



University of Pittsburgh
BRAIN INSTITUTE

Special Announcement

New Seed Grants available to help faculty compete for large grants in neuroscience

Introduction: The University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute announces a new seed grant opportunity to support groups of Pitt neuroscientists as they develop projects that will be competitive for future large-scale funding. We anticipate awarding 2-4 grants of up to \$100,000/year for up to 2 years. The proposals should describe specific plans to make groups of Pitt faculty highly competitive for large (center-scale) grants over the next few years.

Interest in brain science has led to increased federal and private funding for neuroscience research. This funding is likely to include opportunities for large scale, interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts, including center grants and large, multi-PI grants. We want University of Pittsburgh faculty to be as competitive as possible for these large funding opportunities as they are announced. We also want Pitt faculty to play a role in shaping the development of RFAs and initiatives by federal agencies and foundations. In many cases, being competitive for center-scale funding takes significant advance planning and a history of collaboration. Through a generous gift from the Hillman Foundation and other funds we will support up to 4 new projects that are likely to lead to highly competitive applications for large grants. These plans and projects may involve faculty from other institutions, as this may be an important component of many large-scale grants. However, for these seed grants, no subcontracts or transfers to other institutions will be allowed.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting a letter of intent (LOI) is **Tuesday, May 31st, at midnight**. LOIs should be sent by e-mail to upbi@pitt.edu.

Application Guidelines (letters should include):

- Page 1: The name and contact information of the PI.
- Page 2: The names and affiliations of between 2 and 10 Pitt faculty who would be involved in the future center grant.
- Page 3: An abstract of < 500 words describing the scientific focus of the future center grant for which you intend to apply and why you think your application could be competitive.

- Page 4: A description of the initiative or mechanism that would be your target for large-scale funding. This could be an existing center grant program (e.g., NIH center grants, NSF Science and Technology Grants or Engineering Research Centers) or a priority area that has been identified, for which the funding mechanism is not yet clear. Some examples of these are:
 - [NSF brain observatories](#)
 - [Nanotechnology, Information Nanotechnology-Inspired Grand Challenges -](#)
Indicate whether you have been involved in the development of this initiative or have discussed the initiative with the relevant funding agency.
- Page 5: A brief description of the activities to be supported. Activities could include performing research to collect preliminary data, organizing a meeting for discussing the initiative, creating a technology or data resource for the collaborating group, etc.

Application Criteria: These letters of intent, as well as full proposals, will be evaluated primarily based on:

- The likelihood that the seed funds will lead to a future large scale grant and the scale of the opportunity.

Secondary considerations will be:

- The benefit to the Pitt neuroscience community even if the project were not funded at large scale (for example, if a resource was created).
- The degree to which the project would engage faculty from across different disciplines and parts of campus.

Based on the LOIs, some groups will be asked to submit full proposals at a date to be determined. These groups also will be asked to give presentations about their proposed centers. Information about the requirements for the full proposals will be made available to those whose LOIs are selected.

Eligibility: Applicants must be full-time faculty of the University of Pittsburgh.

Send application materials:

Via e-mail to UPBI@pitt.edu (as Word or PDF file); questions or concerns can be directed here as well.

For further information:

An information session about this program will be held at **5:00 pm, May 5, 2016, in Biomedical Science Tower 3, Room 6014**. Interested faculty should send an e-mail to Nathan Urban, PhD, (nurban@pitt.edu) and Donna Grady, the Brain Institute administrative assistant (upbi@pitt.edu).