

# NEUROSCIENCE PET IMAGING PILOT PROJECTS PROGRAM

*sponsored by*

Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center  
&  
Brigham & Women's Hospital, Department of Radiology

*administered by*

**B.W.I.N.**  
(BWH Institute for the Neurosciences)

The BWH Department of Radiology, Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center and B.W.I.N. have joined forces to fund the best novel ideas for PET-based pilot projects aimed at investigating disorders of the nervous system.

**We are pleased to announce a call for proposals  
from BWH and other HMS-affiliated investigators**

Three grants, each with a dollar value of \$30,000 (direct costs), will be awarded in 2016. (The RFP will be repeated in 2017.)

Applications will be judged on the basis of scientific merit, novelty and the value of the project in obtaining preliminary data that could lead to sponsored research (investigator-initiated R01 research grants, career development awards, industry or foundation support, etc). Clinical, translational and basic research will be considered.

Although priority will be given first to junior investigators (Post Doctoral Fellows, Instructors or Assistant Professors within three years of Asst. Prof. appointment), more established investigators with a new line of research that lacks funding are welcome to apply.

This program does not seek to support fellows or others in need of bridging salary support. Rather, the program will support pilot projects that will test novel ideas and approaches.

## **Timing**

RFP Announced:	29 <sup>th</sup> March, 2016
Proposals Due:	31 <sup>st</sup> May, 2016
Recipients Announced:	July, 2016

## Guidelines

- All proposals must be **PET-based investigations of the nervous system, and must make use of the BWH Bioimaging Core (BICOR)**. A letter of support from BICOR must be included in the proposal package.
- All proposals must include a BWH co-investigator.
- Applicants must have a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, ScD, PharmD, DO, etc), have undertaken or completed formal research training, and (if the study involves human subjects) have documentation of training in the protection of research participants.
- Applicants must have their primary appointment at HMS or an HMS-affiliated hospital. An applicant who is a Fellow or Instructor must have a sponsor whose primary appointment is at HMS or an HMS-affiliated hospital, who is recognized as an independent investigator, actively involved in research of the nervous system, and committed to continued involvement throughout the award period.
- All proposed studies will have to be approved by the Partners IRB or the BWH/HMS IACUC as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain all clearances and approvals from appropriate regulatory authorities. Where an IND is needed, please indicate the status of the IND application in your proposal. No funds will be released until all necessary approvals have been received.
- Funding is intended to support **PET neuro imaging based at the BWH BICOR facility**. Allowable expenses include BICOR costs, modest salary requests for staff, necessary reagents, subject reimbursements, and animal costs, as appropriate. Funds may not be used for equipment (including computer) purchase, meeting costs, travel, publication fees, etc.

## Selection Criteria

- **Significance.** Does the study address an important issue relevant to our understanding of the nervous system or to patients with disorders of the nervous system?
- **Path Forward.** If the aims of the proposal are achieved, is it likely that a proposal for extramural support (federal, industry, or foundation) will be successfully submitted?
- **Approach.** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative approaches?
- **Innovation.** Are the aims original and innovative?
- **Investigator and Environment.** Are the investigator and/or sponsor appropriately trained to carry out this work? Is the scientific environment in which the work will be undertaken adequate and supportive of the proposed project?
- **Realistic.** Is the project feasible and likely to be completed in the proposed time frame with the proposed resources?

Decisions of the review committee will be final. No written feedback will be provided.

**Applications will be treated as confidential documents.**

**Application Format** (only the following sections, in this order, should be submitted)

1. Title page (as provided by sponsor) including an abstract of up to 280 words
2. Research plan (entire research plan cannot exceed 3 pages):
  - Background and Significance (~1/2 page)
  - Research Design and Methods (study design; description of subjects; data to be collected; analysis plan) (~2 pages)
  - References (~1/2 page)
3. Budget (direct costs) and justification should include the following sections (1 page):
  - Direct imaging costs including a breakdown of those costs.
  - Animal costs (with breakdown).
  - Subject reimbursements (with breakdown).
  - Any requested salary support should include the name or role; a brief justification for this position; full relevant salary+fringe; % salary requested; salary \$ amount requested.
  - Any other costs (with justification and breakdown)
4. NIH-style biosketch (maximum 4 pages) for applicant(s) (and sponsor if applicable).
5. Letter(s) of support should be restricted to BICOR, sponsor (if applicable) and essential contributions from investigators committing specific resources. Please do not submit general support letters.

**How To Apply**

- Deadline for the receipt of the application is **5 pm on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016**.
- Applications must be submitted electronically to: [mksmith@partners.org](mailto:mksmith@partners.org)
- In order to preserve the line spacing, format and overall appearance of your application, you must submit your complete application as a single PDF document. **Multiple PDFs, Word or other files will not be accepted.**
- Application text must be Arial or Times New Roman 12-point font. Figures, tables, legends, and footnotes must be part of the above page limits and readily legible. Single-spacing is allowed. Margins, in all directions, must be at least 0.5 inches.

For questions concerning the application process or administrative issues, contact:

- Melissa Smith at [mksmith@partners.org](mailto:mksmith@partners.org) Tel. 617.525.5243

For questions of a scientific nature, contact:

- Adrian J. Ivinson, PhD at [aivinson@partners.org](mailto:aivinson@partners.org)  
or
- Marcelo DiCarli, MD at [mdicarli@partners.org](mailto:mdicarli@partners.org)

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# NPIP<sup>3</sup>

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TITLE OF PROPOSAL: (max of 120 characters)

\_\_\_\_\_

APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY INSTITUTION AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CO-APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DEGREE: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY INSTITUTION AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

GRANT OFFICER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF GRANT OFFICER: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSTRACT: (max 280 words)