



## Request for Applications:

### **NYSCF – Robertson Neuroscience Investigator Awards**

NYSCF is soliciting applications from early career investigators for awards in neuroscience. The goal of this initiative is to foster innovative scientists whose pioneering approaches have the potential to transform the field of neuroscience.

**Applicants are invited to apply from all fields in neuroscience in the 2021 application cycle. New this year, we especially encourage applications from neuroscientists whose research is focused on human systems. This might include research using patient-derived model systems and approaches using samples or data (genomic, epidemiological, imaging, real-world data, etc.) collected from individuals or human populations.**

**Applicants can, but need not, be working in stem cells or related areas.**

The award provides up to **\$1.5 million over 5 years**. The award does not provide institutional overhead. NYSCF will accept applications from researchers based at domestic and international accredited non-profit research and academic institutions.

To learn more, create an account and submit your application, please visit:

**[www.nyscf.org/neuroaward](http://www.nyscf.org/neuroaward)**

All applications must be submitted in the online system before **5:00 PM (Eastern) on February 17, 2021** in order to be put forward for review. Finalists will be contacted in June/July and announced in October 2021.

## **EXPANDING THE BREADTH OF NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH SUPPORTED THROUGH THESE AWARDS**

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the NYSCF – Robertson Neuroscience Investigator Awards—a decade that has also marked significant advances in the field of neuroscience. In addition to advancing the understanding of the circuitry and molecular characteristics of the brain, for example, the field has also gained insights, through epidemiological and mental health research, on population-wide patterns of brain function and disease. In recognition of the field’s evolution, and to encourage cross-pollination across the many approaches that comprise neuroscience including the research programs of previous NYSCF – Robertson Neuroscience Investigator Awardees, NYSCF seeks applications from scientists using these more human-focused approaches as well as from those working in its more traditional areas of support.

**Applicants are invited to apply from all fields in neuroscience in the 2021 application cycle. New this year, we especially encourage applications from neuroscientists conducting research on brain function, dysfunction, and disease in human systems or populations, for example in the fields of:**

- psychiatry
- mental health research
- imaging
- genetics
- cognitive neuroscience
- immunology
- convergent neuroscience
- computational neurogenomics
- “interactome” studies

In line with NYSCF’s mission to advance treatments and cures for the major diseases of our time, NYSCF is eager to support research that substantively improves our understanding of brain function, dysfunction, and disease in human systems through these awards, including research using patient-derived model systems, and approaches using samples or data (genomic, epidemiological, imaging, real-world data, etc.) collected from individuals or human populations. Applicants can, but need not, be working in stem cells or related areas.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Have completed one or more of the following degrees: MD, PhD, DPhil
- Be within 6 years of starting a faculty (professorship) or comparable position on June 1, 2021 (**Note: an additional year of eligibility was added as a result of the COVID-19 crisis**)
- Have demonstrated ability to independently supervise staff and research
- Have a publication record containing articles that are innovative and high impact

In addition, since routes to independence vary significantly outside of the United States, **candidates based at institutions outside the United States** should consider the following when assessing their eligibility:

- Do they write grants in their own name?
- Do they report directly to funding agencies rather than a senior colleague?
- Do they supervise their own graduate students and/or postdocs?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, and the candidate has also met the other eligibility criteria, he/she may be eligible to apply. NYSCF staff is available to provide additional information on eligibility.

## APPLICATION DETAILS

**Please note this is a career development award, not a project specific award, and funds may be used at the discretion of applicants to increase the impact of their research, subject to the terms of the award letter.**

The application components include:

- Contact details and other relevant administrative information
- A one-page summary of the candidate's research accomplishments and central directions of lab
- A research plan representative of the types of projects being undertaken in the candidate's lab, of not more than 7 pages, including embedded figures, that contains a summary, goals, experimental design, timeline, significance and relevance to the field. References will not count towards the page limit
- The candidate's curriculum vitae, not to exceed 3 pages
- A list of the candidate's five most significant publications
- 3 letters of reference, which must be submitted in the online system by the application deadline
- Details of other secured and pending financial support
- Applications from candidates **based at institutions outside the US** should also include a letter from the appropriate administrative institutional official confirming the candidate's eligibility, good standing, and that if selected the candidate would be able to accept the award.
- **Applicants must submit an institutional report card for gender equality in order for the application to be considered complete. Details and FAQ's can be found at [www.nyscf.org/programs/extramural-grants/applicants/report-card-faq/](http://www.nyscf.org/programs/extramural-grants/applicants/report-card-faq/)**
- All applications must provide assurance of compliance with local research regulatory bodies and with local laws in advance of the award start date. Additionally, for applications using human embryonic stem cells, human tissue, or human trials, the candidate must obtain appropriate Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight Committee (ESCRO) and human subjects research approvals in advance of the award start date.