

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Program for 2018

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience (DINS) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 7 pilot project awards (maximum budget of \$50,000 per award) to support novel basic and translational projects in the neurosciences. These awards will be supported under two programs for 2018 and are open to all faculty members across both the Medical School and the Undergraduate Campus.

The Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN) supports pilot and feasibility awards for basic science and translational projects that advance our understanding of both normal and abnormal brain functioning (4-5 awards available).

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation (MF) offers pilot and feasibility awards for basic, clinical and translational projects that specifically support research on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) (2 awards available).

Schmitt Program in Integrative Neuroscience (SPIN)

The awarded funds are intended to enable both new and established investigators to generate preliminary data that will lead to competitive applications for extramural funding. The SPIN program encourages interdisciplinary collaborative approaches to novel research questions that leverage skillsets and techniques across research laboratories and traditional institutional boundaries. However, individual investigator applications will also be considered. In 2018, SPIN will accomplish its goals through the support of new research projects in the neurosciences and neuromedicine broadly defined, from cognitive and systems to cellular and molecular approaches. Exciting proposals from any branch of neuroscience will be given full consideration. The SPIN program, which has consistently supported innovative brain research at The University of Rochester for 31 years, is supported by the Kilian J. and Caroline F. Schmitt Foundation www.kilianschmittfoundation.org

The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program (MF)

The Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience is pleased to launch the **Autism Research Pilot and Feasibility Program** for new and established investigators. This Request for Applications (RFA) is intended to provide funding for investigators conducting bold, creative and rigorous research into the underlying neurobiology, causes and treatment of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The program supports projects that employ innovative approaches to explore untested hypotheses and develop preliminary data necessary to expand Autism research. The program supports basic, translational and clinical research for biomedical and behavioral studies. These awards are intended for investigators who are requesting support for small-scale projects or early-stage experiments that will build on preliminary data or a prior track record and lead to competitive applications for funding. This is the inaugural year of the MF which is very generously supported by The Harry T. Mangurian Jr. Foundation.

The Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience Pilot Applications, 2018

Application Process

The SPIN and MF grant programs support research in the neurosciences. Applications may request **up to \$50,000**. We anticipate awarding 4-5 SPIN grants and 2 MF grants this year. Principal investigators must be full-time faculty members (with or without tenure) within the neuroscience/neuromedicine community at the University of Rochester.

Applications should be modeled after a short NIH research proposal (e.g. R03, R21), and should be submitted with the following:

- **Cover letter** with title, investigators, and description that indicates how the SPIN or MF mechanism would extend research objectives that will lead to a competitive extramural grant application [one page limit].
- **Select** which program you are applying for: SPIN or MF.
- **Research description** (limited to *6 pages*) including Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Studies, Research Design and Methods.
- **Supporting materials** (Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Literature Cited) can follow on additional pages.
- **Budget** (detailed, *not* modular) with justification (faculty salary support is specifically excluded)
- **Bio-sketches** of all Co-Investigators and key personnel.
- **Other Support**
- **Resources and Environment.**

Review criteria will include but are not limited to:

- The **likelihood of a subsequently successful application for extramural support** (e.g. new NIH RO1).
- The **significance** and **innovation** of the proposed project.
- The **relevance** of the project to the strategic plan of the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.
- Where relevant, the **interdisciplinary/collaborative** character of the project (across faculty and laboratories).

Application Submission Deadlines

Please send applications by email as a single pdf file attachment to: Kathleen.Jensen@urmc.rochester.edu

Address all other questions about applications to: john.foxe@urmc.rochester.edu

The application deadline is **5:00 pm** on Friday June 1st, 2018

An internal review committee will work with a panel of independent external reviewers to determine the most competitive projects for support. The Program is administered through the Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience.

Committee Review will be completed in roughly a month, with **funding scheduled to begin by mid-July.**