

# The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund

## Request for Proposals

August 2017

The Academic Health Center (AHC) is requesting applications to fund creative, pioneering studies in neuroscience for the 7<sup>th</sup> year. Funds for the present proposal will be distributed through a competitive peer review process. It is anticipated that multiple awards will be made via a gift of \$500,000 from The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund (the Fund).

### Purpose:

The purpose of the Fund is to support the research mission of the Medical School and the AHC. Specifically, the fund will advance the work of talented neuroscientists leading innovative, ground-breaking and novel research. The Fund will provide money for early-stage ideas and creative, pioneering projects in neuroscience. The ultimate goal is that such proposals will lead to new or continued funding through the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation or other federal/national agencies. The Fund is particularly interested in applications that align with opportunities for large federal funding initiatives e.g., The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) initiative. The Fund strongly seeks to support applications from our most promising assistant and associate professors.

### Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:

- 1) Applications may be submitted by any full-time faculty member who holds the rank of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in one of the six colleges in the AHC (i.e., Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing, Public Health, and Veterinary Medicine) and the Minneapolis VAMC. Questions of eligibility should be discussed with and will be determined by the Associate Vice President for Research in the AHC (Tucker LeBien, lebie001).
- 2) Recipients of Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund awards in 2013 through 2016 are not eligible to apply in 2017.
- 3) Grants will be awarded to those projects that offer the greatest potential impact in the field of neuroscience. Grants will be made to support distinctly new creative initiatives in a faculty member's research, or to allow the applicant to continue a research project that has entered or is about to enter a lapse in funding from NIH (or other national funding agencies). Applications

to support established research that is currently funded and not due to end during the period of this grant award will not be considered.

4) Proposals are sought in all areas of research within the neurosciences but must be ground breaking and novel in scope.

5) A faculty member may apply for only one grant per cycle on which he/she would be the PI. There is no restriction to the number of grants on which a faculty member could participate as a co-investigator. An application may have co-investigators, but only include individuals who play a major role on the project. Do not include individuals who will play minimal or no role. An ideal definition of a co-I is someone who will receive at least part of the grant award.

6) The primary criteria for funding will be innovation and the quality of the research approach. The potential for future external funding is an important criterion, which would strengthen an application.

7) The maximum amount that can be requested is \$125,000, although proposals with smaller budgets are encouraged and acceptable. The funds must be designated for the direct support of the proposed research. Indirect costs are not allowed. Salary and fringe for the PI and co-investigators may be requested for up to a total amount of \$20,000. Given the size of the awards, only small equipment purchases that are directly required for the research are appropriate. In general, funds should be primarily used for supplies and reagents, animal costs, use of shared resources including CTSI services, and support of research personnel (postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students, and technicians). Subcontracts are prohibited.

8) No cost extensions (NCE) are strongly discouraged. In the event that funds remain at the end of the 12-month funding period, the PI can request a NCE by submitting a formal request to the Associate Vice President for Research in the AHC explaining the reason that funds remain and the plan for spending the remaining funds during the NCE. Award balances that remain after a single NCE will be returned to The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund.

#### Application Process:

1) A letter of intent that states the PI name, names of co-investigators if any, the title of the application and a one paragraph description of the project must be submitted by email to Rosalyn Segal (rsegal@umn.edu) by **August 28, 2017**. Full applications will not be accepted without a letter of intent.

2) The full application must begin with a one page cover page with the following information: title of application, name of PI, highest degree(s) and academic title, contact information, department affiliation, total amount requested, and a one paragraph lay summary.

3) The scientific proposal is limited to **three pages** that include: a brief background to the problem, the hypothesis and goal of the study, specific aims, and research plan. The application

should be written for a scientific audience that extends beyond the applicant's own discipline. The three page limit **includes** any preliminary data in the form of figures or tables, and references. Preliminary data is however not required for the application.

4) A biographical sketch for the PI utilizing the NIH format and including current year direct costs of all current and pending peer reviewed research support, from both internal and external grant programs. For other support that appears to overlap the present application, a precise explanation for how the current application differs must be provided. Applications may be submitted to other agencies concurrently, but this must be explicitly indicated.

5) Letters from up to two co-investigators may be included.

6) A budget page (with justification). The budget period is **1/1/18-12/31/18**.

7) Applications may be single-spaced, must be Arial or Helvetica typeface of font size 11 or larger, and must have adequate margins following NIH guidelines.

8) A Proposal Routing Form (PRF) must be completed and signed by the department head and dean and is due by **noon, September 18, 2017**. (DO NOT SEND THE PROPOSAL TO SPONSORED PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION).

9) Submit an electronic version of the full application (items 2-6) as a **single pdf** to Rosalyn Segal ([rsegal@umn.edu](mailto:rsegal@umn.edu)). The deadline for the receipt of applications is **noon, September 18, 2017**. Late applications will not be accepted. Awards will be announced on **December 5, 2017** at a reception that will introduce the award winners and they are encouraged to attend.

#### Review Process:

Applications will be reviewed by The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Review Committee. The review committee will recommend a limited number of proposals for final discussion and selection by The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Board (see below). The review committee will be chaired by the Associate Vice President for Research of the AHC, and will include faculty selected from throughout the AHC. These faculty members will be representative of the breadth of disciplines within neurosciences in the AHC and will divulge any and all conflicts of interest prior to the review process. If warranted, the review committee will solicit input from experts unaffiliated with the University of Minnesota.

Recommendations of the review committee will be submitted to The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund Board. The Board will include two neuroscience faculty leaders appointed by the Dean of the Medical School. The Board will include one or more members of the Wallin family or designated representative(s), and the Executive Vice President of the University of Minnesota Foundation or her designee. The Board will be responsible for making the final decision regarding proposals to be funded.

Reporting Requirements and Expectations:

The principal investigator will be required to provide a progress report to The Winston and Maxine Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Fund Board six months following onset of the award. This will likely take the form of a 10-15 minute oral presentation. There will also be a required presentation in December of 2018 at the Wallin Neuroscience Discovery Awards symposium.

Principal investigators will also be required to provide a final written report and an accounting of all funds expended at the completion of the project or 12 months following onset of the award, whichever occurs earlier. Forms for the final reports will be sent to the PI, and reports will be submitted to Tucker W. LeBien, Associate Vice President for Research, Academic Health Center.