



BRAIN and BEHAVIOR INITIATIVE SEED GRANT PROGRAM FY20 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Brain and Behavior Initiative (BBI) at the University of Maryland (UMD) is to generate novel tools and promote multidisciplinary approaches to understand complex behaviors produced by the nervous system. The purpose of BBI seed grants 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, computer science, physical sciences, cognitive science, and/or humanities.

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS

This Request for Proposals outlines three funding tracks. 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 will support research at three different phases:

Track 1: Proposals should be *high risk, high impact, exploratory research* to collect pilot data necessary to compete for external funding from sources supporting innovative and interdisciplinary projects such as the [BRAIN Initiative](#) or funded by agencies such as NIH, DARPA, IARPA, NSF, etc. Proposals submitted to track 1 have a maximum budget of \$100,000.

Track 2: Proposals should be *broadly interdisciplinary* and include topics and/or partners *outside of traditional neuroscience*. Track 2 targets teams with strong participation from the arts, humanities, or other disciplines in collaboration with neuroscientists. Proposals submitted to track 2 have a maximum budget of \$75,000.

Track 3: Proposals should request support for interdisciplinary projects in need of *short-term support to gather additional pilot data* to finalize a proposal for external funding. BBI recognizes that these projects may have to be more traditional than the projects in tracks 1 and 2. External proposals are expected to be targeted to standard NIH R01/NSF funding tracks. Proposals submitted to track 3 have a maximum budget of \$50,000.

PI Eligibility

All proposals must be multidisciplinary with at least two Principal Investigators (PI), both of whom are tenured, tenure-track, or professional track faculty at UMD. Having multiple PIs from the same department on the same application is discouraged. Individuals with postdoctoral titles are not eligible to be PIs but can be included in proposal team. Individual investigators *may* participate in up to two proposals; if two proposals are awarded to one PI, the funding for each proposal will be administered separately. Outside collaborations (UMB, NIH, etc.) are allowed, but no money will be awarded to support non-UMD investigators.



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STATEMENT OF INTENT

All applicants are asked to provide a Statement of Intention that they plan to submit a BBI seed grant that includes a 2-3 sentence summary of the proposal. This is necessary to assist in the recruitment of external reviewers with the appropriate expertise. Please send the Statement of Intent to bbiumd@umd.edu by March 2, 2020. Full proposals are due ~~March 30, 2020~~ **June 1, 2020**.

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 at least 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 (two pages max per PI; any format)

FORMATTING

All text should be in Arial 11-point font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins. Please merge all documents into a single pdf named *PIsLastName_BBI FY20Seed proposal*, and submit via the InfoReady portal (link forthcoming). Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances, and incomplete applications will be returned without review. Questions regarding this call for proposals should be directed to bbiumd@umd.edu.

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. Applications from new collaborators and first-time PIs will receive priority over applicants who have received funding before, especially if no external funding has resulted from prior support.

Statement of Intent: Monday, March 2, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Proposal Deadline: ~~Monday, March 30, 2020 at 11:59pm~~ Monday, June 1, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Selection Notification Date: ~~Mid-May 2020~~ Mid-July 2020



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COVER PAGE

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, PIs agree to:

- 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.

IMPORTANT: At least one PI must be available to present the team’s results at the annual BBI Seed Grant Symposium unless extreme circumstances prevent all PIs from attending. In this case, another member of the research group is expected to present.

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

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ESTIMATED BUDGET

Allowable Expenses: Research supplies; purchase or rental of equipment for new research; service charges for campus facilities; and direct salary and [fringe based on current rate](#) for a temporary position (1 year or less) for technicians, research associates (post-docs), and/or graduate students. Tuition will be handled by PI's department; please draft your budget with guidance from departmental grants coordinator/administrator.

N.B. 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 (see above), 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.

Cost Categories	Description	Costs
Personnel (e.g. pre-doc, post-doc, lab staff, hourly)		
Personnel (e.g. pre-doc, post-doc, lab staff, hourly)		
Personnel (e.g. pre-doc, post-doc, lab staff, hourly)		
Personnel (e.g. pre-doc, post-doc, lab staff, hourly)		
Fringe benefits		
Equipment (must be well justified)		
Supplies		
Other (detail)		
Other (detail)		
Other (detail)		
Total of all Costs		



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BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

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