Duke Aging Center and Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation

2022 Neuroscience Program Request for Applications

Background: The Metairie, Louisiana based Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation has invited Duke to participate in its 2022 Neuroscience Program through the Duke Aging Center. The Foundation has designated $170,000 to support up to three early career Duke neuroscience principal investigators through an internal award competition.

Purpose of the awards: The Foundation seeks to support innovative fundamental basic science research on the mechanisms underlying memory and learning. They wish to invest in and support early career principal investigators. Applications from investigators who are establishing their laboratory and developing foundational research findings are encouraged. The intention is for these awards to provide start-up funding that will enable early career investigators to act on promising projects and obtain bedrock data that may one day lead to significant improvements in the human experience. These awards are designed to fill the gap between scientists’ imaginations and the first solid set of data that allows them to attract additional funding to further their research.

Eligibility: Investigators within their first 5 years of faculty appointment and postdoctoral researchers are eligible to apply for these funds. The most competitive applicants will be those who have compelling questions and preliminary data but have not yet received major independent awards from external funders.

Support: Up to three PIs will receive $15,000 awards in April 2022 following the Foundation’s review of brief written proposal summaries submitted through the Duke Aging Center to the Foundation for consideration. The three preliminary awardees will then compete against one another for one $125,000 award to be spent over one or two years, not subject to renewal.

Eligible Research: The Foundation is primarily interested in funding basic science fundamental research on the mechanisms underlying memory and learning. An articulated vision for a future translational component is welcome, but proposals that are primarily translational in nature will not be considered for funding. The mechanisms under study may be relevant at any time in human development or across the lifespan (i.e., although this program is administered by the Duke Aging Center, emphasis on age-related aspects is not required here).

Commitment to Diversity and Equity: The Duke Aging Center is committed to promoting health equity and adding value to our community through diverse perspectives. Scientists from traditionally marginalized backgrounds are encouraged to apply. If human studies are proposed, the application should provide its strategy to promote inclusion and representation in the study population.
Application Process and Timeline:

- RFA released January 28, 2022
- One-page summary of project proposal, brief one-paragraph PI introduction, and NIH-style biosketch of the PI due February 20, 2022
- Applicants will be notified if their proposal is selected by Duke Aging Center for Foundation consideration by March 1, 2022.
- Considered applicants will be notified of preliminary funding decisions in April 2022
- Preliminary awardees will submit detailed proposals for Foundation review in August 2022
- Final grant funding decisions will be announced in December 2022

Application Format:

- One-page outline/summary of research idea, goals, and vision for what the PI could accomplish with the $125,000 grant award. No budget information is necessary at this stage.
- One-paragraph PI introduction. Please include credentials, career stage/appointment, field of study, and overall vision of how your research trajectory could impact the human experience.
- NIH-style biosketch of the PI

Please submit application materials **IN WORD FORMAT** via the link below on or before February 20, 2022:

[https://strongbox.oit.duke.edu/strongbox/uploader/2022%20Brown%20Foundation%20RFA/154817537384](https://strongbox.oit.duke.edu/strongbox/uploader/2022%20Brown%20Foundation%20RFA/154817537384)

Questions?

Contact Emily Herbert, Director of Programs, Duke Aging Center

Emily.Herbert@duke.edu; 919-660-7583