



BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR INITIATIVE SEED GRANT PROGRAM FY17 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 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.**

Example: [Toward functional molecular neuroimaging using vasoactive probes in human subjects.](#)

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.**

Examples: For NSF: [At the intersection of neuroscience and art](#) and For NEA: [Joining the Spectrum: An Interdisciplinary Inquiry into Theatre as an Intervention for Autism Diagnosed Teens](#)

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.

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 FY17Seed proposal* with the subject line of the email: *BBI FY17 SEED GRANT PROPOSAL*. Questions should be directed to: bbiumd@umd.edu.

Proposal deadline: 11:59 pm January 13, 2017

Selection Notification Date: April 2017; Expected Start Date: May 2017

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.



BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR INITIATIVE
FY 17 SEED GRANT PROGRAM
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, 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

Approvals: Our signatures below signify that we are aware that the PIs are submitting a proposal to the BBI FY17 Seed Grant Program.

Departmental Chair

Dean

Departmental Chair

Dean

Copy page if additional signature lines are needed



**BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR INITIATIVE
FY 17 SEED GRANT PROGRAM
BUDGET PAGE**

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.

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.

Cost Categories	Description	Costs
PREDOCTORAL STUDENT		
POSTDOCTORAL STUDENT		
HOURLY Personnel		
Equipment (must be well justified)		
SUPPLIES		
OTHER (detail)		
Total costs (not to exceed max of track)		
Predoc fringe Provide Fringe %		
Postdoc fringe Provide Fringe %		
Hourly fringe Provide Fringe %		
Total Fringe Costs		
Tuition (detail)		
Total Tuition Costs		
Total of all Costs		



**BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR INITIATIVE
FY 17 SEED GRANT PROGRAM
BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

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