

## **New Grant Program Provides \$1M for Childhood Cancer Research without Using Animals**

JENKINTOWN, PA—The Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF) is launching its largest grant program to date, just over \$1 million in funding for research focused on childhood cancer, at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting 2025 in Chicago, IL. The goal of ARDF's Alternatives in Research (AiR) Challenge: Focus on Childhood Cancer program is to provide critical funding for research that improves the understanding or treatment of childhood cancers while demonstrating that non-animal approaches can be valuable tools for biomedical progress.

The new program will fund up to five grants, each at \$210,000, for projects that address the program's dual aims of improving treatment of childhood cancer while using innovative non-animal research methods. Proposals from researchers at non-profit educational or research institutions across the US will be considered. ARDF's online application portal will begin accepting proposals on June 2, 2025. The foundation is launching the program at the AACR Annual Meeting 2025\* to raise awareness among a research community that is the program's natural applicant pool.

ARDF has made grants for childhood cancer research in the past, but the AiR Challenge: Focus on Childhood Cancer program is unprecedented in the foundation's history in terms of scope and size. It is ARDF's first grant program focused on a specific disease area, which was initiated after a generous private donation. "As far as we are aware, this is the first program of its kind and signals a milestone in the maturity of non-animal approaches in biomedical research," said ARDF President Sue Leary, adding "I cannot think of a more worthy research area to direct these resources."

*ARDF was established in 1993 to support and promote the development of alternatives to animal-based methods in science. Its grant programs have awarded over \$5 million to researchers to develop or implement alternative approaches in biomedical research, testing, or education. In addition to directly supporting research, ARDF also sponsors scientific meetings around the world, participates in regulatory and industry meetings, and provides free consultations with media representatives, scientists, and government officials. [ardf-online.org](https://ardf-online.org).*

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