

BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience

2019 Pilot Projects Grant Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience is pleased to invite proposals for pilot projects. The application deadline is Sunday Sept 15, 2019.

This program is targeted to junior investigators at BWH, including postdocs, clinical fellows, instructors, and assistant professors within three years of appointment (as of the submission deadline).

The Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience (PIN) aims to engage and help support investigators, physicians and other professionals from across the Brigham community who are focused on understanding and treating disorders of the nervous system. PIN was launched in 2017, and oversees the Neurotechnology Studio Core and the Women's Brain Initiative (WBI), along with fellowships and pilot funding programs, including the Women's Brain Initiative and Traveling Neuroscience Fellowship awards (see www.bwhneurosciences.org for more information). A further call for WBI proposals will be announced in the fall.

We intend to make up to four pilot funding awards of \$50,000 each in the current cycle. In accordance with our donors' wishes, one of these awards will be specifically in the field of brain tumors. Preference will be given to proposals that address fundamental mechanisms and/or new approaches to treatment.

The other three awards may be in any area of basic, translational or clinical neuroscience. Researchers in any department or discipline are welcome to apply, provided their proposal has direct relevance to neuroscience. Preference will be given to proposals that represent new research directions rather than a continuation of existing projects. For applicants below the rank of Assistant Professor and who do not have an independent lab, preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate the applicant's ability to develop novel directions that are distinct from the ongoing projects in the lab of their PI.

Applications will be reviewed by an expert panel of faculty members at BWH.

Timetable

RFP Announced:	July 18, 2019
Proposals Due:	Sept 15, 2019
Recipients Announced:	October 2019
Funding begins:	Shortly following announcement

Funds and purpose

Each award will be for up to \$50,000, inclusive of indirect costs, over a one-year period. The funds should be fully expended by the end of this period. Requests for no-cost extensions will need to be justified and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Funds can be used for stipend support, research costs, travel expenses associated with external collaborations, and/or travel to scientific meetings during the project period (subject to normal BWH policy on such expenses).

Eligibility

You are invited to apply if you meet the following criteria:

- You have a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, PhD, DVM or equivalent) and are a member of the BWH research community (i.e., a primary appointment at BWH that coincides with the funding period).
- You are a junior investigator (postdoc, clinical fellow, instructor or equivalent, or assistant professor within three years of appointment).
- US and non-US citizens are welcome to apply.
- Each applicant may submit only one application.

Other Terms

- All recipients will be expected to (1) provide a final report at the end of the funding period, plus other updates on request, and (2) participate in PIN events where they will present their work to internal or external audiences.
- Recipients shall remain full-time employees at BWH for the duration of the Fellowship. If an awardee leaves BWH, all unspent funds will be returned to the Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience.

Review Criteria

Applications will be judged by a panel of expert reviewers, who will be invited to consider the following criteria when making their recommendations:

- **Applicant qualifications**—Does the applicant's track record demonstrate exceptional accomplishment, future promise, and commitment to basic or clinical neuroscience research? Do they have the necessary skills and training to conduct the proposed work?
- **Significance**—Does the project address an important scientific question or technical/practical challenge in the field of basic or clinical neuroscience?
- **Novelty**—Does the project represent a new and potentially promising direction that would make it appropriate for pilot funding, rather than being a continuation of an existing project within the lab?
- **Environment**—Does applicant's lab and collaborative network provide opportunities (e.g. training, mentorship, access to resources and expertise) that will advance the applicant's research project and career development?
- **Approach**—Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential obstacles and consider alternative approaches?

- **Realistic**—Is the project feasible and likely to be completed in the proposed one-year time frame with the proposed resources?
- **Path Forward**—If the proposed work is successful, is it likely to lead to further funding, a durable collaborative relationship, changes in clinical practice and/or other tangible outcomes?

Decisions of the Selection Committee shall be final. No written feedback will be provided to applicants.

Application Materials

1. Completed PIN cover sheet (template attached).
2. A two-page research statement describing the work that you propose to undertake. You may include figures, images, tables or other material. However, they and the main text must fit on two pages. References may be in addition to the two-page limit. Text should be 12-point font (Times New Roman, Arial or similar). Single spacing is allowed, provided all material is readily legible. Margins must be at least 0.5 inches in all directions.
3. A statement describing your interest in the field, including future career goals and how these will be advanced by the proposed project. Also please state: i) the anticipated fraction of your time to be devoted to this project; ii) the start date for your project if selected for funding; iii) an estimated timetable for the project, including key milestones; and iv) how results may lead to further funding opportunities and/or other tangible outcomes. (Maximum of 500 words.)
4. A one-year budget for a maximum of \$50,000 (inclusive of direct costs plus applicable indirect costs, not to exceed 15%).
5. Your CV and a summary of other support, current or pending. (Maximum 5 pages.)
6. A letter of support from your PI, department/division head or other senior mentor within BWH. (Maximum one page, on letterhead.)
7. For applicants below the rank of Assistant Professor and who do not have an independent lab, your PI's CV including their current and pending support. (Maximum 5 pages).

All items, in the above order, must be compiled into a **single** PDF. Only the single PDF document will be shared with the review panel. Incomplete application packages may be rejected.

How To Apply

- Deadline for the receipt of the application is **Sunday Sept 15, 2019**.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to: cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu
- Applications must conform to the format requirements and length limits specified above.

- In order to preserve the format of your application and to facilitate distribution to reviewers, you must submit your ***completed application as a single PDF*** document. Multiple PDFs, Word or other file formats will not be accepted.

For questions about the Pilot Funding program, contact:

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Applications must be submitted no later than Sept 15, 2019