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Mass General Neuroscience Transformative Scholar Awards: Request for Proposals

Application Deadline: April 15th, 2022

Thanks to generous philanthropic donations, Mass. Gen. Neuroscience (MGN) will provide up to four Neuroscience Awards.

With these awards we want to encourage and support young investigators in conducting laboratory and/or clinical research in the Neurosciences generally as well as in Brain Health, and Tinnitus. The award will be offered to junior investigators at the level of Instructor or Assistant Professor with an MD and/or Ph.D. Each award will consist of a commitment of \$150,000 total costs (\$75K annually total costs for two years, inclusive of 15% indirect costs) intended to support salary and/or research expenses of the junior investigator during a two-year period at Mass General.

Interdisciplinary research across 2 or more of the 4 departments representing Neurosciences is encouraged but not required. The hope is to catalyze additional cross-disciplinary work in these thematic areas while providing the junior investigator with an opportunity to grow their program.

How to Apply

1. Review Application and eligibility requirements
2. Submit completed PDF application via email to Susan Clough (sclough@mgh.harvard.edu).

[Award details \(applicants can choose one or two thematic areas from the four awards listed\). Click the appropriate box in the cover page.](#)

- James L. and Elisabeth C. Gamble Endowed Fund for Neuroscience Research: To support an early career neuroscience investigator. The PI can be either an underrepresented junior faculty investigator (PhD or MD degree, Instructor or Assistant Professor) or a junior faculty investigator who can use the funds to support the research of a mentee postdoctoral fellow who is underrepresented in neuroscience research. Special consideration for this award is designated for candidates from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, individuals with disabilities, individuals with disadvantaged backgrounds, and women in science as described at: <https://extramural-diversity.nih.gov/diversity-matters/>
- Mass General Neuroscience Transformative Scholars Program: To support a junior investigator in neuroscience
- Mass General Hospital Neuroscience Transformative Scholar in Brain Health: To support an outstanding junior investigator's work focused on brain health
- Seth Robbins Mass General Neuroscience Transformative Scholar in Tinnitus: To support an outstanding junior investigator's projects on tinnitus or related disorders



Important Dates

April 15, 2022: Application deadline for all documents, including letter from mentor(s).

June 15, 2022: Notification to recipients

July 1st, 2022: Funding begins

Eligibility

1. These awards are for junior investigators interested in an academic career in laboratory or clinically based research in Neuroscience.
2. Eligibility for this award requires an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree and at least 75% protected total effort (inclusive of this award and others) for clinical or lab-based research. Eligible applicants will be junior investigators (Instructors or Assistant Professors MD or PhD Researcher) who have not received any early federal early career development award prior to this funding.
3. Applicants cannot have received K, R level or other similar grants before the award start date. Research fellows are not eligible to submit an application, but funds can be used to support fellow salary in the candidate's lab.
4. Applicants must have full-time primary appointment at MGH during the entire award period. Seth Robbins Mass General Neuroscience Transformative Scholar in Tinnitus can have a primary appointment at MEEI and need to have a secondary appointment at MGH.
5. Applicants pursuing basic and/or clinical research are eligible.

Evaluation and Selection

The Mass General Neuroscience review committee will evaluate applications based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's ability and promise as a researcher based on prior record of achievement and career plan, mentor letter, and Harvard CV
- Quality and originality of the research plan

Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of the Chiefs and Co-Directors of Mass General Neuroscience and members of the Neuroscience Leadership Council. Updates on the Scholar's work will be shared with donors and the Mass General Neuroscience community.

Required Documents for Application

1. Cover page: Title, Applicant Name, Research Mentor(s), and Thematic Area (**use the fillable PDF attached**)
2. Summary Abstract: Limited to 30 lines of text (emphasizing the question you want to ask, how you will answer it, and why it is significant). The abstract should include: a summary of the research project to be conducted, description of your career development plan, and your career goals.
3. 3-page research plan including:
 - a. Specific Aims: A broad view of the significance and general goals of the research, with a focus on experiments that can be completed in a two-year award.



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- b. Research Environment: Brief description of lab or clinic resources available to you and necessary for this project.
- c. Research Strategy
- d. References cited (not included in the 3-page limit)
4. Brief description of long-term career plans (no more than 1 page). Include a statement of why/how this award will contribute to the applicant's achievement of their career goals.
5. Budget and Justification: Detailed Budget Page with Justification that includes personnel and non-personnel costs
6. Harvard Medical School Style CV
7. Applicant's Other Support: a list of other current and pending support sources, with dollar amounts, in the NIH format. This includes both external and internal support. If the applicant does not have other current or pending support sources, please indicate "none" when applicable.
8. Senior mentor letter supporting the applicant's potential for an academic research career and qualifications for the award.

Format Guidelines

- Use margins of .5 inch or greater and 12point font size.
- Figures must be included within stated page limits.
- Application must be sent as one (1) combined PDF document.

Once Funded

- Awards are not transferable to any other institution
- IRB/IACUC approvals required prior to start of funding
- The funds may be used at the discretion of the awardees but must include applicable fringe benefits and 15% indirect costs.
- The PI will submit to the MGN co-directors written progress reports at 12 and 24 months after the start of the award period and will be expected to present their work to the MGN Leadership Council and potentially other venues.
- Funds shall be spent during the award's budget period unless the applicant requests and justifies an extension prior to the closing date of the award. All requests will be reviewed by Department Leadership.

Contact Information:

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