The Weston Brain Institute (the “Institute”) supports research that accelerates the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging. To help achieve this, the Institute addresses gaps and inefficiencies in the funding market by supporting hypothesis driven, high-risk, high-reward translational research projects of up to $1.5m.

Based on success of previous programs, the Institute is expanding our support to new formats while maintaining the same mandate of accelerating the developments of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging through translational research.

One format we are considering is supporting a large-scale research effort that would provide ~$5-20m over ~5 years in support of a large project(s). With this call, the Institute aims to identify highly impactful ideas for consideration.

Projects must have a significant and sustained impact on accelerating translational research on the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging. Other project aspects are flexible, e.g.:

- Submissions do not need to be fully developed at this stage
- Submission do not need to be hypothesis based research questions
- Participants can range from individual investigators/centres to international consortiums or collaborative projects

Preferred projects will:

- Either help Canada achieve or maintain a world-leading position, or provide significant positive impact to Canadians during or shortly after the project
- Be exciting enough that matched funding for any Weston Brain Institute funds could be generated

High potential projects may also (but not necessarily):

- Be “flagship” projects for Canada,
- Provide a platform for Canadian researchers to be recognized internationally
- Bring international resources, people or organizations into Canadian-led work

NEW for 2019 Program:

The type of complementary approaches eligible for funding has expanded from diet, physical activity, sleep and nutritional supplements to include other lifestyle interventions, if these applications meet our other scope criteria. Potential interventions include (but are not limited to) speech therapy, cognitive therapy, music therapy, and social interaction.

Encouraging applications that bring in other fields such as: AI, big data, machine learning, data science, and computer science.
- Bring additional funding or other resources if/as needed

**Submissions Process**

The submission will consist of a Letter of Intent (LOI) to outline the idea, primary purpose and potential impact of the project that will be reviewed by the Institute.

Next steps will depending on the content of the LOIs, e.g., applicants may be invited to:
- Submit a full application
- Discuss the idea further with the Institute
- Refine the idea in another LOI
- Collaborate on a shared project with other applicants.

LOIs must meet two conditions to be eligible:
1. Projects must have the potential for a significant and sustained impact on translational research to accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging
2. Be led by Canadian-based researchers

When submitting your idea please cover to the extent known at the time of submission:
- The core idea or vision of the project
- Key rationale / why the project should be carried out, including:
  - How will this accelerate the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging and in what timeframe; i.e., describe the specific nature and the size and timing of the core impact as concretely as possible
  - Description of other benefits of the project
- Compelling rationale for this to be conducted in Canada
- Who and what is involved
  - Which people, organizations, resources already exist in Canada? Which aspects of the project would be created in or brought to Canada?
  - Which people, organizations, resources already exist elsewhere? Which aspects of the project would be created elsewhere?
- Budget
  - Total cost, split by year and major category of expense.
  - Amount to be covered by the Institute, and what part of the project it covers
  - Any plans for, or sources of, additional funds beyond the Institute. What is the sustainability of these additional funds?

Examples include:
- Large scale prevention study led by Canada that brings in other countries (e.g., Finland’s role in FINGER and World Wide FINGERS www.wwfingers.com)
- Network of clinical trial sites for investigator-initiated trials, with a centralized IRB and a coordinating centre for contracting, training and management

**Neurodegenerative diseases of aging as defined by the Institute:**
- Alzheimer's disease
- Dementia with Lewy bodies
- Frontotemporal dementia
- Mild cognitive impairment
- Multiple system atrophy
- Parkinson's disease
- Progressive supranuclear palsy
- Vascular contributions to the above
- Prodromes to the above

**Review Criteria**

**Impact:** To what degree (i.e., how much and how fast) will this project impact the acceleration of the development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases of aging?

**Environment:** How well positioned are you and your team to achieve this project and conduct this work and achieve the goals of this project? How effective is it to lead this work from Canada and why? It is an asset but not a requirement that projects have compelling rationale for being led and/or conducted in Canada.

**More Information**


Questions or to discuss your idea: please contact info@westonbrain.org or 416-967-7979.