

Dr. K Anji Reddy CANDO*- ETR** Grants 2025 (Round 2)

*Catalysing Academic New Discovery Opportunities;

**Early Translational Research

Ignite Life Science Foundation is pleased to announce a funding opportunity to support innovative proposals in Early Translational Research (ETR). The goal of this initiative is to provide bridge funding that enables promising early-stage research to progress toward clinical application. As Dr. K. Anji Reddy, Founder of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, profoundly stated, ***"I strongly believe that drug discovery is a noble, perhaps even a spiritual, pursuit. It is beyond bottom lines and investor relations. The mission is to improve the quality of life and life expectancy itself. This requires good science."*** In this spirit, the CANDO-ETR grant is designed to back scientific ideas that embody this vision – good science that has the potential to create meaningful healthcare impact.

India holds immense potential for innovation in healthcare. Yet this potential often remains underutilized due to a lack of effective mechanisms that align the “pull” forces of clinical need with the “push” forces of research output. The CANDO-ETR grant seeks to address research done to prove at a laboratory level any idea/hypothesis/principle related to a human healthcare intervention (therapeutic, vaccine or diagnostic). The idea/experiments proposed should have a clear connection with a potential clinical application and should be robust enough to eliminate confounding interpretations or obvious downsides that can prevent development for clinical use.

Eligibility is restricted to full-time faculty members affiliated with government research institutions or universities.

The idea/hypothesis/principle espoused in the proposal should have plausibility based on prior data (preferably from the proposer's laboratory). The proposer should have access to the needed animal models/instrumentation for carrying out the experiments proposed. The merit of the proposal will be the deciding factor in the selection of the proposals. Proposals that are authored by multidisciplinary teams will be preferred.

The tenure of the funding request should be at least two years. We expect the quantum of funding per grant to be Rs. 1 crore. The proposal should include a six-monthly breakup of the total funding requested.

How to apply:

Please register at Ignite's grant management software.

Fill in all the information required to create your profile.

Once logged in, you will get the Grant details on the dashboard.

Click "Apply" and upload all the required documents before submitting the application.

Note: Since we are in the testing phase with our first release of the software, contact the support team given in the software.

Click here to register and apply: <https://grant-management.ignitelsf.in/>

The last date for submitting the proposal is 23rd August 2025. The awards will be announced around the 19th of September 2025.

Alternatively, if there is an issue with the website, you can upload the submissions to andrea@ignitelsf.in.

Information on Ignite Life Science Foundation can be obtained at our website: ignitelsf.in

Successful proposals will be announced on our website and through our social media channels.

The subject line of the email to which the proposal is attached should say: [CANDO-ETR Proposal 2025 (Round 2)] Proposal, Your Name, and Institution

The proposal (maximum 10 pages), the name of the proposal file should be: Pname_InstitutionName_[Grant name]_[Year] (The applicant should hold a full-time position).

The proposal should contain the following sections :

1. A high level SUMMARY of the proposal (150 words or less)
2. Background science in support of this proposal (Ideally ONE page)
3. The central hypothesis or idea (ideally half a page)
4. The experimental design to test your hypothesis/idea; experiments that are definitive in their outcomes and constitute a go/no-go decision point for further work are preferred (ideally ONE page)
5. Possible outcomes and next steps (ONE page)
6. List of References in support of (1) above (ONE page)
7. Six monthly milestones, and funding (with breakup; overheads should not exceed 10%)

required to be disbursed in six monthly tranches (ONE page). Please also attach the project budget as a separate excel file with the name: PIname_InstitutionName_[Mention grant name]Proposal_[Year]_Budget

8. Name of PI, co-PIs, list of relevant papers published by the PI and Co-PI, address, email ID, and mobile phone numbers.

9. If funding announcements are made in the second week of September, on what date can you commence the work on your proposal?

10. Self-certification that this proposal does not overlap with any other ongoing funded proposals OR proposals submitted to other agencies for funding. Please list ALL proposals of a similar nature that are funded in your laboratory as well as proposals of a similar nature submitted by you for funding to other agencies.