



## **SPECIAL BSF CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN A JOINT NSF-BSF PROGRAM IN BRAIN RESEARCH**

**The U.S. – Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF) is pleased to announce the opening of a round of applications in a new joint funding program with the Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) and Biological Infrastructure (DBI) divisions in the Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) in brain research.**

The terms of this program are as follows:

### ***General***

1. The program will award Early Concept Grants for Exploratory Research proposals with the potential to transform our ability to analyze brain function underlying behavioral and cognitive processes. The interest is in highly innovative projects in their early stages that utilize new and untested, but potentially ground-breaking approaches, and neurotechnologies that bridge multiple spatial, temporal, and organizational scales to provide fundamental insights into the emergent properties of neural circuitry that ultimately lead to behavior and cognition. These high impact short-term projects must transcend approaches typically supported by the core research programs at NSF and BSF and would ideally bring together novel combinations of expertise to make the largest advances possible towards understanding the properties of neural circuits that drive and underlie behavior and cognition.

2. In this first stage of the program, U.S. PIs are invited to submit a two page summary of their research ideas, and can team up with an Israeli scientist. Selected applicants will then be invited to submit full proposals. If a sufficient number of potentially ground breaking ideas are identified, it is expected that the selected PIs from the two countries will be invited to a joint workshop, which will be followed by the opportunity to submit proposals for longer research projects with greater funding. However, there is no certainty that these additional stages in the program will take place.

**A full description of the current stage of the program can be found in the Dear Colleague Letter of the NSF:**

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14044/nsf14044.jsp>

3. Although the NSF accepts applications only from U.S. scientists, in all stages of the program, the role of the Israeli must be stated. Furthermore, it should be clearly explained why his contribution to the research project is essential.

4. If awarded a grant, the U.S. scientist will receive a grant from the NSF, while the Israeli scientist will receive a grant from the BSF.

5. The size of each exploratory grant to the Israelis is expected to be \$100,000 over two years.

### *Eligibility*

1 All regulations regarding eligibility of either the BSF (for the Israeli), or the NSF (for the American) will apply to the new program.

2. A scientist will be allowed to hold both a grant in a BSF-NSF program and a grant in the regular (core) BSF program, unless the two projects are similar, or significant overlap.

### *Evaluation*

In all stages of the program, proposals will be evaluated by the NSF, using its criteria. In the full proposal stage of the program, the BSF may take part in the evaluation process, for example by providing panel members, external reviewers, etc.

### *Submission*

1. Applications of both summaries (pre-proposals) and full proposals will be made by the U.S. scientist to the NSF using its regulations and submission system and by both the Israeli and the U.S. scientists to the BSF, using its regulations and submission system

2. In the full proposal stage of the program, program, description and abstracts submitted to both organizations should be identical. **If NSF requirements for these two documents differ from those of the BSF, the NSF regulations and formats should be adopted.** Program description will include a section that describes the cooperation, and the NSF submission is likely to require information about the budget and facilities of the Israeli partner(s).

### *Timetable*

Two pages summaries (pre-proposals) will be submitted to the BSF no later than 5 pm (Israel time) on May 7, 2014. NSF deadline is May 1, 2014.

*Applicants are requested to acquaint themselves with the BSF regulations before they submit an application. In particular, they should acquaint themselves with the special document that describes the changes in the submission process from the regular (core) BSF program. The forms and regulations can be downloaded from the BSF website ([www.bsf.org.il](http://www.bsf.org.il)) under 'Guidelines & Forms'.*



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**Questions regarding the applicability of the proposed research for this program should be directed by the U.S. partner to the program officer at the NSF.** Other questions regarding this special BSF-NSF program can be discussed with the BSF management by mail or phone (972-2-5828239): Dr. Yair Rotstein ([yair@bsf.org.il](mailto:yair@bsf.org.il); ext. 105) or Dr. Rachel (Heni) Haring ([heni@bsf.org.il](mailto:heni@bsf.org.il); ext 110).. Questions regarding the online application system should be directed to Ms. Orli Rozenchwajg ([orli@bsf.org.il](mailto:orli@bsf.org.il); ext .109) or Ms. Eti Alfandary ([eti@bsf.org.il](mailto:eti@bsf.org.il); ext 101).

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