

MEMORANDUM
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: University of Pittsburgh and CMU Faculty, Students, Fellows and Residents

DATE: November 04, 2011

FROM: Ajay Niranjana, MBBS, MCh, MBA
Director of Operations
UPMC Brain Mapping Center

RE: MEG Research Seed Fund



Proposal Deadline

At present, there is a rolling deadline.

Program Description

The MEG Research Seed Fund of UPMC-Brain Mapping Center will have available funds to support research performed in the UPMC Brain Mapping Center, with funding/pilot time anticipated for 20 hours worth of MEG time (\$10,000) at the rate of \$500/hour. Grants to individual investigators in the amount of \$10,000 (20 hours of MEG time for three to six month projects) will be considered.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty, students, residents and fellows who are members of the University of Pittsburgh or Carnegie Mellon University are eligible for these grants. Preference will be given to graduate students, junior faculty or residents who have novel research proposals related to MEG application. Students, residents and fellow applications must designate a faculty mentor. Investigators with ongoing MEG projects may not be eligible for funding through the MEG research seed fund.

Contents of Proposal

Basic science as well as clinical research proposals are encouraged. The statement outlining possible translation of results to NIH or under external funding should be included in the proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

The general review criteria to be used in evaluating research submissions are:

1. Soundness of methodology
2. Relevance and potential impact on our understanding of the disease or condition
3. Originality of approach
4. Potential for future funding from NIH or external sources

Collaborative research and multi-disciplinary approaches are encouraged. Women and minority investigators as well as new researchers are encouraged to submit proposals. Approval from the University of Pittsburgh Institutional Review Board must be obtained prior to initiation of human or animal research that is recommended for funding.

Awards

The number of awards will depend upon the quality and responsiveness of the proposals, but each individual award will not exceed, except in extremely unusual circumstances, \$10,000 which will allow 20 hours of MEG studies at \$500/hour.

Awards are applied against the billable hours of MEG time. No overhead or indirect costs will be provided.

Application Process

Forms for applications to this pilot time/fund will accompany this memorandum and are available in Dr. Niranjana's office. The grant proposal must follow the directions of these applications and should not exceed page limits.

All applications will be reviewed by an MEG Seed Fund Review Committee chaired by Dr. Ajay Niranjana and made up of members of the MEG Oversight Committee and faculty from CMU and the University of Pittsburgh. During the Review Committee meeting, the applications will be critically reviewed according to the evaluation criteria previously described. They will then be given a priority score and those applications with the highest priority scores will be recommended for funding. However, no application considered to have inadequate methodology, relevance, impact or originality will be approved. If sufficient high quality applications are not received, all of the funds available may not be distributed.

Project Guidelines

The project start date is determined by when the award is approved. The project should be completed in three to six months from the date of initiation of the project.

Any pilot time/money remaining at the end of the project must be returned to UPMC Research Seed Fund unless a no cost extension is submitted and approved by the committee.

Pilot time may not be transferred between investigators and projects.

If any manuscripts, abstracts, book chapters, etc. are produced as a result of your funded research by the MEG Research Seed Fund, then the UPMC Brain Mapping Center requests that they be cited in your written work and a copy forwarded to them for presentation to the Oversight Committee.

Progress Reports

All investigators who have been awarded pilot time through the MEG Research Seed Fund are required to submit progress and final reports to Dr. Niranjana's office. It is emphasized that no investigator will be eligible to receive subsequent funding from the MEG Research Seed Fund without a timely receipt of such progress reports. Mentors of students, residents and fellow investigators bear ultimate responsibility for progress reports by their mentees.

Sources of Fund/Pilot Time

MEG Research Seed Fund of UPMC Brain Mapping Center

Inquiries

Questions concerning this request for application should be directed to Dr. Ajay Niranjana, UPMC, Department of Neurosurgery, 200 Lothrop Street, Suite B-400 Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Telephone number: 412-647-9699. E-mail: niranjana@upmc.edu.