



## **Brain Research Foundation Scientific Innovations Award**

The Brain Research Foundation's Annual Scientific Innovations Award Program provides funding for innovative science in both basic and clinical neuroscience. This funding mechanism is designed to support creative, exploratory, cutting edge research in well-established research laboratories, under the direction of established investigators.

The Brain Research Foundation's Scientific Review Committee will review the SIA proposals and make recommendations for funding to the Foundation. The Committee consists of senior scientists broadly representing the various neuroscience-related programs. Two or more representatives of the Brain Research Foundation are also present when the Committee meets.

### **Objectives:**

The objective of the SIA is to support projects that may be too innovative and speculative for traditional funding sources but still have a high likelihood of producing important findings. It is expected that investigations supported by these grants will yield high impact findings and result in major grant applications and significant publications in high impact journals.

**Funding and award period:** Based on the quality of applications, the Brain Research Foundation anticipates the SIA program will fund a total of \$300,000 in grants. Each total award is limited to \$150,000 (direct costs) for a one to two year grant period **from the specified dates only**. The first grant payment of \$140,000 will be made upon completion of the SIA Acceptance Form. The final payment of \$10,000 will be made contingent upon receipt of a Preliminary Financial Report, which will be due 30 days prior to the end date of the grant period.

Funds **must be utilized within the grant period**.

**Financial and progress reports**, including a lay summary, will be required **within 30 days of the end of the grant period**.

### **Funding Preferences:**

- 1.) Funding is to be directed at projects that may be too innovative and speculative for traditional funding sources but still have a high likelihood of producing important findings. This should be a unique project for senior investigators who are encouraged to stretch their imagination into areas that can substantially change an area of research.
- 2.) Funding of research projects that will likely lead to successful grant applications with NIH and other public and private funding entities.
- 3.) PI can receive a maximum of 2 consecutive years of funding.



### Allowable costs under this award:

100% of these SIA funds must be utilized for direct costs.

#### These costs may include:

- Purchase and care of laboratory animals
- Small pieces of laboratory equipment, totaling \$5,000 or less
- Laboratory supplies
- Salary for scientific (including postdoctoral fellows) and technical staff (including laboratory technicians)

#### Costs not permitted:

- Facilities and administrative costs
- Salary recovery for the PI
- Domestic and foreign travel
- Conference or seminar fees
- Personal computers, computer hardware or software
- Large laboratory equipment
- Tuition reimbursement

Publications resulting in projects funded in whole or part by the BRF SIA will acknowledge the BRF as a funding source.

## I. Guidelines

### Eligibility

To be eligible, the nominated candidate must be a **tenure-track or tenured professor or associate professor at a US institution**, working in the area of studies of brain function in health and disease. **Current major NIH or other peer-reviewed funding is preferred but evidence of such funding in the past three years is essential.** Studies should be related to either normal human brain development or specifically identified disease states. This includes molecular and clinical neuroscience as well as studies of neural, sensory, motor, cognitive, behavioral and emotional functioning in health and disease. The grant proposal must detail a new research project that is not funded by other sources. This grant **is not to be used as a source of bridge funding.**

### Ineligibility

- 1.) PI is ineligible to submit more than one BRF SIA proposal in a funding period.
- 2.) PI is ineligible if they have BRF funding that will **overlap this grant period.**
- 3.) PI is ineligible if they have been awarded prior BRF funding, but have **failed to submit scientific and financial reports** at the end of their one year grant period.
- 4.) PI is ineligible if they are a **member of the BRF Scientific Review Committee.**



### **Nondiscrimination statement**

The Brain Research Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, color, ethnic origin and age.

## **II. Application Procedures**

**The application process will be conducted in two phases:**

### **PHASE I: Letter of Intent (LOI)**

The first step in applying for a BRF SIA is to submit a Letter of Intent. The purpose of the LOI is to determine worthy projects that will be asked to submit a complete SIA application for further review. The LOI and invited application must be submitted by a single investigator.

#### **The LOI includes:**

- Name and academic title of PI
- Contact information, including mailing address, telephone number, fax number, and email address
- Title of program project
- Brief summary of program project
- Biographical sketch **with other support page** (*4 page maximum*), attached separately.

Email completed LOI to [info@theBRF.org](mailto:info@theBRF.org) with the title "SIA LOI" in the subject line.

**Deadline for the LOI is October 17, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. CST. LOI will not be accepted after the deadline. No exceptions will be made. Submitted LOI's that have not been nominated by their institution will not be considered.**

### **PHASE II: Application**

If the LOI receives a favorable review, the PI will be invited to submit a grant application. Please submit the application electronically to [info@theBRF.org](mailto:info@theBRF.org) with the title "SIA Application" in the subject line. The 5 page grant proposal **deadline is January 16, 2012, 4:00 p.m. CST. Applications will not be accepted after the deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

## **III. Review Procedures**

LOI submissions are reviewed and rated by the BRF Scientific Review Committee. So there is not a conflict of interest, the proposals will not be reviewed by committee members from the same institution as the applicant. (Note: Review procedures and guidelines will be followed according to NIH Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality and Non Disclosure Rules.)

If the LOI receives a favorable review, you will be invited to submit a grant application.

Grant applications are subject to a two-stage peer-review process. In the first stage, proposals are reviewed and rated by the BRF Scientific Review Committee. The second stage includes further review and discussion of the scores and comments resulting from the initial review process.



#### **IV. Animal and Human Subject Assurances**

The Brain Research Foundation requires animal welfare and human subject certifications that apply to your specific project. The certifications are not required for the LOI, but are required when submitting a completed grant application.

#### **V. Contact Information**

For additional information, you may contact the BRF at, [info@theBRF.org](mailto:info@theBRF.org) or call (312) 759-5150.