Scientists are encouraged to submit an LOI prior to preceding to the application phase. LOIs and applications will be reviewed as they are received. If an application is accepted for funding, AFSA will promptly award the funds (assuming the IRB has been approved). While we continue to raise funds, we currently have enough to award 8 individual grants that focus on fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS). Maximum grant award size is $50,000 in U.S. funds.

Proposals submitted for review should be relevant to AFSA’s research priorities. By investigating the areas described below, AFSA believes that better diagnostic tools and treatments will be made available to patients with fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) and its overlapping conditions. In the past, AFSA’s focus has been on pain mechanisms and treatment. While advances have been achieved in these areas, little progress has been made toward characterizing the sleep disturbances in FMS patients. This is why AFSA is putting aside $300,000 for studies pertaining to sleep. The purpose of AFSA’s sleep research initiative is to gain a better understanding of the relationship between the neurobiology of sleep in people with FMS and the various symptoms of this condition.

In addition to sleep, AFSA strongly encourages investigators to submit proposals that address the “other important priorities” listed in the second section. AFSA currently has $300,000 available to fund grants up to $50,000 for each proposal that addresses these other priorities. Depending upon AFSA’s fund-raising success, additional funds may be available to study these other areas of priority. Keep in mind, AFSA does not fund studies related to behavioral, psychosocial, self-help, or movement therapies. If you are assessing a medication that is commonly prescribed for patients, then your project should provide new insights about the drug’s mechanism of action.