

Call for Proposals: CBMH Pilot Awards

The Yale Center for Brain and Mind Health (CBMH) seeks applications for pilot grants that aim to advance research in clinical and translational neuroscience. While methods and topics from any area of neuroscience are welcome, proposals should be directed towards benefiting patients in the near term. Examples include projects that further translation from the laboratory into the clinic, interrogate any form of human-derived data, develop methods, or study communities at risk.

A priority is to promote novel interdisciplinary work. Competitive applications will advance new collaborations between two or more PIs from separate disciplines or working at different levels of analysis (e.g., an engineer working with a neurologist, or a psychiatrist working with an epidemiologist). Preliminary data are not required. Applications may propose proof-of-concept projects that can be completed within the two-year span of the award or pilot projects to develop protocols or acquire preliminary data for subsequent applications for funding of larger-scale research. Applications may leverage ongoing research but are expected to be scientifically distinct, with the objective of launching transformative lines of inquiry that continue beyond the funding period.

Applications will be evaluated in two stages. The first stage will entail a two-page scientific proposal, with supporting material as described below, due March 1, 2024. A grant review panel composed of CBMH members will review these proposals and select finalists to advance to the second stage. Finalists will present a summary of their research plan to the membership of the CBMH, followed by a brief question and answer period, at a Symposium on May 23, 2024. Audience feedback at this Symposium will be one of the criteria used for selection of the awarded grants, along with ambition and feasibility, the interdisciplinary nature of the proposal, and the likelihood of furthering the Center's goal of nurturing clinical neuroscience research that aims to benefit patients in the near term.

Projects will be funded with a start date of September 1, 2024 and a project duration of two years. We expect to fund two \$100,000 grants and one \$250,000 grant.

Proposals should include:

- Title Page
 - Project title
 - Investigators, specifying contact PI
 - Grant to which you are applying (\$100K vs \$250K)
 - Business office contact of the contact PI
- Science: 2 pages (standard NIH formatting for margins, fonts, etc.)
 - Significance
 - Hypotheses
 - Methods
 - Innovation
 - Clinical impact
- References (not included in 2-page limit)
- NIH-style Biosketches for lead investigators
- 2-year budget in Excel format
 - o Any research-relevant expenses may be included
 - Salary may be included, up to the NIH salary cap
 - There will be substantial flexibility as to how funds are utilized, once awarded.
- Budget justification (not included in 2-page limit)

