

YALE UNIVERSITY · SCHOLAR AWARD COMPETITION  
**THE DANA FOUNDATION**  
**2019 David Mahoney Neuroimaging Program**

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**DEADLINES:**

**Expressions of Interest** (PI Name, Project Title) **by November 6, 2018 (required)**

**Internal Applications Deadline: November 27, 2018**

Anticipated sponsor deadline for preliminary proposals: February 4, 2019

**SPONSOR'S WEBSITE:**

The 2019 RFP is expected to be posted on The Dana Foundation website by early January 2019, with no significant changes anticipated.

**FAQ:** <http://www.dana.org/Grants/FAQ/#eligibility> (for the Neuroimaging Program)

**Previously Funded Projects:** <http://dana.org/grants/imaging/current-grantees/> and <http://dana.org/grants/imaging/previous-grantees/>

**FUNDING:**

Awards provide up to \$200,000 over a period of up to 3 years.

**NOMINATION LIMITATION:**

Yale University may submit one application using either or both physiological/structural or cellular/molecular imaging.

**PURPOSE:**

Funds support pilot-testing of promising high-risk innovative ideas that have **direct** clinical application and that, when successful, are competitive for larger-scale support from other funders. Investigations must be applicable to human brain or brain-immune functioning or malfunctioning. Proposals should focus on imaging in patients or patient tissues, and healthy volunteers. Animal model studies of brain conditions or injuries will be considered only if they relate directly to humans, but cannot yet feasibly be undertaken in humans and are anticipated to be translated into human research immediately following the three-year grant period.

Previously funded studies under this program have focused primarily on 1) understanding normal brain functioning, how it is altered by disease or injury, and how it recovers or repairs, 2) assessing and improving diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, and 3) refining and advancing imaging technologies to address specific clinical questions.

In addition to these three general areas of continued interest, it is becoming increasingly apparent that neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression start long before they are clinically evident. The Foundation, therefore, encourages studies that seek to understand developmental processes of disease, surrogate measures of early disease existence, and measures of disease progression.

Proposals may be in either or both categories . . .

**Physiological and Structural Imaging:** anatomical imaging of white or gray matter and measures of physiological functioning. The proposed studies should focus on patient-oriented clinical research.

**Cellular / Molecular Imaging:** biochemical actions of specific brain cells, or their interactions with immune cells with direct clinical relevance to human health and disease. These studies may involve human tissues or animal models. Applications can involve the study of cells within neural circuits, using a combination of imaging and single cell electrical recording, if the techniques have already been developed.

**ELIGIBILITY: Emphasis is on . . .**

- **Independent researchers early in their career** -- assistant professor through the first few years as an associate professor may apply. Extensions of work by a senior mentor, particularly if from the same institution, are discouraged.

*(continued on page 2)*

**ELIGIBILITY** (continued from page 1)

- **Only Ideas for which preliminary data or initial evidence of feasibility / clinical applicability is available will be funded.**
- Investigators who have not yet been awarded more than 1 independent research grant (R01 from or equivalent from another Federal agency).
- Established Investigators (and younger investigators with more than 1 R01) may apply **ONLY** if the proposed study represents a **NEW RESEARCH DIRECTION** (and such awards are limited to \$100,000).
- The PI may include collaborators from both U.S. and foreign-institutions.

**PAST YALE RECIPIENTS** (received while at Yale): **2016**, Patrick Skosnik **2015**, Ming-Kai Chen **2011**, Irina Esterlis **2010**, Arie Kaffman **2008**, Erik Shapiro, Michelle Hampson, Thomas Biederer **2006**, Michael Levene **2005**, Gero Miesenböck, Graeme Mason **2004**, David Zenisek **2003**, Julie Staley **2001**, Neill Epperson **2000**, Ralph Hoffman **1999**, Hal Blumenfeld, Gerard Sanacora

**INTERNAL COMPETITION PROCEDURES:**

**Expressions of Interest** (PI Name, Project Title) **are due by November 6, 2018. (Required)**

Email **internal applications** as a single PDF to: [melanie.smith@yale.edu](mailto:melanie.smith@yale.edu), cc: [osp@yale.edu](mailto:osp@yale.edu) **by November 27, 2018, 5:00pm. No exceptions.**

- (1) Complete the Yale internal competition [face page](http://your.yale.edu/node/9391) at <http://your.yale.edu/node/9391>.
- (2) Indicate imaging category or both and imaging technique to be used.
- (3) Use the RFP instructions as stated below. Sections I-V, combined, are limited to 2 pages.

**Section I:** A clearly and succinctly stated hypothesis.

**Section II:** Up to 3 specific aims for the proposed research project. What disease(s), disorder(s) or injuries would be better understood, diagnosed, or treated? Or, what normal brain function or brain-immune interaction would be better understood? Or, what imaging technology would be refined and for what specific purposes? Such technology development or modification aims need to be accompanied by initial evidence of the project's feasibility.

**Section III:** The potential research significance and clinical application(s) of the research.

**Section IV:** The methods. Please clearly describe the research design and specify tests and analyses proposed to develop the pilot data. If enrollment of human participants is planned, please provide preliminary evidence that the number required can be recruited from the participating institution(s).

**Section V** The qualifications of the primary investigator(s) for undertaking the proposed research. What facilities and resources at the applicant institution(s) would be used in the research? Please provide evidence that required technologies would be available for this project.

**Additional Attachments:**

**Appendix A:** A list of all active grants and pending proposals by the applicant(s). Please include an abstract that specifies the aims for any existing or pending grants from these sources of support that are related to, or could potentially overlap with, the proposed Dana study.

**Appendix B:** Please provide a standard NIH format biosketch for the primary investigator.

**Appendix C:** You may include up to two additional pages to list relevant references.

**Appendix D:** Optional: High resolution photographs that support the methodology proposed

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

[melanie.smith@yale.edu](mailto:melanie.smith@yale.edu) ▾ Funding Resource Center ▾ Office of Sponsored Projects ▾ Yale University ▾ 785-4978

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