



**2021 BRight Futures Prize  
Draft Request for Applications**

**Background:**

The BRight Futures Prizes support investigators across the Brigham Research Institute (BRI) as they work to answer provocative questions or solve grand problems. **This Fund, which is supported philanthropically, and the work it sponsors advances the mission of the BRI by catalyzing the kind of innovative translational research that is only possible at an academic medical center, where basic researchers and clinicians work side by side.** The ninth BRight Futures Prize, in the amount of \$100,000, will be presented at the annual Research Appreciation Celebration June 23, 2021. The BRight Futures Prize generates excitement and visibility for the BRI among the BWH research community as well as external visibility for BWH research and innovation – with patients, donors and the world. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of a BWH strategic and scientific review. Finalists will be selected based on input from a BWH review committee and recommendations from the BRI Research Oversight Committee (ROC). Ultimate selection will be based on the results of an online voting process open to anybody within and outside of BWH including the lay public around the world.

As we witnessed in the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated long-standing health inequities in minority communities and disproportionately affected vulnerable populations in the U.S and countries around the world. Brigham & Women's Hospital is strongly committed to its foundational value of elevating the health status of the communities it directly serves especially the most vulnerable among them as well as others beyond these communities. With this in mind, the 2021 BRight Futures Prize call for applications strongly encourages the submission of projects across all life sciences research domains with the evidence-based potential to preserve and/or promote health equity in local, national and international populations. Projects addressing health equity issues such as healthcare/clinical trial access, poor health/life expectancy outcomes, morbidity and mortality among underserved populations and others are welcome.

**Process:**

- This year's BRight Futures RFA, which has a deadline of 02/15/2021, will be open to all scientific themes.
- A faculty committee with expertise in the areas relevant to the submitted applications will review proposals; up to six semi finalists will be invited to present their proposals to the BRI Research Oversight Committee (ROC) in March. The ROC will select up to three to four finalists based on these presentations.
- Materials (webpage with videos, a mailer) will be prepared for finalists and the online voting will be open during a window to be determined in May-June. Outreach may include a mailer, web, social media as well as internal promotion. The entire world is welcome to cast a vote for which project should get the \$100K.
- The winner will be announced at the annual Summer Research Celebration in June (Date TBD).

**Timeline:**

*Dates are subject to change*

Jan 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	RFA issued	INTERNAL PHASE
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Proposals due	
Mar 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	Semi-finalists notified & invited to pitch	
Mar 2021 (TBD)	Semi-finalist pitch; ROC chooses 2-4 finalists	INTERNAL PHASE
Mar – May 2021	Prepare materials	EXTERNAL PHASE
Apr 2021 (TBD)	Prep call with finalists	
May 2021	Finalists present at RC LIVE Lunch	
May – Jun 2021	External voting period	
Jun 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	Award presented at Annual Research Appreciation Celebration	

1/28/2021

### Eligibility

- All members of the BWH research community with a rank of instructor and above or BWH professional staff (ex. nurses and other clinicians) are invited to apply. Individuals may serve as the PI of only one proposal but may be co-PIs on multiple proposals.
- BFP recipient must remain at BWH for duration of the award, award may otherwise be forfeited.
- Winners from the previous two BRiGht Futures cycles are not eligible to apply.
- If chosen as a semi-finalist, applicants **MUST** be available to pitch at the March semi-final meeting; **MUST** be available to help in the preparation of any relevant promotional materials during March-May (*if chosen as a finalist*); **MUST** be available to attend the prep call for finalists in April (*if chosen as a finalist*) and; **MUST** be available to present at the RC LIVE lunch session in May 2020 (*if chosen as a finalist*). While we will try to be flexible based on circumstances, please do not apply if you know you will not be able to commit to these dates/time frames.

### Review criteria

- The project must clearly address a well-defined research or clinical problem and be scientifically meritorious.
- Novel ideas that can significantly accelerate research progress in the stated field will be given high priority; projects that are an extension of ongoing work will be lower priority.
- The project should be focused and achievable, with a high potential to secure future additional funding.
- The investigators must have the requisite skills and experience to carry out the project successfully.
- The lay summary should be compelling and accessible to the lay public.

### Reciprocity

- Recipients will be obligated to provide a six month report of activity to the BRI, an oral presentation to the BRI ROC at the end of the funding period.
- Grantees will notify the BRI when other grants are received as a result of BRiGht Futures prize.
- Grantees will acknowledge the BRI in publications (posters, journal articles and grants) resulting from BRiGht Futures prize support and will notify the BRI when such papers have been submitted.

**Full Applications (due Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:59pm)** submitted here:

<http://bwhcfdd.partners.org/Listing.aspx?courseId=536>

MUST include the following:

1. Basic information, including:
  1. Title of research project
  2. Applicant's Name, Department and Division, BWH and HMS professional appointments, telephone number and e-mail address
  3. Self identify the scientific theme/field the proposal addresses
  4. Scientific Abstract - limit 300 words
  5. Lay Summary/Public appeal – limit to 300 words.
2. Scientific Proposal (5-page limit, excluding references), including:
  1. Introduction (specify the provocative question or compelling problem the proposal addresses)
  2. Specific Aims
  3. Background, significance (i.e., potential impact of this work in the short- or long-term) and, if available, preliminary data (not required)
  4. Research approach (include experimental details, approximate timeline, contributions of each team member)
  5. Future plans, i.e., how will this project leverage funding beyond this BRiGht Futures Prize
3. Biosketches of Principal Investigator, co-investigators and significant key personnel in NIH format.
4. Detailed budget for one year for a maximum of \$100,000 (direct costs) and 15% indirect costs

### Questions

Questions about eligibility, format, review criteria and process may be sent to Anu Swaminathan, PhD, BRI Director for Scientific Programs & Partnerships, at [aswaminathan@partners.org](mailto:aswaminathan@partners.org) or 617.525.8380

**PLEASE NOTE:** Unfortunately, due to the volume of applications for many of the opportunities listed below and owing to the fact that our review process utilizes the generous services of volunteer faculty reviewers, we will likely not be able to provide any feedback on individual projects submitted in response to these RFAs.