



2024 Friends of BrainHealth Visionary New Scientist Award Research Grant Application Information

The Center for BrainHealth is proud to announce the 16th year of an internal research award to support new scientists researching brain health and/or brain imaging with the goal of understanding, protecting, and healing the human brain entitled the *Friends of BrainHealth Visionary New Scientist Award*. The Friends of BrainHealth is an organization composed of ardent supporters of brain research who have made a significant financial contribution towards furthering important BrainHealth research. The recipient of the *Friends of BrainHealth Visionary New Scientist Award* will present his or her research findings to the Friends of BrainHealth in an annual luncheon honoring contributions of the Friends of BrainHealth and their support of new scientists' innovative brain research.

The Visionary New Scientist Award offers \$20,000 in research funds and is intended to support the work of exceptional researchers early in their careers and at pivotal stages in their work. The Award will facilitate the completion of highly innovative and exceptionally creative research proposals related to the mission of the Center for BrainHealth – understanding, protecting, and healing the human brain. In addition to \$20,000 in research funds, the Award also gives the new scientist a \$5,000 stipend. The first \$2,500 of the stipend will be given after the award recipient submits the six month progress report, and the remaining \$2,500 of the stipend will be given upon the completion of the project and submission of the final report. Evaluation of project will include consideration of likelihood that work can be completed in 2 years or less. Funding will begin after September 2024.

To Qualify:

Candidate Requirements:

- Must be currently enrolled in graduate school program at UT Dallas under a faculty mentor in BBS or a department collaborating in studies of brain imaging leading to better understandings of brain health.—OR—
- Have obtained their masters or doctoral level degree within the past 5 years. Multidisciplinary studies are encouraged and joint applications with a BBS candidate and a candidate from a collaborating department are permitted.
- Applications from graduate students at other local universities are permitted if there is collaboration with a UTD BBS faculty member.

NEW update this year: Prior recipients of a Friends of BrainHealth award are eligible to apply for a second award, if they have completed their previously funded study. All funds from the prior study must be fully utilized and a final report must be submitted before a candidate is eligible to apply for a second award.

Important Dates:

- Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – Applications are due at 5 p.m.
- June 2024 – Finalists will be announced.
- Monday, September 30, 2024– Finalists will present their research projects in person to members of Friends of BrainHealth at the Ramona Jones Friends of BrainHealth Scientist Selection Luncheon (presentation format TBD). Following the finalists' presentations, Friends will vote on which researcher(s) should receive the Award. After votes are tallied, the Award winner(s) will be announced at the end of the luncheon.

Application Requirements:

Applications should be emailed to cindy.samuelson@utdallas.edu, in one optimized .pdf file in the order listed below, by 5 p.m. on May 1, 2024. Cindy can help answer questions regarding proposal presentation.

The application will consist of the following items (complete application- *maximum of 6 pages*):

A. Research Proposal – *Maximum of three pages (inclusive of figures, tables, and references)*. This is a document prepared by the applicant describing the project in lay language with sufficient detail to elucidate the hypothesis, significance, and research methods. Please also include short individual sections (each one paragraph or less) that address the following issues:

1. Training Program – Briefly outline current or recent research training, future career plans, training and/or any other project goals that will be accomplished within the Award period.
2. Human Subjects – Outline human subjects' inclusion (involvement and protection against risk).
3. Budget - Provide detailed budget information, including salary, supplies, travel and other expenses for use of the research funds. Travel is limited to \$1,500 total and only available on New Scientist Awards. Budget can be used to fund salary support for applicants or research assistant helping with project.

B. Mentor/Sponsor Letter – *One page limit*. One letter from an on-site mentor stating how the Award will enhance the applicant's training or research progress and describing the mentor's commitment to facilitate the research proposal. Also discuss likelihood of project completion within time proposed.

C. Biosketch – *Limited to 2 pages* in NIH format.

D. Timeline for project completion.

Format:

- Use Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface, a black font color, and a font size of 11 points or larger. (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size requirement still applies.)
- Use at least one-half margins (top, bottom, left, and right) for all pages.
- Type density, including characters and spaces, must be no more than 15 characters per horizontal inch.
- Type may be no more than six lines per inch.
- You may use a smaller type size for figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends and footnotes. However, it must be in a black font color, readily legible, and follow the font typeface requirements.

Grading Criteria:

- The project should directly address a relevant problem and be original and innovative.
- The project should involve research goals that could improve lives.
- The project's research goals should be clearly defined and its method reasonably and logically designed.
- The project's results should be measurable in order to gauge success.
- The project should be able to be completed in the time proposed.

Review Process:

- Applications will be reviewed by a lay panel of members from the Friends of BrainHealth organization. The evaluation process will seek to identify those projects and investigators with the highest likelihood of pursuing an innovative approach to a significant problem in brain health. Feedback for each submission will be provided.
- Applications will be blinded; names and personal pronouns will be blacked out.

Reporting Requirements:

- New Scientist Award recipients must provide progress reports at six months and 12 months after receiving funding, and a final report no later than two years after receiving the award. Once awarded, the awardee will be provided an exact due date for these reports. Projects are expected to be completed two years after receiving funding. Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing and are subject to the approval of the Friends of BrainHealth Committee.
- Award recipients will notify Cindy Samuelsen if they leave UT Dallas or change labs or mentors before completing their project, or are unable to complete their project for any other reason.

Reports will be sent to Cindy Samuelsen and should include:

- Project goals accomplished during the reporting period.
- Future plans.
- General estimations of funds spent, reasons and plans for future spending.