

Date: 6/14/2021

SEED FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The Conte Center @ UCI is soliciting applications for up to 4 grants. Each grant will be funded up to \$30,000 for innovative basic and translational research projects focusing on brain plasticity, including how experiences may influence the brain and thus contribute to vulnerability to cognitive and mental illness.

We are seeking studies employing innovative concepts and/or cutting-edge methods. Proposals may involve human subjects or animal models or both. Projects employing molecular (including epigenetics and bioinformatics), cellular, circuit / systems or functional/behavioral *in vivo* approaches, *in vivo*- imaging, or computational / modeling strategies and multidisciplinary approaches are welcome. We will also consider proposals aiming to capitalize on our Conte Center databases. Successful applications may also consider the objectives of the NIH NIMH P50 Conte Center on Fragmented Early-Life Experiences, Aberrant Circuit Maturation and Emotional Vulnerabilities: <https://contecenter.uci.edu/>.

DEADLINE: Monday, June 28, 2021 – 11:59PM

Eligibility, application procedures and review process and criteria:

Eligibility:

UCI full-time **Assistant Professors (or equivalent), Project Scientists, and Senior Post-Docs** are eligible.

Application:

Application should be a **single PDF document**, typed in 11 font size with 0.5' margins including:

- 1) Abstract / Project Description (<300 words)
- 2) A four-page research plan including:
 - a) Specific Aims
 - b) Significance/Impact
 - c) Approach/Design
- 3) NIH Biosketches of Applicant(s) in four-page format.
- 4) A one-page itemized budget and justification (salary support for the PI is not allowed)

Review criteria:

- 1) **Excellence and innovation** of the proposed studies and the applicant
- 2) Feasibility and likelihood of success
- 3) Likelihood of generating foundational data for future extramural funding
- 4) Relevance to the goals and mission of the Center

Applications should be e-mailed to James Weinstock, jweinsto@uci.edu by **11:59 pm Monday, June 28, 2021**.

Applications will undergo review by a committee consisting of external referees and Center members. **Awardees will be announced by July 19, 2021.**

Funds are for a **one-year period**. Requests may be for **any amount up to and not exceeding \$30,000**. Awardees will provide a six-month interim report and a twelve-month final report. PI(s) will present their project and data to members of the Conte Center as well as participate in the Conte Center Annual Symposium.

Questions should be directed to James Weinstock, jweinsto@uci.edu