Neuroscience Initiative Path to Program Project Grants

Request for Proposals

Overview:
A goal of the Neuroscience Initiative is to increase the competitiveness of faculty and programs for extramural funding. As part of this goal, we are requesting proposals for collaborative projects that define a clear path toward an NIH program grant or center grant in the neurosciences at the University of Utah. This competitive RFP will fund a single award in 2019.

The purpose of this request for proposals is to incentivize the formation of neuroscience focused multidisciplinary groups that will seed long-term research programs based around a well-defined research focus or objective - thereby enriching the neuroscience research community at the University of Utah.

The Neuroscience initiative will provide one year of funding for the selected program or center grant proposal. Investigators may request up to $200,000 for the proposed project. Proposals should include three or more highly interdependent projects, in which a team of investigators works in a clearly defined area of mutual interest. Inclusion of at least one clinical investigator is strongly encouraged.

Research Scope:
We invite applications from all neuroscience related research areas. Proposals for the program or center grant may focus on a variety of areas, but must align with a current research funding announcement for a NIH activity code P or U style grant.

Preference will be given to applications that:
- Are translational in nature
- Have significant scientific merit
- Will build or strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships within the U of U neuroscience community
- Include investigators in several disciplines including basic, translational, and clinical research
- Include investigators with independent NIH research grants

Application Instructions:
Each Principal Investigator may only act as submitting applicant on one proposal.
- The proposed program or center grant should not be funded by or submitted to any another mechanism/research initiative at the time of submission.
- Submissions will be due at 5:00 PM MST, Monday, September 2, 2019.
Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted electronically through the University of Utah’s Competition Space interface at http://utah.infoready4.com/

All applications must include:
1. Abstract (1/2 page)
2. Description of Scientific Team and their Roles (1 page)
3. Specific Aims (1 page)
4. Detailed proposal including: (maximum 3 pages, references on additional pages as needed)
   - Description of research projects including research strategy and potential synergy with other projects and cores
   - Description of research cores including objectives and services provided
5. A specific plan for extramural funding, including a detailed timeline (1 page)
6. Identification of resources needed to increase competitiveness for extramural funding (1 page)
7. Proposed project budget (not to exceed $200,000). Budget template attached
8. NIH Biographical sketch for all investigators (5 pages max)
9. Current and pending support for each investigator

Budget Guidelines:
Please prepare a one-year project budget that allocates a maximum of $200,000 into the following categories:
- Personnel: This may include technicians, postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate students, but not salary support for Principal Investigators or administrative support
- Supplies
- Animal costs
- Services: e.g. core facility fees
- Miscellaneous Costs

NOTE:
- The budget may not include equipment (a single durable item with a value exceeding $5,000)
- Funds will not cover any type of travel costs

Review & Funding of Proposals:
- Proposals will be reviewed by the Neuroscience Initiative Advisory Board & ad hoc reviewers to ensure research excellence and programmatic alignment.
- Applicants will be informed of the status of their proposal within 4 - 6 weeks of the submission deadline, with funding to begin as quickly as possible thereafter.
- Maximum funding per project is $200,000, with a project term of one year.
- Grant administration is the responsibility of the submitting Principal Investigator.
**Post award requirements:**
At the end of the project period, the funded proposal must provide a progress report describing the results of the research, future research directions, and a 1-page plan detailing the program or center grant submission based on work completed during the planning phase. The progress report should not exceed 4 pages in total.

**For questions regarding this RFP, please contact:**
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