

Women's Brain Initiative 2019 Research Fellowship Program

The Women's Brain Initiative, a component of the BWH Program for Interdisciplinary Neuroscience, is pleased to invite proposals (RFP) for its 2019 Research Fellowship Program.

The overall aim of the Women's Brain Initiative (WBI) is to help advance our understanding of 1) how biological sex may affect risk, progression or treatment of neurologic and psychiatric disorders, as well as 2) how female-specific factors and life transitions 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 fields related to women's brain health.

The 2019 Research Fellowship Program is geared toward junior investigators, postdoctoral research fellows, clinical fellows, Instructors, and Assistant Professors (within 3 years of Assistant Professor appointment) at the Brigham, with support from their mentors. 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 2019 WBI Research Fellowship Program will select two Fellows. Each WBI Research Fellow will be awarded \$50,000 per annum (direct cost funding) for two years, *plus* applicable indirect rate of 15%. The Program was established in 2018, and two awardees were selected. Please see the WBI website for information about the 2018 awardees. (<https://www.bwhneurosciences.org/womens-brain-initiative/research-fellowship-program-2/>) The WBI Research Fellowship RFP will be repeated in 2020.

Proposals for clinical, translational and basic research will be considered. The Program does not seek to support postdoctoral fellows or others in need of bridging salary support. Rather, the Program is designed to enable selected awardees to pursue new ideas not covered by their mentors' labs and to develop their careers as independent investigators.

Timetable

RFP Announced:	March 6, 2019
Proposals Due:	May 5, 2019
Recipients Announced:	June 2019
Funding commences:	Soon 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) 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 May 5, 2019 application deadline).
- 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, upon request, to (1) provide bi-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 and potential synergies / new opportunities related to WBI and PIN will be identified.
- 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

- **Significance**—Does the research address an important issue relevant to the Women's Brain Initiative?
- **Approach**—Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed and appropriate to the aims of the research? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative approaches?
- **Applicant Qualifications**—Does the applicant's track record demonstrate exceptional accomplishment, future promise and commitment to basic or clinical research? Does the applicant have the necessary skills and training to conduct the proposed work?
- **Environment**— Is the scientific environment in which the work will be undertaken adequate and supportive of the proposed project?
- **Realistic**—Is the work feasible and likely to be completed in the proposed 2-year time frame with the proposed resources?
- **BWH Involvement** – In the case of proposals from applicants at other Partners institutions, is the involvement of the Brigham collaborator integral to the proposed work? Will the research be conducted at the Brigham?
- **Path Forward**—If the aims of the proposal are achieved, is there potential for further funding or other tangible outcomes?

Applications will be reviewed by the WBI Fellowship Program Selection Committee which is comprised of senior Brigham faculty. Decisions by the Selection Committee shall be final. No written feedback will be provided.

Application Materials

1. Completed WBI cover sheet *and* standard Partners Research Proposal cover sheet.
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 with margins at least 0.5 inches. 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.
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 neurologic and/or psychiatric health. Also, please state: i) the anticipated fraction of your time to be devoted to this project; ii) the start date 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 of 500 words.)

4. Budget for Year 1 and Year 2 for a maximum of \$50,000 per annum (direct funding costs), *excluding* the applicable indirect rate of 15%.
5. Your CV and a summary of other support, current or pending (maximum of five pages).
6. A letter of support from your PI or mentor. Or, if you are a junior investigator with 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. (Letter of support shall be one page maximum, on letterhead.)

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 May 5, 2019.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to: pstoll@bwh.harvard.edu, and copy to RBattle@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 May 5, 2019.