OVERVIEW

The mission of the Brain and Behavior Initiative (BBI) at the University of Maryland (UMD) is to generate novel tools and revolutionize multidisciplinary approaches to understand complex behaviors produced by the nervous system. The purpose of this call for proposals is to foster new collaborations and enable generation of pilot data to promote multi-year, multi-million-dollar proposal submissions that pursue innovative collaborative work at the interface of neuroscience, engineering, computation and physical sciences, cognitive science, and/or humanities.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

This Request for Proposals provides three funding track opportunities. All proposals must target one of the central themes of the BBI:

- Neural Circuits, Learning & Plasticity, Motor Control
- Sensation, Perception, Communication
- Mental Health

Proposal Tracks

BBI recognizes that interdisciplinarity is a process and wishes to support researchers at different phases of their progress.

**Track 1:** Proposals to Track 1 should be high risk, high impact, exploratory research collecting pilot data necessary to prepare proposals to funding sources supporting innovative and interdisciplinary projects such as those listed by the BRAIN Initiative and funded by agencies such as NIH, DARPA, IARPA, NSF, etc. Proposals submitted to this theme have a maximum budget of $100,000, plus fringe and tuition.

**Track 2:** Proposals to Track 2 should be broadly interdisciplinary and include topics as well as partners outside of traditional neuroscience. Specifically, we are looking for teams that include strong participation from the arts, humanities, or other disciplines in addition to neuroscientists. Proposals submitted to this theme have a maximum budget of $75,000, plus fringe and tuition.

**Track 3:** Proposals to Track 3 are to support interdisciplinary projects that need short-term support to gather additional pilot data in order to submit for external funding. While calls for interdisciplinarity are growing, the BBI recognizes that in order to be successful immediately these pioneering projects may be more traditional in their interdisciplinarity and external proposals are expected to be targeted to more standard NIH R01/NSF type announcements. Proposals submitted to this theme have a maximum budget of $50,000, plus fringe and tuition.

PI Eligibility

All proposals must be multidisciplinary with at least two Principal Investigators (PI), both of whom are tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty at UMD. Individual investigators may not participate in more than two proposals; if both proposals are awarded, the PI will receive full funding. Outside collaborations (e.g., UMB, NIH, etc.) are allowed, but no money will be awarded to support non-UMD investigators. Extension requests for funded BBI seed grants or other funded research will not be granted.
**Submission Process and Deadlines**

Final proposals should contain the following sections (in order):

1. Signed Proposal Cover Sheet (see template)
2. Proposal (not to exceed 4 pages)
   - **Description of the project**, including specific subsections for **Significance, Innovation and Approach** (no more than 2 pages). **Important**: please strive to make the impact of the proposed work clear to individuals both within and outside of your discipline.
   
   Describe the following in no more than 2 pages:
   - **How the work fits the chosen track and how it fits one of the central themes of the BBI**.
     - **BBI Themes**: 1) Neural Circuits, Learning & Plasticity, Motor Control; 2) Sensation, Perception, Communication; 3) Mental Health.
   - **The necessity of the collaboration** to achieve your goals, what each individual brings to the collaborative effort, and the history of collaboration between the PIs, if any.
   - **The specific target** (funding mechanism and submission date) for a forthcoming proposal to an external funding agency. The proposal must describe how the BBI seed grant will enable the submission of your externally funded proposal.
3. Detailed budget and justification (see template)
4. Short bios of the PIs (2 pg max/PI; any format)

All text should be in Arial 11pt, 1-in margins, single spaced. Merge all documents into a single pdf named **PIsLastName_BBI FY18Seed proposal** with the subject line of the email: **BBI FY18 SEED GRANT PROPOSAL**. Questions should be directed to: **bbiumd@umd.edu**.

Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances and incomplete applications will be returned without review.

**Proposal deadline:** 11:59 pm January 26, 2018  February 16, 2018.
**Selection Notification Date:** Mid-May 2018; **Expected Start Date:** June 2018

**Selection Criteria**

Seed Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, each proposal will be externally reviewed. The selection of finalists will be made based on the relevance and potential impact of the research on the related BBI themes, the necessity of the collaboration to achieve the goals of the proposal, and the likelihood of funding from external sources.
Title:

PI names and affiliations:

Proposal Track:
☐ Track 1: High Risk, Exploratory Research
☐ Track 2: Humanities Focused Interdisciplinary Research
☐ Track 3: Typical NIH, DOD, NSF proposals

Total amount requested:

**FINANCIAL AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS**

By signing, the PIs understand the conditions of the award (below).

**CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD:** Awardees are expected to attend BBI seminars, be active in BBI community activities, and meet with the BBI proposal development team throughout the award period.

Awards are for 1 year. Funds must be spent within the year time frame. The final scientific and financial report must include accounting that demonstrates how the seed funds enabled the research. No-cost extensions will not be considered.

The success of the BBI depends on the success of the awarded seed grants; therefore, awardees will:
- Submit a proposal to external funding agencies within 18 months of receiving the seed funding, and provide information on the outcomes of the seed funding (e.g., grant funds, publications, conferences) annually and/or as requested by the BBI Steering Committee.
- Provide scientific progress report and a summary of expenses at 6 months and 13 months to the BBI Steering Committee and present their results at the annual BBI meeting.

Eligibility for the next round of seed funding is contingent upon successful completion of the conditions above, including submission of a proposal for external funding. *The BBI Steering Committee reserves the right to cut off seed funding to projects that show little to no progress.*

________________________________________  __________________________________________
PI                                           PI

________________________________________  __________________________________________
PI                                           PI

________________________________________  __________________________________________
PI                                           PI

*Copy page if additional signature lines are needed.*
**Allowable Expenses:** Research supplies; purchase or rental of equipment for new research; salary support for a temporary position (1 year or less) for technicians, research associates (post-docs) and/or graduate students, and service charges for campus facilities. **Updated: Only PIs who are on soft funding can budget for salary. Requested PI salary is capped at a 10% of their annual salary but should be commensurate with effort (i.e., budget for effort but not exceeding 10%). All PIs requesting this must include detailed justification. A final decision about salary funds will be determined if awarded.**

**Unallowable Expenses:** Salaries for PIs**, conference travel, administrative support, general telephone services and postage, alterations or renovations of laboratory space, purchase of laboratory or office furniture, purchase of periodicals and books, and dues and memberships in scientific societies.

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Please provide a short justification for all budgeted cost categories (i.e., Personnel, Equipment, Supplies, Other, Tuition)