O'Donnell Brain Institute Clinical Neuroscience Research Excellence Initiative

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UT Southwestern
O'Donnell Brain Institute

Agenda

- OBI Clinical Investigator Development (CID) Program

- OBI Human Neuroscience Collaborative Research Program

- Q&A

Clinical Investigator Development Program

Program Goals

- Cultivate a new cadre of early career scientists pursuing human neuroscience research and the development of research excellence

- Support early career faculty to pursue prospective human neuroscience research

- Support research methodology and career development training

Eligible Applicants

- Current UT Southwestern Assistant Professors

- Individuals being recruited (either internally or externally) into an Assistant Professor position

- Applicants need to hold a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, PhD, MD/PhD)

- Applicants need to have submitted at least one external grant proposal or one special internal grant proposal as PI within the past three years

- Similar to what is observed with NIH Career Development Awards, the Applicant, relative to the research question posed, will be of paramount consideration

Letter of Intent

- Letter of Intent Components
    - Summary statement
    - Mentorship team plan
    - Project activity
    - Expected research and career development outcomes
    - Acknowledgment of application by Department Chair

- **Due by close of business September 3, 2024**

Application Components

- **Project Summary**
  - Use nonexpert terminology to provide a short description of the proposed work
  - Include a summary of the proposed objectives and aims

- **Specific Aims**
  - List succinctly the specific aims / hypotheses / objectives of the proposed research
  - State the goals with the expected outcomes, including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the fields involved
  - Proposals need to have a well-defined research question to be responsive to this Program

Application Components

- **Mentorship**
  - Identify a mentoring team
  - One member of the mentoring team needs to be dedicated to career development mentorship
  - The mentoring team is required to meet at least 2 – 3 times per year

- **Career Development Plan**
  - Provide career development plan and timeline
  - The plan should list goals/objectives and the methods by which they will be achieved

- **Responsible Conduct of Research Training**
  - Following the NIH requirements, need to include a plan for training in responsible conduct of research. The plan needs to include format of training, subject matter, faculty participation, and duration of instruction

Application Components

- **Research Strategy / Methodology / Expected Outcomes**
  - State aims and hypotheses
  - Include relevant methodologic information on how the study will address aims/hypotheses
  - Include information on how the study will ensure scientific rigor and reproducibility

- **Budget**
  - Use budget template (to be provided)

- **Budget Justification**
  - Provide justification for all expenditures and budget line items (e.g., personnel time and effort)

Application Components

- **NIH Biographical Sketches**
  - NIH Biographical Sketches are required for the PI, mentoring team members, and any study Key Personnel

- **Key References**
  - Include any relevant references as cited in the Research Strategy section
  - Include Pubmed Central (PMC) reference numbers

Benefits from OBI and PNTRC

- **Clinical informatics support**
  - Definition and identification of patient cohorts
  - Database design and construction
  - Biostatistical analysis

- **Biorepository support**
  - Assist with sample collection
  - Sample cataloging
  - Sample storage

- **Data quality control and monitoring support**

- **Assistance with creating a peer mentoring group**

Award Amount

- Support for over four years

- Per year: $150,000

- Total across all four years: $600,000

- The PI is required to dedicate at least 25% effort to the Program activities

Important Due Dates for Application Materials

September 3, 2024	By October 1, 2024	November 22, 2024	December 2024 – January 2025	February 2025
• Letter of Intent is due	• Decision provided to the applicants	• Completed application is due	• Application is reviewed	• Decision provided to the applicants

Human Neuroscience Collaborative Research Program

Program Goals

- Further scientific knowledge developed through human neuroscience research

- Encourage clinical and translational interdisciplinary research team development

- Develop a database / repository of well characterized specific patient cohorts

- Establish a sustainable plan to continue interdisciplinary clinical research efforts

Eligible Applicants and Applications

- PIs from one or more OBI-Affiliated Departments

- The application can contain a single project or distinct projects around a common theme

- All areas of human neuroscience study are eligible. For this Program, compelling / impactful science is the most important criteria

- Priority will be given to OBI's special emphasis on
  - Neurodegeneration / regeneration
  - Neuroimmunology
  - Circuit neuroscience / neuromodulation

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Letter of Intent

- Letter of Intent Components
    - Summary statement
    - Statement of need
    - Research activity
    - Administrative support and biorepository component
    - Outcomes: expected achievements and next steps
    - Acknowledgment of application by Department Chair

- **Due by close of business September 3, 2024**

Application Components

- **Project Summary / Overall Interdisciplinary Team Design**
  - Use nonexpert terminology to provide a short description of the proposed work
  - Include a summary of the proposed long-term objectives and specific aims
  - Include a summary of the overall interdisciplinary team design/structure

- **Specific Aims**
  - List succinctly the specific aims / hypotheses / objectives of the proposed research
  - State the goals with the expected outcomes, including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the fields involved
  - Proposals need to have a well-defined research question to be responsive to this Program

Application Components

- **Innovation and Synergy**
  - Highlight the specific expertise brought by the different team members

  - For Key Personnel, include information such as
    - Department affiliation
    - Discipline
    - Area of expertise
    - Study team role

Application Components

- **Research Strategy**
  - State aims and hypotheses
  - Include relevant methodologic information on how study will address aims/hypotheses
  - Include information on how the study will ensure scientific rigor and reproducibility

- **Key References**
  - Include any relevant references as cited in the Research Strategy section
  - Include Pubmed Central (PMC) reference numbers

Application Components

- **Budget**
  - Use budget template (will be provided)

- **Budget Justification**
  - Provide justification for all expenditures and budget line items (e.g., personnel time and effort)

- **NIH Biographical Sketches**
  - NIH Biographical Sketches are required for all study Key Personnel

Benefits from OBI and PNTRC

- **Clinical informatics support**
  - Definition and identification of patient cohorts
  - Database design and construction
  - Biostatistical analysis

- **Biorepository support**
  - Assist with sample collection
  - Sample cataloging
  - Sample storage

- **Data quality control and monitoring support**

Award Amount

- Support for over four years

- Per year: Up to $250,000

- Total across all four years: Up to $1,000,000
  - Note that one million dollars will only be for exceptional proposals, and it may well be that no application meets that threshold. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit realistic budgets, which will be reviewed for appropriateness

Important Due Dates for Application Materials

September 3, 2024	By October 1, 2024	December 20, 2024	January – February 2025	March 2025
• Letter of Intent is due	• Decision provided to the applicants	• Completed application is due	• Application is reviewed	• Decision provided to the applicants

Summary of Both Program

	Clinical Investigator Program	Collaborative Research Program
Eligible Applicants	• Current UT Southwestern Assistant Professors • Individuals being recruited into an Assistant Professor position • Applicants need to hold a doctoral degree (e.g., MD, PhD, MD/PhD)	• Current PIs from one or more OBI-Affiliated Departments
Letter of Intent	Due by September 3, 2024	Due by September 3, 2024
Application Components	1. Project Summary 2. Specific Aims 3. Mentorship 4. Career Development Plan 5. Responsible Conduct of Research Training 6. Research Strategy 7. Budget 8. Budget Justification 9. NIH Biographical Sketches 10. Key References	1. Project Summary 2. Specific Aims 3. Innovation and Synergy 4. Research Strategy 5. Key References 6. Budget 7. Budget Justification 8. NIH Biographical Sketches
Benefits from OBI	• Clinical Informatics Support • Biorepository Support • Data Quality Control and Monitoring Support	• Clinical Informatics Support • Biorepository Support • Data Quality Control and Monitoring Support
Length of Program	Up to 4 years	Up to 4 years
Award Amount	Per year: $150,000 Total: $600,000	Per year: Up to $250,000 Total: Up to $1,000,000
Complete Application	Due by November 22, 2024	Due by December 20, 2024

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Let's work together to ….

- Advance clinical neuroscience research excellence
- Optimize strong research methodology
- Maximize data quality control and scientific rigor
- Ensure responsible conduct of research

Be On The Lookout For….

- Instructions on how to submit the Letter of Intent and application materials
- Budget template
- The power point slides presented at the Town Hall Sessions
- The questions and answers from the Town Hall Sessions

For More Information….

- Contact the Perot Neuroscience Translational Research Center (PNTRC)
    - Email: PNTRC@utsouthwestern.edu