

The Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute Focused Funding – Sprouts Project

Program Description

The Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute (OBI) Sprouts grant program at UT Southwestern Medical Center is offering internal grants to provide funding for focused research support to facilitate the collection of pilot data to explore new directions that are not easily covered by other funding sources. These awards are primarily aimed at supporting new ideas from trainees working with OBI Investigators.

Submitted proposals should describe the targeted collection of pilot data for a novel research direction. Funding through this program is intended to encourage creative, high-quality research that also advances the training of young laboratory or clinical scientists and help enhance the portfolio of OBI research. All brain-related research areas are eligible, including both laboratory and clinical research. Preference will be given to proposals in the following areas: cell and molecular mechanisms of neurodegenerative disease; delineation and/or modulation of normal and disease-altered brain circuits.

Award Information (See Program Timeline below)

- Estimated Number of Awards: up to four awards annually, subject to availability of funds
- Maximum Total Funding Per Project: up to \$25,000 to be awarded March, 1, 2023.
- Submission Deadline: December 1, 2022, 11:59PM

Eligibility

- Single PI applications are allowable
- PI must be a trainee working under the supervision of an OBI Investigator (e.g., a graduate student, postdoctoral fellow, resident or clinical fellow).
- Only one proposal is allowable per PI laboratory

Program Timeline

September 1, 2022	Request for proposals (RFP) released
December 1, 2022	Applications due
February 1, 2023	Awards announced
March 1, 2023	Funds available, Grant performance period begins
October 31, 2023	Formal progress report due to OBI
March 1, 2024	Funding closed, Grant performance ends
June 1, 2024	Final report due to OBI
October TBD 2024	OBI Funded Grants Retreat – Final Report Presentation

Proposal Submission Instructions

Submit all applications through the online Microsoft Forms link, here: [Microsoft Forms - OBI Sprouts Project application](#)

Regulatory Compliance

Projects are subject to applicable federal, state, and local regulation, as well as UTSW policy. It is the PI responsibility to ensure compliance with UTSW Institutional Review Board (IRB), Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), export control, conflict of interest, and UTSW safety regulations and approvals.

Application Components

	Component	Format limit (maximum)
1.	Specific Aims	1 page
2.	Key references	1 page
3.	Budget	<i>Use attached template</i>
4.	Budget justification	1 page
5.	Biographical sketches from PI/Co-PI	5 pages per biosketch NIH template - Biosketch

All documents will be single-spaced, no less than 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins on all document sides

1. **Specific Aims**
State concisely the goals of the proposed research with expected outcomes, including the impact that the results of the proposed research will have on the research fields involved. List succinctly the specific objectives of the research proposed.
2. **Key References**
This attachment should include any references. References should be limited, relevant, and concise.
3. **Budget**
Use the attached Budget template, in Excel: [OBI Budget Template - Excel](#)
4. **Budget Justification**
This form includes details for all expenditures and budget line items (e.g., time and effort, materials, supplies, travel) needed to support the research project.
5. **Biographical Sketches**
Biographical sketches are required for all PI and OBI Investigator Mentor, following non-Fellowship NIH template, found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

Budget Considerations

Funds may be utilized for direct expenditures in accordance with the following:

- Salary support is allowable for individual(s) who are making significant effort towards the goal of the proposed research.
- Fringe benefits are allowable in proportion to salary charged to the award.
- Consumable scientific items — materials and supplies, any item with a cost of less than \$5,000/unit; must be justified as needed for project success.
- Core Facility Services – costs associated with services performed by a recognized UT Southwestern Core Facility
- Expenses related to animal research and human subjects research, including compensation to human subjects.
- Contracts for activities outside of UT Southwestern (must be clearly and convincingly described as necessary for successful execution of the proposed project). Consultant fees and/or related expenditures are allowable, excluding any overhead costs.

The following are excluded as direct expenditures:

- General office supplies, equipment or expenses
- Building construction, alteration, renovation, rent or utilities
- Student tuition or fees
- Membership dues
- Overhead
- Equipment – unit cost of \$5,000 and useable life of greater than one year
- Payments of salaries to non-UT Southwestern personnel
- Refreshments
- Domestic and international travel

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.

Any publication or presentation resulting from this award should acknowledge the support from the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Peer Review

Applications will be reviewed by an internal OBI Grant Review Committee. This committee is appointed by OBI leadership. Proposals will be evaluated based on the criteria below:

- Significance
- Innovation
- Approach

NIH grant review criteria, updated for OBI: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm>

Progress Report and Final Research Retreat

A concise progress report will be requested by OBI leadership in October 2023. A progress report presentation will be presented in October 2023 during the OBI Research Retreat. A final report will be due to OBI in June 2024, with the corresponding presentation during the OBI Research Retreat in October 2024.

Contact Information

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