

Women's Brain Initiative 2022 Pilot Award Program

The Women's Brain Initiative, a component of the BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, is pleased to invite proposals for its 2022 Pilot Award Program. The application deadline is **Sun Oct 2, 2022**.

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. WBI programs are open to physicians and investigators from across all Brigham 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 2022 Pilot 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.

We plan to fund up to four awards in this cycle. Applicants can request up to \$60,000 for a one-year period, inclusive of applicable indirect costs not to exceed 20%. Please see the WBI website for information about past 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. We especially welcome proposals from minority applicants and/or proposals that address brain health as it relates to underserved communities. 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:	Fri Aug 12, 2022
Proposals Due:	Sunday Oct 2, 2022
Recipients Announced:	Late October
Funding commences:	Shortly after recipient announcement

Funds and purpose

60 Fenwood Road, #9016Z | Boston, MA 02115 | 617-525-5212

[bwhneurosciences.org](https://www.bwhneurosciences.org)

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 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 (i.e., a primary appointment at BWH that coincides with timing of award).
- You are a junior investigator (postdoc, clinical fellow, instructor or equivalent, or assistant professor within three years of appointment).
- You expect to remain at Brigham for the duration of the funding period.
- Your research is aligned with the goals of WBI.
- US and non-US citizens are welcome to apply.
- Each applicant may submit only one proposal.

Other Terms

All recipients will be required to (1) provide occasional written reports of research activity as well as a final report at the end of the award period, 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.

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

- **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 goals of 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? 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 research statement describing the scientific work that you propose to undertake -maximum of two pages. You may include figures, images, tables or other materials., so long as they fit within the 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 research interests, 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. (Optional; if applicable) A statement describing how your work considers the inclusion of under-represented or under-served communities, whether as a research focus, or as an investigator, or in other ways (Maximum 300 words).
1. A one-year budget for a maximum of \$60,000 (inclusive of direct costs plus applicable indirect costs, not to exceed 20%).
2. Your CV and a summary of current or pending support (max 5 pages).
3. A letter of support from your PI or department/division head or other senior mentor within BWH.

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 Oct 2nd.
- Applications must be submitted by email to cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu and with copy to bwhneurosciences@bwh.harvard.edu.
- 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 funding programs, please contact:

Charles Jennings, Ph.D
Executive Director, Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience
cgjennings@bwh.harvard.edu

Applications must be submitted no later than Sun Oct 2.