



Eat Well, Live Well.



AJINOMOTO YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PILOT GRANT

Pilot grants are stipends for preliminary or pilot phases of young investigators' research projects. These grants support an investigator's efforts to address focused research questions, obtain preliminary data to support larger grant proposals in the future, and develop a line of research that can be carried forward into an academic career.

Research has demonstrated that glutamic acid salts (e.g., monosodium glutamate) can impact salty taste perception of foods via the umami taste receptor, allowing for meaningful reductions in sodium content of foods without sacrificing taste and pleasantness. Other umami taste receptor ligands may possess similar qualities. Umami receptors and related signaling molecules are also expressed in the gastrointestinal tract, which may stimulate post-ingestive physiological responses (e.g., satiety hormone release) and affect subsequent flavor preferences.

This award provides a one-time \$10,000 pilot grant for a young investigator to pursue basic or applied research investigating the sodium reduction attributes of umami-related compounds under healthy or therapeutic conditions. No indirect costs are allowed.

Special thanks to Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North America, Inc. for providing funding for this new award.

The deadline for applications is **March 1, 2020**.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be an ASN member residing in the United States
- Be junior faculty (within 10 years of terminal degree)
- Have demonstrated an interest in amino acid nutrition, cardiovascular nutrition, sensory science, or behavioral health

Application Guidelines and Instructions

All applications must be submitted via the [ASN Foundation Application Portal](#). The following information will be required during the application process.

- Applicant information
 - Contact information
 - ASN membership status
- Program director contact information
- Letter of recommendation author contact information

- Application information
 - Proposed research project information:
 - Proposed research project title (150 character limit without spaces)
 - Proposed research project dates (anticipated start and completion dates)
 - Statement: Statement written for a non-scientific audience, explaining the contribution of the proposed research to knowledge in nutrition. Tables, images and/or graphs should not be included or referenced in the Statement. (3,500 character limit without spaces, approximately one single-spaced typewritten page)
 - Summary: Summary of your proposed research project including objective, experimental approach and selected references. Up to 4 tables, images and/or graphs can be included to supplement the Summary. Tables, images and/or graphs (uploaded as image files in .jpg, .png, .gif or .bmp format) will appear separate from and following the Summary text. (14,000 character limit without spaces, approximately four single-spaced typewritten pages)
- Required upload (in PDF format)
 - A curriculum vitae
 - A letter of recommendation from a program director or other faculty member