

# **BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience**

## **2022 Pilot Projects Grant Program**

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### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

The BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience is pleased to invite proposals for pilot projects. The application deadline is **Sunday Oct 2, 2022**.

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 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 several funding programs, including the Women's Brain Initiative and PIN pilot awards (see [www.bwhneurosciences.org](http://www.bwhneurosciences.org) for more information). A RFP for WBI pilot proposals is being issued in parallel with this RFA.

We intend to make up to three pilot funding awards in the current cycle. Each award will be for up to \$60,000 (including indirect costs) over a one-year period. 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 two 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:	Friday Aug 12, 2022
Proposals Due:	Sunday Oct 2, 2022
Recipients Announced:	Late October
Funding commences:	Shortly after recipient announcement

#### **Funds and purpose**

Each award will be for up to \$60,000, 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 is expected to continue throughout 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 in a full-time position at BWH for the duration of the award. 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 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?
- **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? Is the budget appropriate?
- **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. We may contact individual applicants if we have specific questions before making final decisions. Decisions by the Selection Committee shall be final. No written feedback will be provided to applicants.

### **Application Materials**

1. Completed PIN cover sheet (available [here](#)).
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 11-point font or larger (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 \$60,000 (inclusive of direct costs plus applicable indirect costs, not to exceed 20%).
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.
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 **Sun Oct 2**.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to: [cgiennings@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:cgiennings@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:

Charles Jennings, PhD  
Executive Director, Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience  
[cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu)

**Applications must be submitted no later than Sun Oct 2**