FY19 Harvard/MIT Joint Research Grants Program in Basic Neuroscience

Begin Accepting Applications Date: 06/12/2018

Deadline (EST Time Zone): 07/27/2018 5:00PM

Sponsor Name:
Harvard/MIT Joint Research Grants Program in Basic Neuroscience

Description
The Harvard/MIT Joint Research Grants Program in Basic Neuroscience provides funding for a team of two basic neuroscience tenure-track investigators to work collaboratively to advance our understanding of brain development and function. Grant applications covering the spectrum of basic neuroscience research - including model system studies, the development of new tools and technologies, and the study of neural circuits and behavior - will be considered.

The goal of this program is to fuel discovery that lays the foundation for new therapies for nervous system disease. Investigators are encouraged to seek collaborations across any of the institutions listed here:

- Harvard Faculty of Arts and Science
- Harvard Medical School
- MIT
- Boston University
- Tufts University
- Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
- Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Children's Hospital Boston
- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Massachusetts General Hospital
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
- McLean Hospital

Award Information:

Awards will be made up to $115,000 per year, for two years, subject to available funding. The awards are non-renewable. No indirect costs are provided (**Harvard Medical School (HMS)-based investigators – see below). Please note that funds can only be used for direct costs required to accomplish the project.

These include but are not limited to:

- Personnel/salary & benefits
- Research materials & supplies
Allocable research administrative costs:
  o support staff
  o lab space (cost per sq ft x total sq ft) used for the project
  o information technology support, etc...

The funds may be allocated in any way between the two investigators. Please include one budget per application and be sure to clearly justify and identify the total amount that will be awarded to each investigator/lab.

The project period for funded awards is expected to be effective September 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020.

A short progress report will be required after Year 1 of funding to provide assurance to the Scientific Advisory Board that a truly collaborative project has been initiated. Year 2 funding depends on submission of this progress report.

**Any HMS-based investigator must allocate 8% of their budget for allocable research administrative costs (i.e. administrative support staff, lab space, information technology, and other allowable research administrative costs).**

**Application Information:**

**Application deadline: July 27, 2018 at 5:00pm**

[To Apply, Click Here](#)

I. In support of your application, please upload the following information as a single PDF:

1. A project description of maximum 3 pages, including abstract, specific aims, experimental approach (11 point Arial font, single spaced, 0.5 inch margins. Figures are included in the 3 page limit. References are not included in the 3 page limit).

2. A statement on why the project is innovative and risky (1 page maximum).

3. A statement on the plan for collaboration (1 page maximum).

4. A statement on how the proposed work relates to neurodegeneration (1 page maximum).

II. Please upload a simple budget and budget justification describing how the funds will be spent (salary, supplies, services, etc...) as a single PDF.

III. Please upload an NIH Biosketch for each investigator (in PDF format).
Eligibility Criteria:

- Teams comprised of two tenure-track investigators will apply for each award. *Only one investigator from each team will complete the online application.*
- There is no requirement that a project includes a Harvard- or MIT-based investigator as collaborator.
- The investigators must be based in departments engaged in basic neuroscience research at MIT, any Harvard-affiliated institution including Harvard University, Harvard Medical School, a Harvard Medical School-affiliated Hospital, Boston University, or Tufts University. A PI may only apply as a member of one team. Multiple applications from a PI who has paired with different investigators will not be reviewed.
- The investigators may **NOT** have primary or secondary appointments within the same department, but may work in the same institution (e.g. a team comprised of an investigator from HMS Neurobiology and HMS Genetics would be eligible).
- Up to 6 collaborations will be awarded.
- Preference will be given to new collaborations (i.e. investigators who have not previously collaborated on a research grant or publication in the last 5 years). If the team has a history of collaboration, applications should focus on a new research area.
- Investigators who have previously been awarded funds through this program are eligible to re-apply, but must be part of a new investigative team.

Review Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated by a Scientific Advisory Board comprised of investigators from institutions across the Boston area. The Board will be chaired by Dr. Michael E. Greenberg, Chair and Professor of Neurobiology, Harvard Medical School, and Dr. H. Robert Horvitz, Professor, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, MIT.

Successful proposals are likely to describe projects that are highly innovative, possibly risky, and not yet mature enough to attract NIH funding. Because these grants are intended to encourage new lines of research, preliminary data is not essential. Applicants should provide evidence in the proposal narrative that the work is exploratory and innovative and will require the collective expertise of the collaborating laboratories.

This program is funded by the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center.

Please address any questions to joint_basicneuro@hms.harvard.edu