



## Research Funding Priorities

NAAF strategically funds highly meritorious grants to advance research in a diverse and balanced way. We consider applications in broad range of areas, including (1) basic research offering leads for a cure or prevention (2) translational and clinical studies offering high-impact results and immediate benefits and (3) research to quantify and qualify biological, psychosocial and economic impacts for the purpose of addressing those impacts and improving quality of life as well as ensuring swift regulatory approval and insurance reimbursement for potential treatments. NAAF has adopted the following criteria for evaluating highly scored grant applications for funding based on NAAF programmatic priorities to identify those that fit best within our existing research portfolio. The framework was developed by staff and reviewed by our Research Advisors and Health & Research Ambassadors. As our work progresses and we engage with a broad range of patients, caregivers, researchers, and other stakeholders, we may update and develop additional priorities for research.

- A. Raise profile of alopecia areata research.
  - Invite promising new investigators to become interested in alopecia areata research.
  - Publication potential.
  - Open up new areas of promising research.
- B. Improve ecosystem.
  - Improve methodologies of studying alopecia areata.
  - Help pave the way for FDA approval or insurance coverage of potential treatments.
  - Groom committed alopecia areata researchers.
- C. Build bridges.
  - Foster multidisciplinary collaboration.
  - Further the understanding of autoimmune processes overall.
  - Complement and capitalize on existing efforts of other disease groups.
- D. High impact potential.
  - Lead to or offer hope for a cure.
  - Offer immediate benefit to patients with alopecia areata; results available in the short-term.
  - Identify new therapeutic targets or test new potential treatments.
  - Help understand and address the psychosocial burdens to improve quality of life of patients with alopecia areata.
- E. Build on previous NAAF research investments.
  - Utilize the AA Registry, Biobank & Clinical Trials Network and its resources.
  - Utilize the Alopecia Areata Core Uniform Protocol.
  - Complement and capitalize on past NAAF funded studies.
- F. Magnify the research landscape.
  - Evaluate the current state of research in a systematic, quantitative way.
  - Offer insights into what is known or not known about a particular area of study.
  - Identify new opportunities for research progress.

In addition, NAAF conducts research summits every two years to review progress, identify opportunities to further advance research and create new directions in its funded and promoted research. NAAF will continue to provide support and leadership toward accomplishing the [targeted research aims resulting from these summits](#) to help bring effective therapies for alopecia areata to market and enhance the understanding of disease.