



Brain Canada Launches First Funding Program

Brain Canada is pleased to announce the Multi-Investigator Research Initiative (MIRI). The purpose of MIRI grants is to support multidisciplinary teams and to accelerate novel and transformative research that will fundamentally change our understanding of nervous system function and dysfunction and their impact on health. The ultimate goal is to reduce the social and economic burden of neurological and mental health problems by prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment.

Proposals can address any aspect of nervous system function or dysfunction that has relevance to neurological and/or psychiatric diseases and conditions, including those of the special senses and the peripheral nervous system. The focus of proposals must be on investigating commonalities among multiple or related neurological and/or psychiatric conditions. The proposal must show how the research will generate findings applicable to multiple nervous system diseases or conditions.

It is expected that five to eight teams will be funded, for three years, in the range of \$500,000 per year. After review of progress in the third year, especially productive and high-impact teams may be eligible for a further one or two years of funding.

Letters of intent from interested teams will be peer-reviewed, and a limited number of teams will be invited to submit a full application, so that the success rate for full applications should be in the 30%-50% range. At both stages, the evaluation criteria will be: innovation and originality; multidisciplinary and teamwork; and anticipated impact.

Key dates: deadline for letters of intent, July 13, 2012; for full applications, November 16, 2012; funding to begin on or after March 1, 2013

Request for Applications: http://www.braincanada.ca/files/MIRI_RFA_EN.pdf

The MIRI Initiative is the first of the new Canada Brain Research Fund's research programs. Training Awards and Operating Support for National Technology Platforms will be announced in the coming months.