

UTSA Brain Health Consortium

Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Seed Grant Awards

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Brain Health Consortium (BHC), in partnership with the UTSA Office of the Vice President for Research, Economic Development and Knowledge Enterprise, announces seed grant awards for graduate students (Master's and PhD) and postdoctoral research fellows from UTSA. Priority will be given to applications that focus on one or more of the BHC's research areas, including 1) stem cells and precision medicine, 2) neuroscience, 3) neuro-engineering, and 4) psychology and behavior, and involving use of the UTSA stem cell core. This initiative aims to benefit students, postdoctoral fellows, and their faculty mentors by introducing new technologies, expanding the research focus and yielding data for new transdisciplinary research proposals. No preliminary data are required.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate students must currently be enrolled in a Master's degree or a PhD program. Postdoctoral fellows must have 4 years or less of postdoctoral training.

FUNDING LIMITS

Up to four \$15,000 awards will be funded from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Roll over to the next year is not allowable, and project extensions are not allowable. Funding that is not spent or encumbered by January 1, 2021 will automatically revert back to the originating office.

PEER REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of UTSA faculty. Panel members will have a broad range of expertise and may not be deep domain experts in your field. You must describe your idea in clear language without the use of jargon unique to your field. This initiative will use the NIH scoring process.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

There will be one submission cycle for FY 2020-21 with deadline at the close of business (5:00 pm) on October 31, 2019. Awards will be announced December 1, 2019. The postdoctoral fellow or student will submit **one** proposal to BrainHealth@utsa.edu. Also, only **one** application is to be submitted per mentor/PI. Proposals may be submitted to the Research Service Center (RSC) at the time of submission or once an award has been made.

All required proposal elements shall be contained in the single, text-searchable Adobe Acrobat pdf file. The proposal must include the following, in the order shown below:

1.	Project Cover page (Use Attachment A)
2.	NIH-style Specific Aims page (a strict 1-page limit)
	a. Knowledge gap
	b. Hypothesis
	c. Specific aims with brief description of how each aim will be accomplished
	d. Statement clearly revealing the relevance to brain health
3.	Student or Postdoctoral Fellow Responsibilities (Must Sign Attachment B)
4.	Mentor (PI) Letter of Support
5.	Combined Budget Summary (Use Attachment C)
6.	Budget Justification: 1 page maximum per applicant
7.	NIH Biographical Sketch: 2-page maximum for each applicant (Template Attachment D)

1. PROJECT COVER PAGE (USE ATTACHMENT A)

The Proposal Cover Page must include a clear, well-written executive summary that summarizes the essential content of the proposal – including the brain health topic, proposed innovative research and potential significance of the research effort.

2. NIH-STYLE SPECIFIC AIMS PAGE (1 PAGE LIMIT)

The project description must be concise, limited to one, single-spaced page, Times New Roman font, 12-point size or larger and no smaller than 0.5-inch margins. A violation of this format will result in your proposal not being reviewed. References are optional (no page limit).

The project description must contain the following components:

- a. Knowledge gap
- b. Hypothesis
- c. Specific aims with brief description of how each aim will be accomplished
- d. Statement clearly revealing the relevance to brain health

3. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW OR STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES (SIGN ATTACHMENT B)

Student or postdoctoral fellow must sign this document confirming that they have read and agree to all responsibilities and obligations.

4. MENTOR (PI) LETTER OF SUPPORT

A Letter of Support from the mentor of the postdoctoral fellow or student must be submitted, indicating that he/she will allow the study in his/her lab and that the proposed study does not duplicate funded work. This letter must also provide confirmation that the proposed research project can be completed under existing research protocols if the research project involves human subjects or animals.

5. COMBINED BUDGET SUMMARY (ATTACHMENT C)

A budget summary must be submitted on the approved budget page (Use Attachment C). Priority will be given to applications that utilize the UTSA stem cell core services as part of the proposed project.

Service fees for the core will be included in the final award amount for the project. Please see ATTACHMENT C for full list of allowable and unallowable costs.

6. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

A budget justification (no more than 1 page per applicant) must be submitted providing details for all proposed expenditures. The budget justification must address each budget line item on Attachment C that contains a proposed cost. The budget justification must convey an integrated understanding of the types of resources (supplies, materials, minor equipment) necessary to complete the proposed effort. The proposed budget must conform to UTSA's requirements for internally funded research or grant activity.

7. NIH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH (ATTACHMENT D)

Complete for each applicant. Do not exceed two pages.

8. CONTACT INFORMATION

Mary-Colette Lybrand, Operations Manager, Brain Health Consortium

Phone: (210) 458-7024

Email: BrainHealth@utsa.edu

ATTACHMENT A: PROJECT COVER PAGE

Project Name:

Name of Student or Postdoctoral Fellow:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Mentor/PI Name and Title:

Mentor/PI Department:

Executive Summary (400 words or less):

ATTACHMENT B: STUDENT OR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW RESPONSIBILITIES

If this research project is funded, I agree that my acceptance obligates me to:

- 1. Include the following acknowledgement on all publications resulting from this grant award.
“This project was funded (fully or in-part) by the UTSA Brain Health Consortium and Office of the Vice President for Research, Economic Development, and Knowledge Enterprise.”
- 2. If human subjects or animal research is involved, existing UTSA approved protocols must be submitted to BHC Leadership prior to funds being released.
- 3. Adhere to the timeline below:

PROGRAM TIMELINE
October 31, 2019 – Grant Proposals Due (by 5:00 pm)
December 1, 2019 – Award Winners Announced
January 1, 2020 – Grant Performance Period Begins (Funds Available)
December 31, 2020 – All Funds Spent or Encumbered
December 31, 2020 – Final Project Report Due

- 4. Respond in a timely manner to all inquiries and communications from the BHC director related to the BHC funded project.

Signature of Principal Investigator: _____

Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Date: ____/____/____

ATTACHMENT C: COMBINED BUDGET SUMMARY

BUDGET

1. Salary/Wages:
2. Minor Equipment
(\$1,000 or less):
3. Travel (Foreign or Domestic):
4. Core Facility Costs:
5. Materials and Supplies:
6. Publications:
7. Consultant Services:

Total Request:

A budget justification (not to exceed 1 page) must also be submitted describing each of the proposed line item expenditures.

FUNDING COSTS:

Grant funds can be used for the following:

- Salaries and/or wages for postdoctoral fellows, and graduate. Fringe benefits are paid centrally-exclude fringe benefits on the budget template worksheet
- Research related equipment (under \$1,000) when justified as essential to the project
- Materials and supplies but must be justified as needed for project success
- Research-related publications
- Expenses for field work, data collection, archival research, training, educational purposes and/or presentations on research, creative or scholarly activities directly related to the proposed project
- Consultant fees if necessary for the completion of the project
- Research-related laboratories and core facilities
- Travel (limited within the U.S.) to conferences or other conference support if directly related to the proposed work
- Travel (limited within the U.S.) for data collection or other purposes when justified as essential to the project

Grant funds cannot be used for the following:

- Refreshments (food, snacks, and beverages)
- Domestic travel that is not directly related to project research
- International travel
- Student travel (unless the student is paid by the grant and is directly related to project research)
- Student stipends, scholarships and/or tuition
- Indirect costs (F&A) costs
- Payment of salaries to non-UTSA personnel

ATTACHMENT D: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME:

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login):

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE <i>(if applicable)</i>	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. Personal Statement

B. Positions and Honors

C. Contributions to Science

D. Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance

YEAR	COURSE TITLE	GRADE
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