REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:
Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust Bridge Funds

Timeline

Application Deadline: June 22, 2020
Anticipated Notice of Awards: July 10, 2020
Award Funding Period (up to 1 year): July 20, 2020 – July 19, 2021

Purpose and Areas of Interest

The UF Center for Respiratory Research and Rehabilitation (CRRR) and the Trauma, Concussion, and Sports (TRACS) Neuromedicine Program invite applications for Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust Bridge Funds. **This RFA is designed to support developing research programs that can demonstrate financial need in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.** In particular, these funds will allow young investigators focused on spinal cord injury or traumatic and/or anoxic brain injury to do the following:

- Ensure continuity of lab personnel and the core research team.
- Enable continued research that will lead to extramural grant applications within the year (e.g., NIH R01).

This RFA is **not** designed to support pilot projects; instead, it is a bridge fund that will help sustain ongoing research and research teams over the next year to enable the completion of work necessary to achieve extramural funding. Early-stage investigators and assistant professors are encouraged to apply, although especially deserving established investigators and associate professors who can demonstrate financial need will be considered.

Total Available Funding and Award Amounts

A total of up to $400,000 is available, depending on the quality of submissions and budget availability. Faculty can apply for awards of up to $75,000 each with a maximum 1-year duration (**no roll-over allowed**). We anticipate funding ~6 researchers.

Eligibility

To be competitive, requests must include or meet the following criteria:

- Submitted by any UF faculty member (PI) eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency; however, preference will be given to **early-stage investigators and assistant professors**.
- Research program focused on spinal cord injury or traumatic and/or anoxic brain injury.
- Able to demonstrate a clear and compelling financial need (e.g., providing salary support for personnel who were paid but could not perform research in the lab during the shut-down).
- In compliance with all necessary IRB, IACUC, and/or biosafety policies.
Awardee Requirements
Principal investigators are expected to meet the following reporting requirements in the award period:

- Serve as a guest speaker or present at an SCI/TBI event hosted by the CRRR and/or TRACS (e.g., Social & Science).
- Produce a brief report at the conclusion of the one-year period outlining how funding contributed to outcomes and helped to sustain the research team as well as a list of submitted or planned external funding requests and any peer-reviewed publications resulting from this funding.
- Any manuscripts published or submitted for publication using results/data obtained in part through these funds will include the following statement: “This project was supported by UF Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust Bridge Funds.”

Review Process and Criteria
Submitted proposals will be reviewed by a panel led by Dr. Gordon Mitchell, CRRR Director, and Dr. Michael Jaffee, TRACS Director. Funding decisions and priority will be based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a clear financial need that will enable the PI to sustain current research.
- Shows significant promise in securing external funding.

Budgeting and Spending Requirements
- Funds may only be used for direct costs.
- Unallowable costs: Alcohol and food items.
- PI salary will only be considered when other support is lacking and must be justified.
- Funds are non-transferrable and must be used for the activities outlined in the approved application.

Application Instructions
Requests should consist of the following materials submitted as a single PDF at https://crrr.phhp.ufl.edu/bscirtf-bridge-app/

- **Cover Page:** PI name and rank, department/college affiliations, contact information, and total budget amount requested.
- **Abstract:** Brief abstract of current project/research and how it relates to spinal cord injury or traumatic and/or anoxic brain injury (1-page limit).
- **NIH Biosketch:** A standard NIH biosketch (5-page limit).
- **NIH-style Other Support Page:** All existing support as well as start-up funds with current balances (no page limit).
- **Budget Justification:** Brief explanation of how money will be allocated and its potential impact. Proposals that focus on sustaining current research and ensuring personnel and research team continuity are highly encouraged; **$75,000 max** (1-page limit).
- **Extramural Funding:** Brief explanation of how this award will eventually lead to extramural funding (1-page limit). If any recent grant submissions were scored but not funded, please provide study section critiques (no page limit).

Contact for Questions
Please email questions to:
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