

2022 BHI-CAHBIR Training and Pilot Research Mini-Grant Program for RU-New Brunswick Faculty

The Rutgers Brain Health Institute (BHI) and the Center for Advanced Human Brain Imaging Research (CAHBIR) are pleased to announce the availability of \$30,000 Training and Pilot Research mini-grants to fund RU-New Brunswick faculty in initiating neuroimaging research at CAHBIR.

Objective: There are often barriers to initiating neuroimaging research, including the expense of collecting pilot data, and the need for methodological skills in designing experiments and analyzing data. The **Training and Research Pilot** mini-grants are aimed at aiding RU-New Brunswick faculty in developing research projects that make use of CAHBIR facilities, and to assist in the development of the skills necessary to successfully execute the MRI research.

Training and Research Pilot mini-grant: These grants serve the dual purpose of providing funds for pilot neuroimaging studies, while simultaneously providing training that will allow a lab to work more independently on future projects. A core piece of this training is a 10-hr workshop aimed at familiarizing researchers with MRI scanning, image processing and analyses. PIs can include several members of their lab as part of the workshop, although priority should be given to individuals who are likely to be present in the lab for several years. Additional support is provided through one-on-one sessions with CAHBIR staff aimed at implementing the funded research project and providing assistance with study design and data analysis.

Research Pilot Only mini-grant: Researchers already possessing sufficient neuroimaging expertise may choose to focus their mini-grant exclusively on the collection of data and CAHBIR staff services without an inclusion of a training component.

Human Brain Imaging Core facility capabilities: A state-of-the-art research-dedicated 3T Siemens Prisma scanner with 64 and 20 channel head/neck coils, MRI-compatible visual/auditory stimulation and behavior/physiological response equipment including eye tracking, mock scanner and a contrast agent injector. The core facility also provides expert technical support to users with all levels of experience.

Number of grants available: Up to **10** \$30,000 awards are available for full-time tenure track or tenured faculty at RU-NB. Funding is provided by the RU-NB chancellor's office.

Application format and budget preparation: Applicants should provide a 3-page description of the proposed research that includes specific aims, and a significance statement. Within the research description, please describe explicitly how the pilot funding will promote future research and grant proposals. In addition to the 3-page research description, applications should include Literature Cited, Budget, and NIH Biosketches for key personnel. Although the expectation is that applications will be single-spaced and use font/size Arial 11 with 0.5 inch page margins, proposals will not be rejected if they slightly exceed the page limit. All applications **must include** the Cover page ([Cover Page Template](#)). The application should be combined into one PDF document with the Cover page in the front.

Budgets: At least \$20,000 must be spent on CAHBIR services, which may include scanner reservations at a rate of \$500 hr, technical support (programming, analyses, etc.) at \$100 hr, or workshop attendance (\$500 per attendee for the MRI workshop). The remaining \$10,000 can be used for other costs such as participant costs, and support of research personnel (post-doc, graduate students, research coordinator) involved in the project. No overhead costs, PI salaries or equipment purchases are allowed on the grant award. If you plan to have CAHBIR staff perform the primary analyses for the study, please consult with david.zald@vanderbilt.edu to estimate the number of hours that it will likely take to analyze the data.

Mock Budget- one year	Number	Cost
Workshop (\$500 per attendee)	4 attendees	\$2,000

CAHBIR Technical Support (programming/analysis/sequence selection (\$100 hr))	30 hours	\$3,000
Scanner Reservation (\$500 hr)	40 hours	\$20,000
Participant Fees (\$20 hr)	40 subjects	\$800
Subject Parking (\$5)	40 subjects	\$200
Research Assistant Effort		\$4,000
Total pilot grant award		\$25,000

RAPSS submission and IRB approvals are not required at the time of initial mini-grant application submission.

The principal investigators of meritorious applications, selected from the scientific review, will be asked to obtain IRB approval for the proposed pilot project **within four months** of being informed of the scientific review results. If a mini-grant is funded, the first \$5,000 can be released to pay for MRI workshop attendance and other CAHBIR services prior to receiving IRB approval. Funds cannot be used for any other purposes prior to obtaining IRB approval. The remaining \$25,000 will be released following approval of the IRB protocol.

CAHBIR staff can provide assistance in developing documents for the IRB for components related to MRI procedures, risks, incidental findings, and analyses. The process of IRB approval once a protocol is submitted can take 8 weeks or longer. Regardless of the speed of the IRB, it will be the responsibility of the applicant to obtain the IRB approval within four months of award notice; therefore, it will be critical to begin the IRB application and submission process as soon as your project is selected and respond in a timely manner to address issues raised by the IRB. Because the funding for these mini-grant awards is not open ended, studies that do not obtain IRB approval within 4 months may not be able to receive further funding and will be asked to forfeit previously unspent funds.

Review process: All mini-grants will undergo a review process organized by BHI/CAHBIR. They will have an initial review to judge scientific quality and be assigned a priority score by reviewers. Reviewers may be internal or external to Rutgers but will not be from the same primary department as the applicant. They then will be reviewed by an internal committee to allocate funds consistent with the long-term strategies for developing human brain imaging research at Rutgers. One main factor in determining funding will be perceived likelihood that the pilot data generated will lead to external funding. Applicants will receive brief written reviewer critiques.

Post-award reporting: The pilot awardees will be asked to provide evidence of related extramural grant applications within a year of completion of the award, and outcomes within a two-years of the award to gauge the success of the program. All pilot awardees will be required to submit a final progress report within 6 months of the end of the award. This report will include the status of manuscripts arising from the piloting and grant applications submitted, as well as results obtained and significance of those results. Awardees must acknowledge the BHI-CAHBIR pilot grant program in publications or presentations that result from the pilot grant project. Awardees must also report any extramural awards received as a result of the pilot grant project.

Submission deadline: Application are due by April 1, 2022. Awards will be announced by May 15, 2021. Submissions received after April 1, 2022 will only be evaluated if funds remain after evaluation of on-time applications.

Questions: Questions about the proposals should be directed to david.zald@rutgers.edu