
2017 NARSAD DISTINGUISHED INVESTIGATOR GRANT

Application Guidelines

Application deadline: July 19, 2017

Apply at: <http://bbrfoundation.org/DI>

The **Brain & Behavior Research Foundation** is the largest non-governmental, donor-supported organization that distributes funds for brain and behavior disorder research. **The Foundation's NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant Program offers up to \$100,000 for a (1) year period** (extensions to the grant will be considered) and is intended for established scientists who maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs.

The **NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant** program supports basic and/or clinical investigators. However, research must be relevant to schizophrenia, mood disorders or other serious mental illnesses including research with anxiety, bipolar disorders, personality disorders or early and or late onset of severe brain and behavior disorders. The **NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant** program is designed to stimulate the development of key personnel and resources, to facilitate the rapid initiation of research in innovative areas, and to enable investigators to create unique scientific opportunities. The following are illustrative examples, but are not meant to identify priority areas, as innovative research in other areas is encouraged if the work is relevant to the Foundation's mission. Investigators applying for support are encouraged to define any area of scientific promise.

➤ **Unique Patient Resources**

Patient populations with unusual characteristics may prove informative if available as a resource to investigators. An example would be substantial numbers of representative patients who are lifetime drug-naïve or a post mortem collection where imaging and neurobehavioral data was collected during life.

➤ **Unique Conceptual Opportunities**

There is an explosion of information relevant to the development of the central nervous system and the various influences on this development. Much of this work takes place independent of disease interest. NARSAD Grant funding could facilitate a synthesis of experimental neuroscience and clinical concepts in developing novel and testable theories of schizophrenia and depression. The intent here would be the heuristic and generative influence of new etiologically relevant concepts.

➤ **Genomic/Proteomic**

Rapid advances in gene and protein identification present new opportunities for discovery of vulnerability genes and disease-related proteins. Transgenic animal models of severe mental illness based on genetic information may provide new approaches to the neurobiology of schizophrenia and depression.

These interests are listed only as examples. The Foundation seeks any novel and meritorious proposal relevant to the basic and clinical science of serious mental illness such as schizophrenia and affective disorders.

The Foundation is committed to spending its entire income for direct support of research operational expenses are generously underwritten by two family foundations. Administrative cost of review is small—reviewers are members of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Scientific Council, and volunteer their time to evaluate applications; therefore, **no feedback can be provided to applicants.**

**** An automatic e-mail is generated upon submission of the electronic application. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact grants@bbrfoundation.org.**

**** Applications must be submitted electronically through the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation website (<http://bbrfoundation.org/DI>) Faxed, emailed, or mailed applications will NOT be accepted.**

AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Applicants must be a **full professor** (or equivalent), and maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs;
- 2) **May not** receive the award for a second time;
- 3) **Funding is for one year and is up to \$100,000.** Funding of institutional **overhead at an 8% rate** (excluding equipment) is allowed and overhead must be included within the total budget request which may not exceed \$100,000. Equipment, salary, and technical support are typical budget requests, but the Foundation wishes applicants to identify requirements specific to their research and setting;
- 4) Applications must be **complete and submitted online by Wednesday, July 19, 2017** (11:59 p.m., EDT). Late submissions will not be accepted;
- 5) Requests for further information will be made to selected investigators and declinations will be mailed in November, 2017;
- 6) Notification of awards will be mailed in November, 2017. It is the Foundation's policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification. **Earliest award start date is March 15, 2018.**

The application should enable reviewers to determine eligibility; judge that independence and productivity are established; establish the relevance of the proposal to the Foundation's mission; and estimate the originality and scientific promise of the investigator.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation's website as a **single, combined electronic document (PDF), be brief, typed in a standard font no smaller than 11pt., with 1" margins.** Please label each section accordingly (a separate page for each) and include applicant's full name in the upper right corner in the following order:

Section A through F may be up to **one page per section.**

- A. Face Sheet (please refer to the last page)**
- B. One page description of the scientific problem, hypotheses, and plan
- C. List key personnel, including yourself, engaged on the project, to include: Name, Degree/Position, Title & Role in Project, Department (*Attach biographical sketches for yourself and no more than one other key person—do not exceed 3 pages for the principal investigator and 2 pages for anyone else.)
- D. Detailed 12 month budget with the following information: Personnel Name, Role, Percent (%) Effort, Salary, Fringe, Total per Person; Consultant Costs (Specify); Equipment (Itemize); Supplies (Itemize by category); Travel

(Specify); Other Expenses; Total Costs

- E. Other Support: A list of all support including why this request does not overlap with other available sources
- F. Resources and Environment: Describe clinical or laboratory resources in sufficient detail to establish feasibility of proposed project.

Sections G through L should be included **within four pages.**

- G. Background
- H. Specific Aims
- I. Preliminary Results (if available)
- J. Methods of Procedure
- K. Scientific Significance and Relevance for NARSAD Mission
- L. References

- ** It should be understood that the NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant is **highly competitive**. It is expected that only 15 will be funded. Last year the Foundation had applications from over 200 persons at the full professor level or equivalent all of whom had other competitive funding.
- ** IRB/IACUC approval for human and animal subjects will need to be verified at the **time of the Award**, as will institutional acceptance of the terms of the Award.
- ** In fairness to all applicants, **supplemental material** (i.e., letters of reference/support, appendices) will **NOT** be considered in the review process. Additionally, any material **exceeding the specified length will be discarded**.

Contact Information

Principal Investigator

Position Title

Organization Name

**Institutional Affiliation/
Complete Mailing Address**

E-Mail Address

Phone #

Fax #

Proposal Request

Program / Project Name

**Write one sentence (*no
more than 25 words*)
describing the proposal**

Key Words (*list up to 8*)

**Total Budget Request,
*including overhead 8%
maximum***

**Overhead Total
*(Not to exceed
\$100,000)***

**Institutional Signature
*(Grants & Contracts/
Sponsored Research)***