

## **CMU-Pitt BRIDGE Center Development Grants**

### **Objective and Overview**

The goal of the CMU-Pitt BRIDGE Center Development Grant program is to support high quality neuroimaging research conducted by a collaborative user community. The funds will be used exclusively to support billed MRI hours at the center. Project proposals will be evaluated based on need, feasibility, potential impact of the proposed projects, and likelihood that fulfillment of the aims will provide a basis for future extramural funding.

### **Eligibility**

Full time faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate students, and undergraduate students at either Pitt or CMU are eligible to apply. Post-docs and students must have a faculty Co-I. Projects must obtain IRB approval before a final award is granted, but IRB approval is not required for proposal review.

### **Funding Details**

Funds can be requested to be used within a 1 or 2 year period. All funds will be used exclusively for time on either the Siemens 3T Verio MRI in Wean Hall or the Siemens 3T Prisma system to be located in Mellon Institute. The requested hours should be in line with the scope of the proposed research need.

Proposals can fall under two categories:

- New research hours
- Supplemental research hours

New research funding is for projects that have not been run previously and do not have existing funding sources. These can include dissertation work and undergraduate theses. Supplemental research funding can be requested for projects that have already billed the originally funded hours, but additional hours are needed in order to bolster sample sizes for power needs.

**Deadline:** Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis, with evaluation of the first cohort beginning on November 1st, 2018. Funding decisions will be made on a semi-rolling basis that takes into account the urgency of the need (i.e., to obtain pilot data for a grant resubmission), the review score of the proposal by the review committee, and the number of proposal requests in any given quarter.

Applications should be emailed to Emily Clarke-Braun ([ecb27@pitt.edu](mailto:ecb27@pitt.edu)).

### **Application Process**

All proposals should be prepared as a single PDF with the following components:

- **Cover Page (1 page)** with the following information:
  - Principal (or Co-Principal) Investigators' names, affiliations, and contact information

- Type of proposal (indicate one)
  - “New Research Hours”
  - “Supplemental Research Hours”
- Title of the project:
- Project Mentor (required if PI is new to neuroimaging)
- Requested number of hours
- Abstract (up to 200 words)
- **Deliverable:** Identify the proposed output for the project. Deliverables can include an empirical publication, a grant proposal, a dissertation or masters thesis, etc. **If you are unable to define a deliverable, you must commit to a short (2-3 pg) project report at the end of the grant.** PIs (and Co-Is of postdocs and student PIs) will be committed to produce these deliverables before future development grants can be awarded.
- Hours of scan time being requested
- **Project Narrative (1-3 pages\*):**
  - New research proposals: For proposals requesting 10 or more hours, the Project Narrative should follow the general NIH, NSF, or foundation format appropriate for the work and summarize the proposed activities. It should include the motivation for the project and any relevant prior work. It must also include an analysis plan as part of the experimental approach. This plan should justify the sample size, describe the preprocessing and primary analyses pipeline and methods, the expertise of the research team, and timeline. For new research proposals requesting fewer than 10 hours a 1-page “Specific Aims” or “Project Summary” is sufficient. ***In cases where the PI and Co-Is do not have prior experience with the type of neuroimaging data being collected, the team should include a qualified project mentor who can assist with the analysis, and a description of any planned training (e.g., workshops, online classes).*** Such proposal should also include a section describing how the collaborating faculty mentor will interface with the project, and the agreed upon milestones for progress and success.
  - Supplemental proposals: The project narrative should take the form of an NIH or NSF project report summarizing the aims and progress of the already funded research, along with an explanation for why the originally awarded imaging hours are insufficient, and a power analysis to justify the requested supplemental hours. The proposal must include as an addendum the original budget of the grant or contract that is supporting the work in order to justify the financial need for more hours.

**\*Alternative format:** In the cases where a document describing the work is already available (e.g., a previously submitted grant, a dissertation proposal, etc.) it may be submitted in full along with a brief (up to 200 word) summary of the relationship between the requested hours and the research described in the submitted document.

### **Questions**

Any questions about the application or evaluation process should be submitted to Drs. Timothy Verstynen ([timothyv@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:timothyv@andrew.cmu.edu)) and Walter Schneider ([wvs@pitt.edu](mailto:wvs@pitt.edu)).