Brain & Behavior Research Foundation: NARSAD Young Investigator Grants

Jian Feng, PhD

Assistant Professor

Department of Biological Science

FSU Grants Workshop

Feb 29, 2019

1 in 5 of us lives with a mental illness. The _Brain & Behavior Research Foundation_ is the nation's top non-governmental funder of mental health research grants.

It has awarded more than $394 million to fund more than 5,700 grants around the world ($243 million in Young Investigator Grants).

It was originally called the **N**ational **A**lliance for **R**esearch on **S**chizophrenia **a**nd **D**epression or the acronym for that, _NARSAD_.

NARSAD GRANT TYPES

NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Grant

- A one-year grant of $100,000

- established scientists (full professor or equivalent)

NARSAD Independent Investigator Grant

- A two-year grant up to $100,000 or $50,000 per year

- associate professor level or equivalent.

- New: an assistant professor who is a principal investigator on a NIH R01 grant is now eligible.

NARSAD Young Investigator Grant

- up to $35,000 per year for two years totaling $70,000

- To investigators to either extend research fellowship training or begin careers as independent research faculty.

- to help to gather pilot data to apply for larger federal and university grants.

Four funding priority areas

- **BASIC RESEARCH** to understand what happens in the brain to cause mental illness

- **NEW TECHNOLOGIES** to advance or create new ways of studying and understanding the brain

- **DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS/EARLY INTERVENTION** to recognize early signs of mental illness and treat as early as possible.

- **NEXT GENERATION THERAPIES** to reduce symptoms of mental illness and ultimately cure and prevent brain and behavior disorders

**Major mental illnesses supported in the past**

Addiction:	$7M
ADHD (Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder):	$3M
Anxiety:	$9M
Autism:	$11M
Bipolar Disorder:	$31M
Borderline Personality Disorder:	$1M
Depression:	$89M
Eating Disorders:	$2M
OCD (Obsessive-compulsive disorder):	$4M
PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder):	$9M
Schizophrenia:	$150M
Mental Illness (general):	$65M

Grant Requirements

1. A doctoral level degree. The Grant is intended to support advanced post-doctoral fellows, instructors and assistant professors (or equivalent).

2. An on-site mentor or senior collaborator who is an established investigator in areas relevant to psychiatric disorders.

3. Applicants may only apply twice for an initial NARSAD Young Investigator Grant.

4. Considerable flexibility in the use of funds: equipment, stipends, etc., are all acceptable.

5. Applicants are eligible for a maximum of two NARSAD Young Investigator Grants.

6. Only one principal investigator (P.I.) is allowed per application.

**Application Format:**

☐ Applications must be submitted online with everything in a single PDF document.

☐ Label each section and include applicant's name in upper right corner of each page.

☐ Follow NIH format guidelines: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia fonts with a font size of 11 or larger with minimum of ½ inch margins.

Application Sections

(a) **Face Sheet** (2 pages) –list all Scientific Council Member conflicts. A 250 word statement.

(b) **Abstract** (less than 500 words) –in layman's terms.

(c) **Applicant C.V.** (5 pages) – NIH biosketch.

(d) **Proposal** (2 pages with no appendices)

(e) **Research Training/Career Plans** (½ page) –for fellowship extension or early faculty support.

(f) **Budget** (1 page/itemized table format in US $) –receipt of this grant will not result in duplication of funding.

(g) **Mentor/Sponsor Letter** (1 page/additional page if there are two mentors) – a letter from an on-site mentor. A second letter may be included.

(h) **Mentor C.V.** (5 pages or 10 pages if there are two mentors) – NIH biosketch.

(i) **References** (1 page, optional) –up to ten references.

(j) **Collaborator Letter** (1 page, optional).

(k) **Institutional Assurance Letter** (1 page).

When to apply?

Application acceptance period: Tuesday, February 19 - Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 11:59 PM Eastern.

Website:

Apply at: www.bbrfoundation.org/YI

Results:

Grant approval notifications will be mailed in September, 2019. It is the Foundations policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification. Earliest grant start date is January 15, 2020.

More questions?

grants@bbrfoundation.org