

A. WARD FORD MEMORIAL RESEARCH GRANT

Provided through the A. Ward Ford Memorial Institute Fund



A component fund of the

A. WARD FORD MEMORIAL RESEARCH GRANT GUIDELINES

The American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, Inc. (ASLMS) supports the initiatives of the A. Ward Ford Memorial Research Institute Fund.

The Research and Development Committee review research grant proposals for direct clinical or basic science research investigating current use or potential new applications of laser or other light-based therapy.

Applicants must be enrolled in or have completed an MD residency or PhD post-doctoral training at the time of application and must be a member or applicant for membership in ASLMS at the time of the award.

Information on membership can be found on the [ASLMS website](#). Priority will be given to applicants who are interested in or entering an academic teaching or research position, but all applications will be considered.

Research Grant Awards:	Grants up to \$70,000 may be awarded for one year
Application Deadline:	Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Time
Notification:	Successful applicants will be notified Wednesday, February 18, 2026, if selected to proceed with a Full Grant Application submission. ASLMS reserves the right to change the announcement date if necessary.
Project Completion:	Within three (3) months following the completion of the research project, the grant recipient will submit a professional photo and a written summary of their experience (1000 words or less) with the grant submission process and how it supported their research efforts for use in future ASLMS newsletters and other marketing initiatives. Applicants may receive an extension to complete the research if requested and approved by the grant review committee.

Application Process: Applications are accepted through the [ASLMS online application system](#) and reviewed by the ASLMS Research and Development Committee.

Grant Application Requirements:

- Applicant background including training, previous positions, publications, previous research
- Clear presentation of the clinical problem or question to be researched
- Presentation of the research design
- A detailed budget
- Evidence of the institutional or other support base for the research, including collaborators
- IRB approval letter for human subjects' research, and approval from the institution supporting the research
- Those in training positions will need to have a letter of support from the training program director, and a designated mentor or research supervisor

Grant Payment: Grant payment will be made in two installments by the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin directly to the institution where the grant research will be conducted. A six-month report must be submitted by November 30th to initiate the second payment.

Grant Follow-up: Upon completion of the research project, the grant recipient or primary investigator is required to submit an abstract for presentation at the ASLMS annual meeting during the first call for abstracts. If a research grant recipient's abstract is not selected, it is required to submit a manuscript for publication *in Lasers in Surgery and Medicine (LSM) Journal*. A. Ward Ford Memorial Institute Fund support for the research must be recognized in any publication or presentation.

Questions or requests for further information can be directed to:

ASLMS

Research and Development Committee

100 N. 72nd Ave., Wausau, WI 54401

715-845-9283 / information@aslms.org

HISTORY OF THE A. WARD FORD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR LASER MEDICINE AND SURGERY

William B. Mark was an engineer by training who, along with his wife, Caroline, formed the A. Ward Ford Foundation named in honor of Caroline's grandfather, Austin Ward Ford, who was a pioneer in the early business machine industry.

After attending an industrial laser conference, Bill Mark became interested in the possible medical use of lasers. With the foundation medical director, Dr. Ellet Drake, a number of other like-minded individuals, and a generous grant from Caroline and the A. Ward Ford Foundation, the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS) was founded with the first annual meeting in 1981. The Society had a unique concept where all interested parties including physicians, nurses and other clinicians, researchers, industrial and government representatives could meet and share their research and teaching for the benefit of medical care.

Bill Mark died in 1980, but under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Drake the Society grew and developed into the premier organization we know today.

If Bill Mark was the brains, and Ellet Drake the heart of the Society, Caroline Mark was the soul. She was a lady of significant means, which she used wisely and generously, but she was also a lady of intelligence and integrity. She believed in the value of education and the benefit of research which she supported throughout her lifetime. She gave encouragement and formed many lasting friendships in her continued support of the Society.

Research, education, and the friendship of sharing was the nature of Caroline Mark and this is, and continues to be, the basis of the Society. The A. Ward Ford Memorial Research Grant is the continued legacy of Bill and Caroline Mark, and their contribution to the laser medical field.

The A. Ward Ford Memorial Institute Fund is a component fund administered within the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin.



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