The purpose of this Program is to provide start-up monies for new research projects in the field of Neuroscience that will likely lead to extramural funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or other outside funding sources.

The objective of the BRF Seed Grant Program is to support new and innovative projects, especially those of junior faculty, who are working in new research directions. The BRF Seed Grant awards are not intended to supplement existing grants.

To be eligible, the PI must be working in the area of studies of brain function. This includes molecular and clinical neuroscience as well as studies of neural, sensory, motor, cognitive, behavioral and emotional functioning in health and disease. The grant proposal must detail a new research project that is not funded by other sources.

Each total award is limited to $80,000 (direct costs) for a two year grant period.

**Funding preferences**

1. Funding is to be directed at pilot research projects that are both innovative and will likely lead to successful grant applications to NIH and other public and private funding entities.
2. **Assistant Professor** – Junior faculty with a new research project that will generate pilot data that will lead to R01 funding or a comparable outside grant will be first priority.
3. **Associate Professor** – Faculty who are pursuing new research directions. Must explain how the project is a new research direction. Must provide abstract for current grant(s). (Note: A new technique is not considered a new direction unless it pertains to a different area of study.)
4. PI can receive a maximum of 2 consecutive years of funding. PI may reapply after one year of not receiving funding.
5. Seed Grants are NOT to be used for bridge funding between grants.

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. **PI must be a full-time Assistant or Associate Professor** at an invited institution.
2. PI is ineligible if they are **not a full-time faculty member at the institution in which they are applying under**.
3. PI is ineligible if they are a **Full Professor**.
4. PI is ineligible to **submit more than one** BRF Seed Grant proposal in a funding period.
5. PI is ineligible if they have BRF funding that **will overlap this grant period**.
6. PI is ineligible if they have been awarded prior BRF funding, but have failed to submit scientific and financial reports at the end of their one year grant period.
7. PI is ineligible if they are a member of the BRF Scientific Review Committee.
8. PI is ineligible if they are a relative of BRF a representative, including the SRC, as defined by the Foundation.

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION
Northwestern University is invited to nominate 4 faculty members to submit a Letter of Intent.

KEY DATES
- Internal Letter of Intent Due: November 6, 2014 (midnight)
- Internal Proposal Due (by Invitation): November 27, 2014 (by midnight)
- Notification by: December 18, 2014
- Sponsor Letter of Intent Due (Required): January 8, 2015 (by 4 pm CST)
- Sponsor Proposal Due (by Invitation): April 1, 2015 (by 4 pm CST)

SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT

Faculty members interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

1. Click here to access the LOI form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-BRF-SG-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Click on the Vault ticket: https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e5809425_1-t_zQJdmnK3
4. Click the Upload button.
5. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
6. Click the OK button.

Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

SUBMITTING AN INTERNAL PROPOSAL

If interest exceeds the number of submissions the university is allowed, invitations to submit internal proposals will be sent to all faculty who submitted an LOI. Proposals should be prepared with 1/2 inch margins, all around, Times New Roman 11 pt. font and are required to contain the following components:

1. Cover page with descriptive title and names of the PI(s), senior investigators and external partners (one page max).
2. Introduction (ONLY for applicants who previously submitted an internal proposal to this program) that includes the following components (one page, max):


a. Summarize how your research proposal differs from your previous submission(s).

b. Summarize how your application as a whole differs from your previous submission(s) (i.e., publications, honors, awards, accomplishments, etc.).

3. **Lay summary** that clearly articulates your proposal and its impact to colleagues outside your field (one page max).

4. **Proposal narrative**, including hypothesis, approach, explanation of how this is a new research project (Assistant Professor applicants only) or new research direction in your lab (Associate Professor applicants only), and timeline for completion (two pages max).

5. **NIH Biosketch** with other support page (four pages max).

6. **Recommendation letter from your Department Chair/Division Chief**. If your Department Chair/Division Chief is key personnel on any proposal for this competition, please provide a letter from your Research Dean.

Prepare your proposal as a SINGLE PDF FILE. It should be named "LastName-FirstInitial-BRF-SG-2015," replacing "LastName" with your last name and "FirstInitial" with your first initial.

**UPLOADING THE INTERNAL PROPOSAL**

1. Click on the Vault ticket provided in the email inviting you to submit the internal proposal.
2. Click the Upload button.
3. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
4. Click the OK button. You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Lapidos Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

Vault access will expire after the deadline, as such late submission is not possible. Also, the Vault system does not allow you to overwrite an upload. If you need to upload a revised proposal BEFORE the deadline, contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu.

**COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES**
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

**CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/