



2020 BRlight Futures Prize Draft Request for Applications

Background:

The BRlight Futures Prizes support investigators across the Brigham Research Institute (BRI) as they work to answer provocative questions or solve grand problems. **This Fund, which is supported philanthropically, and the work it sponsors advances the mission of the BRI by catalyzing the kind of innovative translational research that is only possible at an academic medical center, where basic researchers and clinicians work side by side.** The ninth BRlight Futures Prize, in the amount of \$100,000, will be presented at the annual Research Appreciation Celebration event (**in June, exact date TBD**). The BRlight Futures Prize generates excitement and visibility for the BRI among the BWH research community as well as external visibility for BWH research and innovation – with patients, donors and the world. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of a BWH strategic and scientific review. Finalists will be selected based on input from a BWH review committee and recommendations from the BRI Research Oversight Committee (ROC). Ultimate selection will be based on the results of an online voting process open to anybody within and outside of BWH including the lay public around the world.

Process:

- This year's BRlight Futures RFA, which has a deadline of 03/02/2020, will be open to all scientific themes.
- A faculty committee with expertise in the areas relevant to the submitted applications will review proposals; up to six semi finalists will be invited to present their proposals at the April BRI Research Oversight Committee meeting. The ROC will select up to three to four finalists based on these presentations.
- Materials (webpage with videos, a mailer) will be prepared for finalists and the online voting will be open during a window to be determined in May-June. Outreach may include a mailer, web, social media as well as internal promotion. The entire world is welcome to cast a vote for which project should get the \$100K.
- The winner will be announced at the annual Summer Research Celebration (**in June, exact date TBD**).

Timeline:

Dates are subject to change

Jan 10 th , 2020	RFA issued	INTERNAL PHASE
Mar 2 nd , 2020	Proposals due	
Apr 6 th , 2020	Semi-finalists notified & invited to April ROC mtg	
Apr 16 th , 2020	Semi-finalists present at ROC; ROC chooses up to 3 finalists	
Apr 17 th , 2020	Prep Call with Finalists	
Apr – May 2020	Prepare materials	
May 18 th , 2020	Present at RC LIVE lunch	
Jun 2020	Award presented at Annual Research Appreciation Celebration	

Eligibility

- All members of the BWH research community with a rank of instructor and above or BWH professional staff (ex. nurses and other clinicians) are invited to apply. Individuals may serve as the PI of only one proposal but may be co-PIs on multiple proposals.
- BFP recipient must remain at BWH for duration of the award, award may otherwise be forfeited.
- Finalists and winners from the previous two BRlight Futures cycles are not eligible to apply.
- If chosen as a semi-finalist, applicants **MUST** be available to pitch at the April 16th ROC meeting; **MUST** be available to help in the preparation of any relevant promotional materials during April/May (*if chosen as a finalist*); **MUST** be available to attend the prep call for finalists on April 17th (*if chosen as a finalist*) and; **MUST** be available to present at the RC LIVE lunch session on May 18th, 2020 (*if chosen as a finalist*). While we will try to be flexible based on circumstances, please do not apply if you know you will not be able to commit to these dates/time frames.

Review criteria

- The project must clearly address a well-defined research or clinical problem and be scientifically meritorious.
- Novel ideas that can significantly accelerate research progress in the stated field will be given high priority; projects that are an extension of ongoing work will be lower priority.
- The project should be focused and achievable, with a high potential to secure future additional funding.
- The investigators must have the requisite skills and experience to carry out the project successfully.
- The lay summary should be compelling and accessible to the lay public.

Reciprocity

- Recipients will be obligated to provide a six month report of activity to the BRI, an oral presentation to the BRI ROC at the end of the funding period.
- Grantees will notify the BRI when other grants are received as a result of BRIght Futures prize.
- Grantees will acknowledge the BRI in publications (posters, journal articles and grants) resulting from BRIght Futures prize support and will notify the BRI when such papers have been submitted.

Full Applications (due Mar 2nd, 2020, 10:59pm) submitted electronically (Click here for the link: <http://bwhcfdd.partners.org/Listing.aspx?courseId=493>) must include the following:

1. Basic information, including:
 1. Title of research project
 2. Applicant's Name, Department and Division, HMS faculty appointment (BWH Appointment if faculty appointment is not applicable), telephone number and e-mail address
 3. Self identify the scientific theme/field the proposal addresses
 4. Scientific Abstract - limit 300 words
 5. Lay Summary/Public appeal – limit to 300 words.
2. Scientific Proposal (5-page limit, excluding references), including:
 1. Introduction (specify the provocative question or compelling problem the proposal addresses)
 2. Specific Aims
 3. Background, significance (i.e., potential impact of this work in the short- or long-term) and, if available, preliminary data (not required)
 4. Research approach (include experimental details, approximate timeline, contributions of each team member)
 5. Future plans, i.e., how will this project leverage funding beyond this BRIght Futures Prize
3. Biosketches of Principal Investigator, co-investigators and significant key personnel in NIH format.
4. Detailed budget for one year for a maximum of \$100,000 (direct costs) and 15% indirect costs

Questions

Questions about eligibility, format, review criteria and process may be sent to Anu Swaminathan, PhD, BRI Director for Scientific Programs & Partnerships, at aswaminathan@partners.org or 617.525.8380

PLEASE NOTE: Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications for many of the opportunities listed below and owing to the fact that our review process utilizes the generous services of volunteer faculty reviewers, we will likely not be able to provide any feedback on individual projects submitted in response to these RFAs.