



**PRESIDENTIAL
SCHOLARS**
IN
SOCIETY AND
NEUROSCIENCE

 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Seed Grants for Interdisciplinary Projects in Society and Neuroscience

ELIGIBILITY: All full-time faculty at Columbia University and Barnard College

AMOUNT: Up to \$30,000.00 for projects 1-2 years in duration

DEADLINE: February 22, 2016

The Presidential Scholars in Society and Neuroscience Program (PSSN) invites all full-time faculty at Columbia University and Barnard College to submit proposals for interdisciplinary projects that lie at the intersection of neuroscience, the humanities, and the social sciences.

Faculty Seed Grant Competition

The PSSN Program will offer annual seed/pilot grants to enable collaboration between Columbia and Barnard faculty in the humanities and/or social sciences, and faculty in the natural sciences whose primary focus is the empirical study of mind, brain, and behavior. This request for proposals is open to all full-time faculty at Columbia University and Barnard College that contribute to these interdisciplinary goals. Proposals should outline interdisciplinary research that involves either direct collaboration between neuroscientists and researchers from other disciplines, or traverses traditional disciplinary boundaries in order to investigate issues relevant to society and neuroscience. **Awards will be made of up to a total of \$30,000 for projects 1 – 2 years in duration.**

Proposals should describe clearly the research problem and its significance for society and neuroscience. Generally, proposals that involve research already in progress, or stand-alone curriculum development, will not be funded. Only proposals with detailed budgets and budget justifications will be accepted, and priority will be given to proposals with concrete plans for developing and expanding the research by obtaining additional external funding.

All seed grant applications must be received in full by **5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, February 22, 2016**. Eligible proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The intellectual merit and originality of the proposed project
- The extent to which the proposed research is interdisciplinary and collaborative
- The project's feasibility, and the appropriate and judicious use of funds
- The investigators' plan for seeking subsequent extramural funding beyond this pilot/seed grant
- The background and experience of the investigators for the proposed research

Approximately 3 – 5 grants of up to \$30,000 each will be awarded.

Submitting Proposals

To apply, please submit the following as a **single PDF document** by **5:00 p.m. EST** on **Monday, February 22, 2016** to Dr. Melinda Miller, Associate Director, PSSN, (melinda.miller@columbia.edu) with “Seed Grants for Interdisciplinary Projects in Society and Neuroscience” in the subject line of the email:

- Cover page, including title of proposal, principal investigator(s) and departmental affiliations, an executive summary of the project, and the total funding amount sought
- Proposal narrative with timeline of research (**no more than 10 pages double-spaced in 12-point font**)
- Itemized projected budget
- Budget narrative
- CVs for each investigator
- Figures or tables, if applicable
- Bibliography and references cited
- Plan for securing external funding
- Letter(s) of support for the project from principal investigator(s)' department, center, and/or institute chairs

Conditions of Receipt

Grant recipients must provide annual reports on project activities, including updates on external funding proposals (successful or unsuccessful), and any papers, publications, and/or reports resulting from seed grant activities. Additionally, grant recipients should plan to attend regular meetings of the Presidential Scholars in Society and Neuroscience program, “Seminars in Society and Neuroscience,” held 3 – 4 times each semester, and are required to present research related to their project at least once.

When applicable, research projects involving human subjects and/or animals must obtain (and keep current) approval from the appropriate University regulatory offices.

Budget Guidelines

Salary Support

Tenured Faculty: Seed Grants cannot be used to provide additional compensation for Principal Investigators who are full-time, tenured faculty.

Non-Tenured Faculty: The review committee will consider modest salary requests for Principal Investigators who are full-time, non-tenured faculty. Please provide adequate justification for such requests, including a statement of need and effort/percent time dedicated to activities listed in the proposal.

Postdoctoral Researchers and Graduate Students: Salary support may be included for postdoctoral researchers and graduate students comparable with amount of effort dedicated to activities listed

in the proposal. Please provide adequate justification, including a statement of need and amount of effort/percent time for each person.

Computers, Tablets, and Other Equipment

Seed Grants cannot be used to purchase personal computers, tablets, or other computing equipment. Dedicated computers or other equipment required to carry out the activities listed in the proposal may be included in the budget. These items must be adequately justified in terms of their specific use.

Travel

Travel costs for Principal Investigators and other personnel may be included in the budget if required to carry out the activities listed in the proposal. All travel budgets must be itemized and must conform to the current Columbia University Travel Expense Policy. Please see <http://policylibrary.columbia.edu/travel-expense-policy> for additional guidelines and limits.