

2020 Weill Neurohub Research Awards: Request for Proposals

The Weill Neurohub, established with the exceptional generosity of Joan and Sanford I. “Sandy” Weill and the Weill Family Foundation, brings together world-class researchers and clinicians from the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and the University of Washington (UW) to advance our understanding of neuroscience and speed the development of new treatments for neurological and psychiatric diseases. This collaborative effort is underpinned by unmatched computational power and device manufacturing capabilities at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

The Weill Neurohub invites proposals for funding by two independent opportunities, which will be followed by a separate call for funding for Weill Neurohub postdoctoral fellows following later this year. The two funding opportunities for this RFP are:

Investigator Program

The purpose of this program is to foster cross-campus, interdisciplinary teams of researchers who explore, create, and test bold new concepts and technologies using innovative neuroscientific approaches to study and treat neurological and psychiatric diseases. Funding supports *new* small-group explorations of novel projects with transformational potential. This program is open to teams of investigators from UCSF, UC Berkeley, UW, the National Labs, and/or Partners of Weill Neurohub. Teams must have members from all three of UCSF, UC Berkeley, and UW.

This program will fund up to \$500k/year/team for two years, with the possibility of one additional year. A brief annual progress report is required for the duration of the project. Reports will be collected as part of an annual overall program report.

Next Great Ideas Fund

This program supports high-risk, high-reward research projects in neuroscience, neuroengineering, psychiatry, and neurology, with an emphasis on proposals that require cross-campus collaboration to succeed. Funding is open to interdisciplinary teams of two or more researchers from UCSF, UC Berkeley, UW, the National Labs, and/or Partners of Weill Neurohub. Some preference will be given to cross-institutional collaborations.

This program will fund up to \$250k/team per project, with funding expendable over a duration of up to three years. A brief annual progress report is required for the duration of the project. Reports will be collected as part of an annual overall program report.

Timeline

Program announcement:	April 17 th , 2020
Info-sessions held:	April 20 th – May 15 th , 2020
Proposal submission deadline:	September 1 st , 2020

Review period:	September 1 st – November 30 th , 2020
Announcement of awards:	December 1 st , 2020
Approximate funding start date:	January 1 st , 2021

Town Hall info-sessions

Weill Neurohub leadership will hold town hall info-sessions via Zoom that are open to all interested faculty. These sessions will include a short presentation on Neurohub, Q&A about the RFP, and opportunity to form collaborations and pitch ideas. All sessions will be recorded. The first will be on April 27th from 4-5pm:

<https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/95400075094?pwd=SUpMRC94VmdGMGIIZjhKdG5XRHk2Zz09>
Password: 350467

To be notified about additional info-sessions, please email allison.berke@ucsf.edu or check our website: weillneurohub.org

Eligibility

Applicants must be faculty researchers (PIs) at UCSF, UC Berkeley, or University of Washington. Although you can apply to both funding mechanisms, multiple awards to any one researcher will be discouraged.

We greatly encourage participation and proposals from members of underrepresented groups across all three campuses. The Weill Neurohub is committed to funding diverse investigators.

Criteria for Review and Evaluation

Applications will be reviewed and ranked according to the criteria below by a committee of no fewer than seven researchers of appropriate expertise. The rankings for each proposal will inform an overall ranked list to be used in an active discussion meeting of the review committee. During this meeting, the committee chair will lead the discussion of the proposals, resulting in the selection of finalists for the awards.

1. Projects should address problems with high impact on human health;
2. Projects should employ an innovative neuroscience approach;
3. Projects should lead to and describe tangible benefit to patients, including the likelihood that the study will have an immediate impact, and a contribution to the broader community;
4. Projects should employ convergent neuroscience concepts; bridging different disciplines of enquiry is encouraged;
5. Projects should be relevant to the aims and research areas of Weill Neurohub, including fostering collaborations between neuroscientists and researchers working in an array of disciplines — e.g., engineering, computer sciences, physics, chemistry, and mathematics — and across institutions.

Proposal Instructions (Arial 11 font; minimum 0.5 inch margins)

- **Investigator Program**

Six pages total, not including cover page, bios, and references. Please include:

- Cover Page with:
 - name of award program
 - title of proposal
 - amount of funding requested
 - Principal Investigator name(s), academic titles, departments, phone numbers, and email addresses, with one PI designated as the contact PI.
- Lay summary
- Project Description: Includes specific aims, background and significance, uniqueness of project goals and timing, Weill Neurohub relevance, service to the community, deliverables, success criteria, and a brief management plan. Preliminary data not required. Figures must be included within this section and are included in the overall page limit.
- References (not part of page limit)
- Budget and Budget Justification (1-page limit). Funds may be used for only minimal faculty salary support (in aggregate less than 5% of the total budget).
- Biosketches (not part of page limit): NIH-style biography for each PI, including current and pending funding sources (amount, title, short description)

- **Next Great Ideas Program**

Three pages total, not including cover page, bios, and references. Please include:

- Cover Page with:
 - name of award program
 - title of proposal
 - amount of funding requested
 - Principal Investigator name(s), academic titles, departments, phone numbers, and email addresses, with one PI designated as the contact PI.
- Lay summary
- Project Description: Includes specific aims, background and significance, uniqueness of project goals and timing, Weill Neurohub relevance, service to the community, deliverables, success criteria, and a brief management plan. Preliminary data not required. Figures must be included within this section and are included in the overall page limit.
- References (not part of page limit)
- Budget and Budget Justification (1-page limit). Funds may be used for only minimal faculty salary support (in aggregate less than 5% of the total budget).
- Biosketches (not part of page limit): NIH-style biography for each PI, including current and pending funding sources (amount, title, short description)

To Apply

Submit your proposal as a single PDF via email to allison.berke@ucsf.edu no later than 5:00 pm PST, September 1, 2020. Any questions can also be addressed to this email.

