

**The Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute  
Research Interest Group Program - OrBlit Research Groups**

**Program Description**

The OBI OrBlit Research Interest Group program encourages transdisciplinary groups of UTSW researchers focused in a shared research area to connect and build working relationships. As the research portfolio at UTSW continues to grow, the OBI seeks to support research interest groups to propel collaboration across the breadth of laboratory and clinical brain science. We encourage grass roots ideas for creative and productive groups, especially encouraging transdisciplinary membership, including between laboratory and clinical science investigators. In addition to supporting food for regular group meetings, funds may be used in other ways support the researchers to organize and hold networking events, focused workshops or to host an outside speaker.

At the end of the granting period, OBI Research Interest Groups will present one (or more) of the following topics at the annual OBI Research Retreat, including an interactive poster session: (1) New partnerships formed to increase the reach of research projects; (2) Innovative approaches to cross-systems solutions in health care; and/or (3) Outline of a grant to accelerate collaboration in a specific research topic. The OBI Research Retreat will include cash prizes.

**Award Information**

- Estimated Number of Awards: up to eight awards, subject to availability of funds
- Maximum Total Funding Per Application: up to \$2,000 to be awarded January 2023
- Submission Deadline: December 1, 2022, 11:59 PM

**Eligibility**

- Single Lead Applicant and multi Co-Lead Applicant groups are allowable
- Lead Applicant must be an approved OBI Investigator and/or OBI Member.
- Only one proposal is allowable per PI
- The content and agenda of the research interest group should reflect the OBI mission for transdisciplinary research and involve faculty from at least two UTSW departments (preferably more)
- In addition to faculty, we encourage participation of all types of laboratory or clinical trainees to participate as group members.
- All events sponsored by the funding program must follow applicable UTSW policy
- Successful applicants must present accomplishments of the research interest group in a retreat at the completion of the granting period, through in-person presentations and a poster session

**Program Timeline**

September 1, 2022	Request for proposals (RFP) released
December 1, 2022	Applications due
December 2022	Awards announced
January 1, 2023	Funds available, Grant performance period begins
November 30, 2023	Funding closed, Grant performance ends Final report due to OBI Leadership
October 2024	OBI Funded Grants Retreat –Presentation

**Proposal Submission Instructions**

Submit all applications through the online Microsoft Forms link, here: [Microsoft Forms – OBI OrBlit Research Interest Group application](#)

**Application Components (all components are interactively included in the online form)**

Background information

- Applicant name and contact information
- Applicant position and role at UTSW
- Suggest title of research interest group
- Administrative name, contact info

### Research Interest Group leadership

- Co-applicant names, contact info

### Research Interest Group membership

- List affiliated departments, research centers, and current lab members of interested members
- Note: interested lab members may be full-time UTSW employees: (1) both tenure and (2) non-tenure track faculty as well as (3) post-doctoral fellows

### Research Interest Group intent and operations (1 page max)

- Summary statement
- Background of the specific area of research interest
- Transdisciplinary components of the group
- Short-term goals
- Meeting schedule (estimated frequency; we expect groups to meet at least 8 times/year)
- Budget

### **Budget considerations**

Budget can be used for the following:

- Expenses for educational purposes and/or presentations, including conference room reservations
- Refreshments, including food/refreshments for group meetings
- Local (DFW) travel reimbursement expenses
- Office supplies, including preparing materials for meeting purposes
- Poster printing for professional research presentation
- Expenses to host outside speaker (travel, lodging)

### **Grant Administration**

The PI (applicant) is responsible for the administration of grant funds. All grant expenditures must conform to state and university regulations and approvals. In particular, the PI must be certain that over-expenditures do not occur, and that all funds are fully expended according to programmatic deadlines. All work must be completed within the performance period.

### **Progress Report and Presentation**

The group will be invited to present their accomplishments in an OBI Research Retreat in October 2024. Awardees will receive final instructions for the OBI Research Retreat by the end of the project.

### **Contact Information**

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