UNSW Medicine   
Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions Theme

and

SPHERE Clinical Academic Group

Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience Seed Funding 2018

# Introduction and Objectives

## Our Vision: *Better Health, Better Lives: Building communities free of the burden of the disorders of the brain.*

## Our Mission: *To prevent, treat, cure and care for a broad range of neurological, mental health and addictive disorders by building effective networks of engaged communities undertaking collaborative research that translates into real-world solutions and improves the quality of life of those affected by those disorders.*

The UNSW Medicine theme of Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions aims to address the burdens imposed by neurological, mental health, and drug and alcohol disorders. It constitutes a network of internationally recognised researchers and clinicians leading in the understanding and treatment of complex clinical conditions with physical, behavioural, mental and social dimensions across the lifespan.

Together, UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions Theme and CAG seek to support the initiation and development of collaborative groups that bring together research, education, clinical partners to explore innovative strategies towards solving these critical problems.

UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions currently has four sub-themes.

* Children and Adolescent Wellbeing
* Complex and Difficult to Treat Diseases
* Healthy Ageing
* Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience

# Our Collaborating Partners

Our current Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions Theme and SPHERE collaborating partners are:

* UNSW, including School of Psychiatry (including the Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing (CHeBA) and the Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration (UNSW hub)), School of Medical Science, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Rural Clinical School, Centre for Big Data Research in Health, UNSW Brain Sciences; Psychology (UNSW Science) and UNSW Engineering
* South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD), including Prince of Wales Hospital (PoWH), Royal Hospital for Women (RHW), South East Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) Mental Health Services and SESLHD Drug & Alcohol Services;
* South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)
* St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney
* Sydney Children’s Hospital Network (SCHN)
* Central and Eastern Primary Health Care Network (CEPHCN)
* NSW Health’s Justice and Forensic Mental Health Network (JFMHN)
* Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)
* Black Dog Institute (BDI)
* The Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Garvan)
* IMPACCT (Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation) University of Technology Sydney
* Western Sydney University

# Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience

Led by Scientia Professors Bernard Balleine (School of Psychology), Nigel Lovell (Biomedical Engineering) and Professor Gary Housley (School of Medical Sciences), the sub-theme currently has the following key areas of focus:

* The interface of regulation and emotion
* Executive function and decision-making
* The mind – machine nexus
* Neural coding
* Neural therapeutics
* Neural prosthetics
* Neuromodulation and stimulation strategies

# Seed Funding

Seed funding of up to $20,000 is available to support the development of research projects in alignment with our key areas of focus. In this funding round, we seek to award four research proposals.

The funds for these research projects are sourced from UNSW Medicine Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions Theme and SPHERE and administered by UNSW. Grant funds must be spent for the primary purpose of achieving the objectives of this Seed Funding Scheme and cannot be used for indirect costs. Grants will not be renewed.

All research projects funded under the scheme will be required to report against key performance indicators developed by the applicants as part of the submission process.

# Anticipated Outcomes from Seed Funding

Research projects must have potential to progress towards a high-calibre application for future competitive funding. They will focus on building novel programs and solutions or transforming existing research across disciplines, faculties and/or partners.

# Eligibility and Timeline

The project ***must*** be **aligned to** **one (or more) of the key areas of focus.**

The Project leader/s must be affiliated with UNSW.

Project team must engage **three** or more collaboration partners across disciplines, faculties or partner institutions.

At least one early or mid-career researcher (up to level C) must be included on the project team

The application must include a budget that does not exceed $20,000.

The timelines for the Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience Seed Funding Scheme are:

* Call for applications 15/10/2018
* Close of applications 09/11/2018 (5 pm)
* Review of applications November 2018
* Notification to applicants end November 2018
* Project funding dispersed December 2018
* Brief report due 30/3/2020

# Application Evaluation

Upon receipt, applications will be reviewed for eligibility to submission requirements. All applicants will be assessed competitively by sub-theme leaders Bernard Balleine, Gary Housley, Nigel Lovell and Theme Executive Officer Lise Mellor.

Applications will also be considered on the following criteria:

* Potential for larger funding application
* Evidence of cross-discipline/facility collaboration
* Scientific quality
* Significance of the expected outcomes and/or innovation of the concept
* Team quality and capability
* Opportunity for student engagement
* Engagement with clinicians and/or service providers
* Potential for research translation

# Submitting an Application

The application form must be used to complete your application. Applications should provide all requested information and not exceed the requested word limits. Please do not email the guidelines, but pages 6 onwards. For Project Leader/s and each member of the Project Team, a 2-page CV (maximum) is to be submitted with the application form. Only information provided in the application will form the basis of the review process.

Completed applications must be submitted by email to [l.mellor@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.mellor@unsw.edu.au) and received by 9am, **9 November 2018, 5pm.** Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted. **Please PDF all documents as one**.

If you would like to discuss your submission, please contact:

Dr Lise Mellor  
Acting Executive Officer

UNSW Medicine, Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addictions Theme and SPHERE Clinical Academic Group  
E: [l.mellor@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.mellor@unsw.edu.au)

**Brain Sciences and Translational Neuroscience**

**Application TEMPLATE**  
**CLOSING DATE: 5pm, 9 November 2018**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS**

1. **Project Title**
2. **Lay Summary**

Provide a description of the project to be used for communications (maximum 300 words).

1. **Project Leader**

Provide details of the individual who will lead/manage the project.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | Choose an item. | Full Name |  |
| Employing organisation |  | | |
| Other affiliations |  | | |
| Work title |  | | |
| Phone |  | | |
| Email |  | | |
| Postal address |  | | |

1. **Relevance to Primary Sub-theme and Key Area of Focus**

Identify how the project aligns with one or more of the sub-themes and key areas of focus. Please state the primary sub-theme the project is aligned with. (maximum 200 words).

1. **Project Description**

Provide a scientific description of the project aims and methods (maximum 1,000 words).

1. **Significance**

Outline how the project may improve health outcomes (maximum 200 words).

1. **Innovation/Value Add**

Outline the collaborative gain of the project and explain the potential pathway to significant peer-reviewed funding (maximum 200 words).

1. **Research, Education and Enterprise Capacity Building**

Outline how the project will build capacity (maximum 200 words).

1. **Project Timeline**

Detail the project plan from inception to completion. Where possible, include SMART objectives (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound) and consider information dissemination (including non-traditional forms).

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| Project Objective | Activity | Timeframe | Evaluation measure(s) |
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1. **Project Budget**

Provide the total funds sought and a breakdown of how the grant funds will be spent. Detail any new leverage investment, expected return on investment and pathway to sustainable future funding (maximum 400 words).

1. **Contributions from Partner Organisation(s)**

If any cash and/or in-kind contributions will be provided by the partner organisation(s), please provide details.

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1. **Additional Details**

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| Is this application a scaled down version of a proposal submitted to an external agency, which has been unsuccessful? | **Yes** | **No** |
| If yes, please provide details: | | |

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| Have you submitted a similar application to any external agency, where a decision is still pending? | **Yes** | **No** |
| If yes, please provide details: | | |

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| Do you aim to subsequently apply for an externally funded research grant? | **Yes** | **No** |
| If yes, please provide details: | | |

1. **Project Team – Chief Investigators**

Please complete for CIs in the project team (including the project lead) to a minimum of 3 and maximum of 8 CIs. CVs for each CI are to be attached. Visit [orcid.org](https://orcid.org/) for information on ORCID. (If you do not have an ORCID id please obtain one.)

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| Name |  | | |
| Email |  | ORCID |  |
| Employer |  | | |
| Affiliation(s) |  | | |
| Role on project | Brief explanation of role on project (e.g. Project Coordinator/ Manager, Lead Clinician) | | |
| Qualifications / Experience | 2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience | | |

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| Qualifications / Experience | 2-3 sentences maximum detailing relevant qualifications and experience | | |

1. **Project Team – Associate Investigators**

Please complete for any AIs included in the project team. **Do not** include CVs. Visit [orcid.org](https://orcid.org/) for information on ORCID.

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1. **Approval and Sign-off**

The Project Lead confirms that the information provided is correct and all team members have reviewed and approved the submission.

**Project Lead**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Full Name |  | | |
| Signature |  | Date |  |

**CHECKLIST FOR INVESTIGATORS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION:**

Budget does not exceed $20,000

Chief Investigator CVs (maximum 2 pages each) are attached

Project Lead has approved the submission on behalf of the team

1. Investigator CV Template (maximum 2 pages for each investigator, NHMRC track record may be used)

**Career Disruption (during the last 5 years)**

CIs may declare any relevant career disruptions in the past 5 years. Include the dates and nature of the career disruption, defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant’s capacity to work due to pregnancy, parental leave, major illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities. Briefly explain the impact on your research/productivity relative to stage of career, details of additional research outputs (occurring in preceding years) that you want the reviewers to consider when assessing your application. Indicate any invitations you were not able to accept due to the career disruption. If you had an extended career disruption starting before 2012 and ending within the last five years, please briefly explain, nominating additional research achievements for the most recent year(s) without a career disruption.

**Relative to Opportunity (during the last 5 years)**

The applicant may provide details on any relative to opportunity considerations and the effect this has had on their research and achievements, providing a brief explanation of the type of relative to opportunity circumstance, date and impact.

**Publications**

Please include select publications, highlighting those of impact from the past 5 years.

**Peer-reviewed Research Funding**

Provide sufficient details about the funding to make clear what the funding was intended for, what you achieved and your contribution to the outcomes within these grants. Include future funding.

**Research Funding of Other Categories**

As above.