delay. Unused funds may not be retained or repurposed by the grantee or their institution. A request for a no-cost extension (NCE) of up to one year will be considered if the reason for the request is compelling. An NCE allows a grantee to extend the project period end date and budget for the sole purpose of completing grant activities. NCE requests will not be approved for the sole purpose of using unobligated balances. NCE does not authorize additional spending on any new activities beyond the purposes consistent with the project proposal. NCE’s can only be requested by the lead PI or fellowship recipient in the original grant proposal. An NCE request must be received at least 30 calendar days prior to the end of the original funding period. If an NCE request exceeds the allowable 12-month period or if a grantee is requesting a second NCE, the grantee is required to schedule a meeting with NAF’s Chief Scientific Officer, Lauren Moore, prior to NCE consideration. You can schedule a meeting by emailing [lauren@ataxia.org](mailto:lauren@ataxia.org).

A grantee cannot be the lead PI on any new NAF grant application during the period of an approved NCE. A grantee must complete their annual grant report and evaluation through ProposalCentral at the end of their original grant period according to the annual reporting deadlines regardless of whether they have been approved for an NCE. If they fail to complete their annual evaluation, NCE approval may be rescinded and any unused funds returned to NAF. If granted an NCE, the recipient will be required to provide an additional year of annual reporting to align with the new grant end date.

## **10. CHANGE IN STATUS**

The continued use of grant funds following any major change in status of the PI requires prior written authorization from NAF. As described below, such changes include but are not limited to prolonged absence, change in institution, or withdrawal from the project.

### **10.1. WITHDRAWAL FROM PROJECT**

When a PI withdraws from a project, the grant terminates and all unexpended funds, if any, must be returned to NAF accompanied by a report of expenditures within 8 weeks of the withdrawal from the project.

### **10.2. CHANGE IN PI**

Awards are to remain solely with the designated awardee and may not be transferred to any other personnel. If an investigator changes institutions, the award may be transferred, contingent upon the successor institution's commitment to support the research for the full remaining term of the award. No-cost extensions (NCE) will be considered for extenuating circumstances and require approval from NAF's CSO.

## **11. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Under certain circumstances, PI(s) or Co-PI(s) may be unavailable to work on approved project aims for a defined period of time. If the absence is less than 12 weeks and is due to a life event such as, maternity or paternity leave, hospitalization or family emergency, prior written notification is not required. An absence for 12 weeks or more is considered a prolonged absence and continued use of grant funds by or reassignment of a grant to another qualified PI requires prior written NAF authorization. The PI must provide written notification to the NAF Research Department requesting a prolonged absence authorization at least six (6) weeks before the start date of the period of absence when possible. The request must contain an explanation for the absence and detail the strategy for conducting the awarded research grant's approved aims during the absence.

The letter, on institutional letterhead, must include the following:

1. Dates of absence
2. Reason(s) for absence
3. Name, address, telephone number, and biosketch of the substitute investigator who has agreed to be responsible for the scientific conduct of the research grant's approved aims
4. Proposed communication strategy between the PI and the substitute PI assigned during the absence
5. Signature of the substitute investigator confirming their familiarity with all aspects of the awarded grant and acceptance of full responsibility for the conduct of the research grant's approved aims during the absence of the PI.

When a request for continued use of grant funds during a prolonged absence of the PI is not authorized, the grant is terminated and all unexpended funds, if any, must be returned to NAF accompanied by a report of expenditures within 8 weeks of the date of termination.

## 12. MOVE TO NEW INSTITUTION

Continued use of grant funds by a PI who changes institutions requires prior written authorization from NAF. The PI must notify NAF's Research Department requesting authorization in writing at least eight (8) weeks before the effective date of the change in institution.

The request must include:

1. Effective date - month/day/year - of change in institution
2. Project titles and periods of support of all NAF grants affected by the change in institution
3. Complete address of the new institution and the new mailing address of the PI if it differs from the new institution
4. Statement of Adequate Facilities of the new institution's facilities for conducting the awarded research project(s).

Instructions for transfer of funds between institutions will be provided by NAF's Research Department. Upon a transfer of a grant, unexpended funds, if any, must be returned to NAF, and a final report of expenditures must be submitted within 8 weeks of the transfer date. When a transfer is not authorized, the grant is terminated, and all unexpended funds, if any, must be returned to NAF accompanied by a report of expenditures within 8 weeks of the termination of award.

## 13. BUDGET REVISIONS

If the Principal Investigator wishes to reallocate funds within the budget after NAF has approved the budget, the Principal Investigator must submit a written request for the reallocation by contacting [aimee@ataxia.org](mailto:aimee@ataxia.org) for authorization. Such requests must include the amount of reallocation by budget category and a detailed justification explaining how the requested revision will affect approved research aims. Requests for budget revisions will be accepted up to the last three (3) months of the full funding period of the award. NAF does not permit budget revisions from an approved budget category to a non-approved category without a written request and full justification for review. Reallocations are permitted only during the current funding year. NAF CSO Dr. Lauren Moore will review all such requests, and notification will be provided to researchers within 30 days of receipt.

## 14. AUTHORIZED COSTS

A detailed budget must be submitted with all proposals, including a justification of all requested expenses. NAF reviews all proposed budgets to ensure compliance with applicable cost principles and grant program policies. Grantees are responsible for ensuring all expenses charged to NAF funds adhere to internal policies and NAF requirements. Noncompliant costs may be disallowed upon review.

Grantees must maintain accounting and internal control systems that ensure costs are reasonable, allocable, consistently applied, and aligned with both institutional policies and NAF award terms. In case of a conflict, the specific terms of the NAF award take precedence.

To determine if a cost is allowable, it must meet the following criteria:

- **Reasonable:** Reflects what a prudent person would pay under similar circumstances.
- **Allocable:** Directly benefits the grant or is proportionally assignable to it.
- **Consistent:** Treated uniformly across similar projects within the organization.
- **Conformant:** Complies with NAF program guidelines and award conditions.

### 14.1. DIRECT RESEARCH EXPENSES:

Funds may be used for **direct research expenses only**. Direct research expenses refer to costs that can be specifically identified in the awarded grant to achieve progress on approved research aims. NAF supports funding for the following direct research-related expenses:

- Laboratory reagents and consumable supplies
- Equipment essential to the project (not to exceed 20% of total budget)
- Animal purchase and care costs

- Publication and dissemination of research findings (up to \$2500)
- Investigator travel to scientific meetings, conferences, and collaboration-related site visits (not to exceed \$2000; economy travel only)
- Patient-related expenses directly tied to the study and not reimbursed by third-party payers, including travel
- Personnel costs (excluding fringe benefits), consistent with effort level and subject to salary caps may be allowed by some grant mechanisms. Use can vary depending on the specific grant mechanisms (see 10.2). Any allowable personnel costs may not exceed the NIH salary cap equivalent to that personnel's title. NIH pay scale can be found at following website:  
[https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap\\_summary.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm)

## 14.2. SALARY AND STIPEND GUIDELINES

**14.2.1. POLICY: Michael Lundquist Grant to Advance MSA-C Research, Research Seed Money Grants, Early Career Investigator Grants, and SCA3 Pioneer Translational Grant Mechanisms:** Personnel expenses, including the PI and any other designated personnel, may not exceed 50% of the total award budget. Individual salary requests must be prorated based on the individual's level of effort on the project and may not exceed the NIH salary cap for 100% effort, adjusted proportionally to their anticipated FTE during the grant period. The NIH salary cap applies to all personnel included in budget and should be adjusted based on the NIH level corresponding to their title (e.g., NIH post-doc salary cap should be applied to any post-doc personnel. NIH salary cap applies to all grantees regardless of the type of grantee institution (commercial and academic institutions, and governmental agencies) and irrespective to country of origin.

**14.2.2. POLICY: Post-doctoral Fellowship Award:** Up to 100% of grant can be used to support personnel costs, including the PI and any other designated personnel. However, the maximum direct salary or stipend requested from NAF may not exceed the NIH stipend level for 100% effort. If the trainee's effort is less than 100%, the requested amount must be prorated accordingly. For example, if the trainee is committing 85% effort to the project, the requested stipend must not exceed 85% of the applicable NIH stipend level.

**14.2.3. POLICY: Pre-doctoral Fellowship to Promote Diversity in Ataxia Research, National Ataxia Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship:** Up to 100% of a NAF fellowship award may be allocated to cover the fellow's stipend, provided that the fellow does not already have designated salary or stipend support from another external funding source. If the fellow is receiving such support from another grant, NAF funds may not be used to supplement that salary, and stipend support from NAF must be appropriately reduced or redirected in accordance with NAF's budget guidelines.

## 14.3. SUB-CONTRACTING

Research grants can include support for collaborative, multi-center research if the support is necessary to complete a portion of the project. However, only one PI/institution can submit the application for the group and, in turn, sub-contract with qualified collaborators. The NAF-funded PI must administer and account for all expenses of collaborating investigators and their respective institutions. All such costs, including must be accounted for by the NAF-funded PI. Each of the sub-contracted investigators must report to the NAF-funded PI and be independently responsible for the institutional documentation required to comply with policies, rules and regulations governing animal use and clinical trials. All subcontracted costs, approved as part of the NAF grant, must be substantiated with the submission of a report of expenditures and include the signature of any PIs at sub-contracted institution(s). Indirect costs are not permitted as part of subcontracted expenses

## 14.4. INDIRECT COSTS AND OTHER UNALLOWABLE COSTS

No NAF funding can be used to support indirect costs for any NAF grant mechanism. Indirect costs are associated with general infrastructure of the institution or department supporting the progress of approved

research aims. For example, administrative support, building use, maintenance and operations, library fees, insurance and depreciation are considered indirect costs and are not permitted as a direct cost in the awarded grant.

Additional unallowable costs include:

- Permanent or fixed equipment (e.g., sterilizers, casework, fume hoods, cold rooms and glassware/washers)
- Costs of installing and maintaining equipment
- Non-economy travel and incidental expenses
- Travel costs exceeding \$2,000 per year
- Tuition and relocation costs
- Premiums for insurance of equipment and supplies
- Dues to organizations such as federations or societies
- Registration fees for scientific meetings
- Purchase of books, journals or office equipment
- Costs related to "Contingency" funds or provision
- Over expenditures or cost overruns
- Duplication of funding
- Cost-sharing

## **15. AVAILABILITY OF RESEARCH RESULTS**

To accelerate the pace of research and honor the contributions of research participants, NAF supports efforts to ensure that data and resources generated through NAF-funded research are open, transparent, and made widely available. Principal investigators and grantee organizations are expected to make the results and accomplishments of their funded activities accessible to the research community and the public.

### **15.1. NAF Grant Communications**

NAF reserves the right to publish the title of each funded grant, name of the principal investigator, and the name and location of the awarded institution through NAF communication channels, including but not limited to the NAF web page, newsletter, annual report, and social media pages. Lay summaries submitted in the grant application and subsequent project reporting deliverables will also be published in NAF communication channels and, therefore, should not contain any confidential information. All other sections of the grant application are considered confidential and will only be released to members of NAF's Medical Research Advisory Board members, the review committee, NAF staff and NAF Board of Directors.

### **15.2. Rights in Data (Publications, Copyrights, and Press Releases)**

In general, grantees retain the rights to data conceived and/or reduced to practice as a result of NAF-supported projects. Specific award agreements may outline alternative rights based on the terms of the applicable grant mechanism. Any publications, data, or other copyrightable works developed under a NAF grant may be copyrighted without prior approval from NAF unless otherwise specified in the grant agreement.

NAF strongly encourages grantees to actively disseminate research findings and publish original NAF-supported work in peer-reviewed scientific journals as soon as practicable. Results of NAF-funded research may be published without prior review by NAF; therefore, the direction or interpretation of the work should not be attributed to NAF. Grantees are expected to send reprints of publications resulting from NAF-supported research to [research@ataxia.org](mailto:research@ataxia.org) as part of their progress reporting.

NAF encourages grantees to promote open access to research products. Specifically:

- Ensure that publications are accessible to readers at no cost.
- Use preprints and pre-registration of protocols when feasible to expedite dissemination.
- Make other research products available to users with minimal usage restrictions and at no cost whenever possible.



All grantees must acknowledge NAF's support in any statements, press releases, or publications describing work funded in whole or in part by NAF. Each such communication should include a statement such as: *"The research reported in this [publication/press release/presentation] was supported by the National Ataxia Foundation, grant [insert NAF grant mechanism and Year awarded]."*

If a press release is planned regarding NAF-supported research, grantees should notify NAF in advance by contacting [research@ataxia.org](mailto:research@ataxia.org) to allow for coordination and review prior to public distribution. NAF may choose to share published press releases related to NAF-sponsored research using various media distributions to the NAF community.

### **15.3. Sharing Data**

All NAF grantees are expected to share data and biospecimens generated under a NAF-supported grant to enhance the impact of funded research and facilitate future discoveries. Once research findings have been accepted for publication, data and resources should be made accessible to qualified individuals in the scientific community.

Final research data should be made publicly available by the time the main findings are accepted for publication. Grantees must ensure that:

- Data is shared at no cost to end users.
- Data is used solely for research purposes, in accordance with applicable legal and ethical standards.
- Appropriate consent, authorization, and institutional approvals (e.g., IRB) are in place for future use of the data.
- Investigators must take appropriate steps to safeguard the privacy of human subjects by removing identifiers or securely coding linked data. When sharing data, researchers must acknowledge the source and state that the data was supported by NAF.

Applicants are encouraged to address data-sharing in their application materials when applicable. A strong data-sharing plan may include:

- What data will be shared
- Who will have access
- Where and how the data will be made available
- When sharing will occur
- How users will locate and access the data

### **15.4. Research Resource Sharing**

NAF views the sharing of biospecimens, research tools, and animal models developed with NAF funding as vital to advancing ataxia research. These resources should be made available to qualified researchers in academia, industry, and clinical settings.

Grantees are expected to share research resources under the following conditions:

- No charge to end users for access to the resource
- Resources used strictly for research purposes
- Minimal cost recovery may be permitted for preparation and transportation
- All sharing activities must comply with applicable laws and ethical requirements, including obtaining any necessary consents or IRB approvals
- Shared resources must acknowledge the original source and note that development was supported by the National Ataxia Foundation.

## **16. PATENT AND LICENSING POLICY**

Grantees must promptly notify the NAF of any inventions arising from NAF-funded research. This notification should include a description of the invention, its potential applications, and whether the grantee intends to pursue patent protection. Grantees retain the right to prepare, file, prosecute, and maintain patent or other



intellectual property rights related to such inventions, at their own expense. Grantees are also required to notify NAF of any patent issuance related to NAF-supported inventions, even after the termination of the grant. Unless otherwise assigned, the grantee retains ownership of all rights, title, and interest in the invention, subject to NAF's rights of publication and any additional terms agreed upon in the Research Grant Agreement. Grantees must promptly notify NAF of any licensing, sale, or other transfer of rights to an invention arising from NAF-funded research, including the general terms of the transfer and any net income received. A portion of the annual net income ("Shared Proportion") must be returned to NAF, in proportion to NAF's financial contribution to the invention relative to the total direct costs incurred by the grantee prior to the transfer. The Shared Proportion shall be agreed upon by the parties prior to each such transfer. Payments must be made to NAF within sixty (60) days following the close of each calendar year in which net income is received, and must be accompanied by a report detailing the calculation of the payment. The total amount returned to NAF shall not exceed three (3) times NAF's total financial contribution to the invention, after which no further sharing shall be required.

## **17. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

### **17.1. End of Funding Term Report**

All Grantees are required to submit a final grant report on key findings and deliverables resulting from the awarded project, as well as a full financial report detailing how grant award funds were utilized. End of Funding Term Reports are submitted via ProposalCentral and are due within 4 months of completion of the funding term. End of Funding Term Report will include:

- Key findings
- List of publications
- New research tools
- Further funding attributable in part to data collected under NAF grant
- Inventions and Patents
- Professional development
- Itemized final expenses

### **17.2. Longitudinal Follow Up Reporting**

Grantees are also required to submit a follow up report annually for up to 3 years following completion of the research project. The goal of the longitudinal funding is to capture any additional sources of funding, publications, patents, or other deliverables that can be attributed in part to the NAF award. These reports are due annually within 4 months of the end of the funding term.

End of term reports and longitudinal follow up reports are reviewed by NAF staff and NAF's Medical Research Advisory Board, and Board of Directors. De-identified, aggregate information and statistics on NAF funded research outcomes may be published on the NAF website or in various communication outlets. However, identifiable information or results shared through these reports will not be shared with the public unless specifically approved by the Grantee.

### **17.3. Right to Audit**

NAF requires grantees to maintain accurate and complete records of grant fund expenditures for a period of three (3) years from the termination date of the awarded grant and agrees that NAF may conduct an audit of such records during usual business hours upon prior reasonable notice.

## **18. RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS OR ANIMALS**

If human subjects are involved in the proposed study, approval must be obtained from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) or equivalent ethics committee. Full funding will not be released until proof of IRB approval is provided to the National Ataxia Foundation (NAF). Under no circumstances does NAF assume responsibility for human subjects participating in research funded by an NAF grant.

If animals are used in the study, approval must be obtained from an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or equivalent body, confirming that all appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the humane treatment, care, and housing of research animals.