

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: Neural Injury & Neuroresilience Collaborative Project Awards

### Timeline

Application Deadline:	February 24, 2022
Anticipated Notice of Awards:	March 21, 2022
Award Funding Period (up to 1 year):	April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

### Purpose and Areas of Interest

The Brain Injury, Rehabilitation, and Neuroresilience (BRAIN) Center invites proposals supporting our mission to improve understanding of neuroresilience and neural injury and to develop new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies to treat acquired brain injuries. The goal of this initiative is to **foster interactions between brain injury clinicians and researchers**, harnessing collective strengths across UF to encourage **cross-disciplinary collaborations** and innovation in the field. Successful applications will demonstrate the transdisciplinary nature of collaboration in the brain injury sphere and **potential for extramural funding**.

Proposals may involve basic, clinical, behavioral, translational and population research, bioengineering/biotechnology, and public health problems broadly related to fulfilling our mission. These awards are open to an array of academic and health professionals, including all academic disciplines (e.g., biology, chemistry, mathematics, technology, physics, engineering) and all health-related professions (e.g., physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, pharmacists, dentists, physical and occupational therapists, statisticians, athletic trainers, nutritionists). These awards are made possible by Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust Funds.

### Total Available Funding and Award Amounts

A total of up to **\$100,000** is available. Awards may vary in size. Faculty and post-docs/fellows (with faculty co-PI) may apply for awards of up to **\$30,000 each** with a maximum **1-year duration**.

### Eligibility

To be competitive, requests must meet the following criteria:

- Submitted by a UF faculty member (PI) who is eligible to submit a proposal to an external funding agency or a postdoctoral associate/fellow with a faculty mentor as co-PI.
- PI must be a member of the BRAIN Center; grant application submission is a member benefit. Become a center member here: <https://braincenter.neurology.ufl.edu/application/>.
- Proposals should focus on cross-disciplinary projects (at least two academic or health-related disciplines involved) within the areas of neural injury to include care, risk factors, recovery, and/or sequelae.
- Compliance with all necessary IRB, IACUC, and/or biosafety policies.

The BRAIN Center strongly encourages proposals by women, underrepresented racial and ethnic groups in the sciences, military veterans, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those with varied and non-traditional career trajectories.

### Review Process and Criteria

Submitted proposals will be reviewed by the BRAIN Center Steering Committee led by Dr. Michael Jaffee, Center Director. Funding decisions and priority will be based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrates a clear cross-disciplinary collaboration focused on neural injury to include care, risk factors, recovery, or sequelae.
- Addresses a problem of significance to the BRAIN Center mission.
- Shows significant promise in securing external funding.

## **Budgeting and Spending Requirements**

- Funds may only be used for **direct costs**.
- PI salary will only be considered when other support is lacking.
- **Unallowable costs:** Alcohol and food items.

## **Application Instructions**

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF at:

<https://braincenter.neurology.ufl.edu/news-events/collaborative-funds/>. Applications should consist of the following materials:

- **Cover Page:** Include PI/Co-PI name and rank, department/college affiliations, contact information, and budget amount requested.
- **Research Plan:** Brief description of current project/research collaboration and how it relates to improving our understanding of neuroresilience and neural injury (2-page limit). Include preliminary data, as necessary.
- **NIH Biosketch of PI and co-PI (if applicable):** Include a standard NIH biosketch (5-page limit).
- **Budget Justification:** Explain how money will be allocated and its potential impact; **\$30,000 max** (1-page limit).

## **Contact for Questions**

Please email questions to:

Kate Casey-Sawicki, MA

Assistant Director of the BRAIN Center

[ksawicki@ufl.edu](mailto:ksawicki@ufl.edu)