

2013 Harvard/MIT Joint Research Grants Program in Basic Neuroscience

Request for Applications

We are pleased to announce the fourth year of this program.

The program provides funding for basic neuroscience researchers to work collaboratively to advance our understanding of brain development and function. Grant applications covering the spectrum of basic neuroscience research—including model systems studies, the development of new tools and technologies, and the study of neural circuits and behavior—will be considered.

A minimum of two laboratories are invited to apply for a two-year grant of a total of \$100,000 per year. We will fund up to five such grants each year.

The spirit of this program is to encourage collaboration across institutions. Proposals from applicants from within the same department will not be considered. Proposals from applicants from different departments within the same institution will not be viewed as favorably as proposals from applicants from any two (or more) different institutions within the MIT and Harvard communities, including affiliated hospitals and institutions. (Collaborations may be between Harvard-hospital; MIT-Harvard; hospital-hospital; HMS-FAS; hospital-MIT etc.) Preference will also be given to teams who have not worked together previously; teams with a history of collaboration will be considered only if they put forward a request to support a research direction that is clearly new. Funding will typically support a post-doctoral fellow and/or graduate student working between the two laboratories. Awards will provide salary support and funds for equipment and supplies for this joint recruit and his/her work.

A short progress report will be required after approximately nine months of funding to provide assurance to the Scientific Advisory Board that a truly collaborative project has been initiated. A condition of funding for the second year will be evidence of effective collaboration between the two laboratories.

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 research, preliminary data are 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.

Timetable

RFA issued:	September 11 th , 2013
Applications due:	November 18 th , 2013
Recipients announced:	December 2013

Submissions

Please submit your application electronically, by 10 pm November 18th, to the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center, Harvard Medical School, at neurodiscovery@hms.harvard.edu.

SAB

Co-chairs: Michael Greenberg & Bob Horvitz.

Members: Emory Brown, Michale Fee, Takao Hensch, Adrian Ivinson, Josh Kaplan, Yingxi Lin, Elly Nedivi, Josh Sanes, Li-Huei Tsai & Clifford Woolf.

Guidelines

1. Applicants from across the Harvard and MIT communities are eligible. All PIs should have their primary appointment at MIT, Harvard or one of the affiliated hospitals or institutions.
2. Applicants are responsible for obtaining all necessary clearances such as IRB and animal care approvals. No funds can be released until all necessary approvals have been received.
3. These awards are made possible by a grant from a private foundation. **One of the donor's provisions states that these funds may not be used to pay either research or administrative overheads. This applies to all institutions equally.**
4. Applications will be treated as confidential documents.

Application Details

1. Complete a Cover Sheet for each application.
http://www.neurodiscovery.harvard.edu/research_community/harvard_mit_grant.html
2. Proposal Plan (maximum of three pages):
 - Please include a title, short abstract and specific aims.
 - Your research plan should make clear the nature of the proposed collaboration.
 - Indicate what makes the proposed project innovative and risky, and its potential significance.
 - References should be included in the three-page limit.
 - No appendix materials are allowed.
 - Any necessary figures, tables etc. must be incorporated into the text.
3. Budget (maximum one page):
 - Please provide a break down of your proposed budget (nature of any supplies, personnel, minor equipment etc.), including an indication of how the funds will be shared by the collaborating groups.
4. Format:
 - Application text (including the proposal plan and budget page) must be in Arial or Times New Roman font and can be no smaller than 12-point type. Single-spaced lines are acceptable. Figures, charts, tables, figure legends, and footnotes must be readily legible.
 - Margins, in all directions, must be at least 0.5 inches.
 - To preserve the line spacing, figure location and appearance of your application, you must submit your Cover Sheet, Proposal Plan and Budget as a single PDF.
5. Please provide an NIH-style biosketch for all key personnel.

For questions of a scientific nature, please contact Mike Greenberg, PhD at michael_greenberg@hms.harvard.edu or Adrian Ivinson, PhD at adrian_ivinson@hms.harvard.edu.

For questions concerning the application process or administrative issues, please contact Shanell Lavery at shanell_lavery@hms.harvard.edu or telephone 617.432.3370.