

2017

Neuroscience

Research Funding Contacts In the Federal Government

An informal compendium of names and contact information for over 400
research grant and scientific review officers in 35 organizational units

Volume 26

March 2017



National Institutes
of Health

NIH Nearly Doubles Investment in BRAIN Initiative Research

Many new projects explore human brain activity

October 13, 2016

The National Institutes of Health announced its third round of grants to support the goals of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, bringing NIH's total fiscal year 2016 investment to just over \$150 million.

"In only three years we've already seen exciting new advances in neuroscience research come out of the BRAIN Initiative," said Walter J. Koroshetz, M.D., director of NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Over one hundred new awards, totaling more than \$70 million, will go to over 170 investigators working at 60 institutions. These awards expand NIH's efforts to develop new tools and technologies to understand neural circuit function and capture a dynamic view of the brain in action. Projects include proposals to develop computer programs that may help researchers detect and diagnose autism and Alzheimer's disease from brain scans, build a cap that uses ultrasound waves to precisely stimulate brain cells, create a "neural dust" system made of tiny electric sensors for wirelessly recording brain activity, improve current rehabilitation technologies for helping the lives of stroke patients, and study how the brain reads and speaks.

"This year, more projects will be based, at least in part, on data from humans," added Joshua Gordon, M.D., Ph.D., director of the NIH's National Institute of Mental Health. "Some of these projects are aimed at fine-tuning brain stimulation and other promising technologies for the treatment of mental illnesses."

In 2013, President Obama launched the BRAIN Initiative as a large-scale effort to equip researchers with fundamental insights necessary for treating a wide variety of brain disorders like Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, autism, epilepsy, and traumatic brain injury. These new tools and this deeper understanding will ultimately catalyze new treatments and cures for devastating brain disorders and diseases that are estimated by the World Health Organization to affect more than one billion people worldwide.

For a list of the new grants and more information about the BRAIN Initiative, please visit: www.braininitiative.nih.gov.

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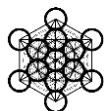
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http://grants.nih.gov/podcasts/all_about_grants/index.htm

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Foreign Research Applications Have Additional Review Criteria

In addition to the regular NIH review criteria, reviewers rate research applications from foreign institutions for their ability to bring in talent, resources, populations, or environmental conditions that are not available in the U.S. or that augment U.S. resources. Foreign applications have a good chance of getting funded if either the expertise or resources are not available in the United States, for example, access to a unique study population. Reviewers will consider the relevance of the proposed research to the Institute's mission and check whether similar work is being done by U.S. investigators and whether there is a need for the research. If similar research is being done, the application will suffer in review. Also, in order to receive NIH funding, your research should benefit the health of the American population, as well as your local population.

http://grants.nih.gov/archive/grants/foreign/special_guidance.htm





Grant Application Tutorials

General Information about applying for NIH grants:

- The Grant Review Process (from NCI)
<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/extra/extdocs/grantrevprocess.htm>
- The Peer Review Process at NIH (from CSR)
<http://public.csr.nih.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Human Subjects in NIH research grants:

- Protecting Human Research Participants (from OER) - a two-hour online course that satisfies the NIH Human Subjects education requirement. The course is free, but you must register to take it.
<http://phrp.nihtraining.com>
- Human Subjects Regulations Decision Charts (from OHRP) - A set of charts to help you decide whether your project is research that needs to be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board (IRB)
www.hhs.gov/ohrp/policy/checklists/decisioncharts.html

Grant-Writing Tip Sheets for NIH Research Grant Applications:

- General information and Planning for Electronic Applications – Questions and Answers
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/ga/pages/applygenplan.aspx>
- Quick Guide for Research Grant Applications (NCI)
<http://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/extra/extdocs/gntapp.pdf>
- Tips for New NIH Grant Applicants (NIGMS)
www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/Application/Tips.htm
- Common mistakes in grant applications (NINDS)
www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/grantwriting_mistakes.htm
- Writing a grant application: A Technical Checklist
www.ninds.nih.gov/funding/grantsmanship_checklist.htm
- Sample Application and Summary Statements (from NIAID)
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/grant/pages/appsamples.aspx>

Grant writing tips for small business (SBIR) grants:

- Advice on NIH SBIR & STTR Grant Applications (NIAID)
<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/researchfunding/sop/pages/sbirsttr.aspx>
- SBIR/STTR Policy and Grantsmanship Information (NIH)
http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir_policy.htm

Electronic Submission of Grant Applications:

- Applying Electronically – Training
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/electronicreceipt/training.htm>
- All electronic applications require advance registration at both Grants.gov and the NIH eRA Commons. (explanation and links to both registration sites)
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Receipt Dates for Fellowship Applications: April 8, August 8 and December 8 of each year.

(Note: F31 Predoctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research are due on the 13th of the month.)

Fellowship Study Section Descriptions and Rosters:

<http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/Fellowship/Pages/default.aspx>

NIH funds over \$20 million in peripheral nervous system research

New round of projects for understanding how peripheral nerves control organ function

The National Institutes of Health's Common Fund issued 28 new awards that support peripheral nervous system research, totaling over \$20 million in fiscal year 2016, in hopes of finding new ways to treat conditions such as heart disease, gastrointestinal disorders, diabetes, and sleep apnea. The new awards fund multidisciplinary research teams across 20 US and foreign academic institutions and a small business/start-up through the Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions (SPARC) program. The SPARC program plans to support awards totaling approximately \$238M through fiscal year 2021, pending available funds. This year's awards encompass a wide range of projects intended to resolve existing technology limitations and knowledge gaps regarding the innervation and neural control of various organ systems, including heart, lung, stomach, small and large intestine, adipose tissue, spleen, bladder, and pancreas.

The overall goal of the SPARC program is to provide the scientific foundation necessary to enable next-generation neuromodulation device development and precise neural control of end-organ system function to treat diseases and conditions. Despite data showing great scientific and therapeutic promise, existing neuromodulation devices display varied degrees of efficacy between study subjects, possibly because the detailed underlying physiology and mechanisms of action for these therapies are poorly understood. Through the SPARC program, the NIH supports multidisciplinary teams of investigators to deliver detailed, predictive, functional and anatomical neural circuitry maps of the autonomic and sensory innervation of several major organs, and to create or improve tools to measure and manipulate nerve-organ interactions and isolate their functions. This will be achieved by SPARC awardees working collectively as a consortium in an iterative and dynamic way, with the technology developments advancing neural mapping efforts, and the mapping results defining new technology requirements.

SPARC is funded through the NIH Common Fund and managed by the NIH Office of the Director, in partnership with the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The fiscal year 2016 funding was issued via NIH Other Transaction and Cooperative Agreement award mechanisms. Additional funding opportunity announcements will be forthcoming in fiscal year 2017.

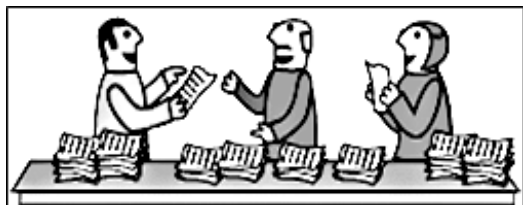
For more information about SPARC, please visit: <https://www.commonfund.nih.gov/sparc>.

NIH Peer Review Revealed

www.csr.nih.gov/video/video.asp

The Center for Scientific Review at the National Institutes of Health has produced a series of videos to give you an inside look at how scientists from across the country review NIH grant applications for scientific and technical merit.

New and established applicants will find insights and understanding that can empower them to improve the applications and increase their chances for receiving a more positive review.



Note: Since application submission and review policies discussed in the video may change, you should check for policy updates on the CSR and the NIH Office of Extramural Research Web sites.

Investigators are strongly encouraged to contact program staff prior to submitting an application.



DIVISION OF NEUROSCIENCE AND BASIC BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

The Division provides support for research programs in the areas of basic neuroscience, genetics, basic behavioral science, research training, resource development, technology development, drug discovery, and research dissemination. The Division has the responsibility, in cooperation with other components of the Institute and the research community, for ensuring that relevant basic science knowledge is generated and then harvested to create improved diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental and behavioral disorders.

Through the various programs housed in its branches and offices, the Division offers support for a spectrum of relevant extramural activities. By reviewing the program descriptions, investigators should be able to identify an appropriate contact. For the Division and each program we also provide Areas of High Priority and Areas of Emphasis. **In addition, we continue to encourage innovative applications in any area relevant to the mission of the Institute.** Read the NIMH Strategic Objectives online at: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/strategic-planning-reports/index.shtml>

Areas of High Priority

- Develop new and use existing physiological and computational models to understand the biological functions of genes, gene products, cells, and brain circuits in normal and abnormal mental function.
- Elucidate how cognitive, affect, stress, and motivational processes interact and their role(s) in mental disorders through functional studies spanning levels of analysis (genomic, molecular, cellular, circuits, behavior) during development and throughout the lifespan.
- Elucidate fundamental mechanisms (*e.g.*, genetic, biological, behavioral, environmental) of complex social behavior.
- Identify in diverse populations from the US and around the world genetic variants, epigenetic mechanisms, and gene-environment interactions that influence vulnerability to mental disorders, endophenotypes, and pharmacologic response profiles.
- Identify biological markers (*e.g.*, genetic, proteomic, imaging) in model systems and humans that could be further validated as methods for diagnosing and/or detecting risk/vulnerability, onset, progress, and/or severity of mental disorders.
- Identify and validate new molecular targets and tools for drug discovery relevant to the treatment of mental disorders.

Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science - Research Components

Behavioral Science and Integrative Neuroscience Research Branch

Genomics Research Branch

Molecular, Cellular, and Genomic Neuroscience Research Branch

Office of Research Training and Career Development

Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs