The Brain Research Foundation’s Annual Scientific Innovations Award Program provides funding for innovative science in both basic and clinical neuroscience. This funding mechanism is designed to support creative, exploratory, cutting edge research in well-established research laboratories, under the direction of established investigators.

The objective of the program is to support projects that may be too innovative and speculative for traditional funding sources but still have a high likelihood of producing important findings. It is expected that investigations supported by these grants will yield high impact findings and result in major grant applications with NIH and other public and private funding entities and significant publications in high impact journals.

Studies should be related to either normal human brain development or specifically identified disease states. 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. This should be a unique project for senior investigators who are encouraged to stretch their imagination into areas that can substantially change an area of research. This grant is not to be used as a source of bridge funding.

The grant period is for two years in the amount of $150,000 (direct costs).

**ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible, the nominated candidate must be a full-time professor or associate professor working in the area of studies of brain function in health and disease.
- Current major NIH or other peer-reviewed funding is preferred but evidence of such funding in the past three years is essential.
- Scientists that have previously received a BRF Scientific Innovations Award may not receive the award for a second time until five years has elapsed since the beginning date of the prior award.
- Only one PI may apply per application.

**Ineligibility**

- PI is ineligible if they are not a full-time faculty member at the institution in which they are applying under.
- PI is ineligible if they are an assistant professor or professor emeritus.
• PI is ineligible if they are a research associate professor or research professor.
• PI is ineligible to submit more than one BRF SIA proposal in a funding period.
• PI is ineligible if they have BRF funding that will overlap this grant period.
• 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 grant period.
• PI is ineligible if they are a member of the BRF Scientific Review Committee.
• 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
The Brain Research Foundation has invited Northwestern University to nominate one senior faculty member.

KEY DATES

• Internal Letter of Intent due: April 20, 2015 (by midnight)
• Internal Proposal due (by Invitation): May 12, 2015 (by midnight)
• Internal Notification: June 2, 2015
• Sponsor Required LOI due: July 1, 2015 (4:00 PM CT)
• Sponsor Proposal due (by Invitation): October 1, 2015 (4:00 PM CT)

SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT
Faculty members interested in this funding opportunity 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-SIA”, 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-e6486737_1-t_Vrw1NnnD
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, 11 point font size and type and are required to contain the following components:

1. Cover page with descriptive title and name of the PI.
2. Lay summary (one page, max) that clearly articulates your proposal and its impact to colleagues outside your field.
3. **Proposal narrative** (three pages, max), include specific aims, research strategy (significance, innovation, approach), and explanation of how this is a new research project (must not be currently funded by other sources).

4. **NIH-style Biosketch** (5 pages, max) that includes all of the NIH-required components including pending research support.
   A. If there is no research support for a particular category (i.e., past, current, or pending), indicate, “None”.
   B. For each past, current, and pending research support, include the following components:
      a. Award number, dates, and amount
      b. Role, sponsor, title, and goals
      c. Description of any potential scientific overlap with the current proposal or indicate “no overlap”.

5. **Recommendation letter from your Department Chair/Division Chief.** If you are a Chair/Chief and/or your Chair/Chief is a PI on a 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-SIA-2016," 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 Cielo kcielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

Note: 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 kcieno@northwestern.edu.

**CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
Fruma Yehiely, Associate Vice President for Research, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: [http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/](http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/)