

Women's Brain Initiative 2020 Research Fellowship Program

The Women's Brain Initiative, a component of the BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, is pleased to invite proposals for its 2020 Research Fellowship Program.

The overall aim of the WBI is to advance our understanding of how sex differences affect the brain—including the risk, progression and treatment of brain disorders—and how female-specific factors may influence brain health. In addition to this Research Fellowship Program, WBI also supports a Pilot Projects Research Program, a targeted Core Research Portfolio, an annual Symposium and an ongoing Seminar Series. WBI programs are open to physicians and investigators from across all Brigham research and clinical departments and from any field related to women's brain health. Further Information may be found at <https://www.bwhneurosciences.org/womens-brain-initiative/>

The 2020 Research Fellowship Program is geared toward junior investigators at the Brigham, with support from their mentors. Junior investigators are defined as postdoctoral research fellows, clinical fellows, instructors, and assistant professors within 3 years appointment at the time of the submission deadline. Junior investigators, with primary appointment at another Partners HealthCare Academic Medical Center and a letter of support from a Brigham-based faculty mentor with whom they shall collaborate, are also eligible to submit applications. Preference in such cases will be given to proposals in which 1) the research activities will occur at the Brigham and 2) involvement of the Brigham collaborator is integral to the proposed work.

The 2020 WBI Research Fellowship Program will select two Fellows. Each WBI Research Fellow will be awarded up to \$50,000 per annum (direct cost funding) for two years, plus applicable indirect costs not to exceed 15%. Please see the WBI website for information about the 2018 and 2019 awardees. (<https://www.bwhneurosciences.org/womens-brain-initiative/research-fellowship-program-2/>)

Clinical, translational and basic research will be considered. Researchers in any department or discipline are welcome to apply, provided their proposal has direct relevance to the Women's Brain Initiative. 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.

Timetable

RFP Announced:	Monday July 20, 2020
Proposals Due:	Sunday Sept 13, 2020
Recipients Announced:	Late October 2020
Funding commences:	Shortly after recipient announcement

Eligibility

You are invited to submit a proposal if you meet the following criteria:

- You have a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, PhD, DVM) and are a member of the Brigham research community (e.g., primary appointment at BWH that coincides with timing of award) – or your primary appointment is at another Partners HealthCare Academic Medical Center and you have a letter of support from a Brigham-based mentor who shall be your collaborator on the proposed research. Preference in such cases will be given to proposals in which 1) research activities will occur at the Brigham *and* 2) involvement of the Brigham collaborator is clearly integral to the proposed work.
- You are a junior investigator (postdoctoral research fellow; clinical fellow; instructor; or assistant professor within 3 years of appointment as of the application deadline).
- You expect to remain at Brigham for the duration of the funding period.
- Women’s brain health is the focus of your research proposal.
- US and non-US citizens are welcome to apply.
- Each applicant may submit only one proposal.

Other Terms of the Program

- All recipients will be required to (1) provide annual written reports of research activity as well as a final report upon completion of the Fellowship, and (2) participate in regular WBI and Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience (PIN) research gatherings where award recipients will present their work for internal or external audiences.
- All recipients shall remain a full-time employee at BWH for the duration of the Fellowship. Or if your primary appointment is at another Partners HealthCare Academic Medical Center, your research collaboration with your Brigham mentor and your research activities at the Brigham shall continue for the duration of the Fellowship. If such terms are not met, all unspent funds will be returned to the Women’s Brain Initiative.

- The funds should be fully expended by the end of the Fellowship period. Requests for no-cost extensions will need to be justified and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Review Criteria

- **Applicant qualifications**—Does the applicant’s track record demonstrate exceptional accomplishment, future promise, and commitment to basic or clinical 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 relevant to the Women’s Brain Initiative?
- **Novelty**—Does the project address 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 the 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 problem areas and consider alternative approaches?
- **Realistic**—Is the project feasible and likely to be completed in the proposed time frame with the proposed resources?
- **Path Forward**—If the aims of the proposal are achieved, is there potential for further funding (e.g., federal, foundation), a durable collaborative relationship, changes in clinical practice and/or other tangible outcomes?

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of Brigham faculty members. Decisions by the Selection Committee shall be final. No written feedback will be provided to applicants.

Application Materials

1. Completed WBI cover sheet *and* standard Partners Research Proposal cover sheet. These cover sheets can be downloaded as a single PDF [here](#).
2. A research statement describing the scientific work that you propose to undertake. Maximum of two pages. You may include figures, images, tables, or other material. However, they and the main text must fit on two pages. References may be on a

separate page and will not count toward the two-page limit. Text should be 11-point font or larger (Times New Roman, Arial or similar), with margins at least 0.5 inches. Single spacing is allowed, provided all material is readily legible.

3. A statement describing your interest in women's brain health, including future career goals and how your scientific work will help our understanding of conditions related to women's brain health. Also, please state: i) the anticipated fraction of your time to be devoted to this project; ii) the start date and anticipated timeline for your project assuming that funds become available soon after awardees are notified; iii) other funding sources and amounts obtained to date and/or other funding applications pending for this work or related work; and iv) how results may lead to further funding opportunities and/or other tangible outcomes. (Maximum 500 words.)
4. Budget for Year 1 and Year 2 for a maximum of \$50,000 direct costs per annum. Indirect costs may be included as applicable up to a maximum rate of 15%.
5. Your CV and a summary of current or pending support (max 5 pages).
6. A letter of support from your PI or mentor. For applicants with a primary appointment at another Partners HealthCare Academic Medical Center, a letter of support from the Brigham-based mentor with whom you shall collaborate is required.

All items, in the above order, must be compiled into a **single** PDF. Only the single PDF document will be shared with the WBI Fellowship Program Selection Committee. Incomplete application packages may be rejected.

How to apply

- Deadline for the receipt of the application is Sunday September 13th, 2020.
- Applications must be submitted by email to cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu and with copy to bwhneurosciences@bwh.harvard.edu.
- In order to preserve the line spacing, format and overall appearance of your application, you must submit your completed application as a single PDF document. Multiple PDFs, Word or other files will not be accepted.

For questions about the Women's Brain Initiative and its Research Fellowship Program, please contact:

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Applications must be submitted no later than Sunday Sept 13th, 2020.