



## Request for Proposals

### Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards

#### Key Dates:

Proposal Submission Deadline:	<b>April 1, 2020</b>
Award Announcement:	<b>May 2020</b>
Anticipated Funding Start Date:	<b>June 2020</b>

#### *Funding Purpose*

Harvard Medical School (HMS) is now accepting applications for the **Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards**. These awards, part of the historic \$200 million commitment from the Blavatnik Family Foundation to HMS, will help propel the School's mission of transforming health through curiosity-driven research that stimulates the development of new therapies and the creation of new tools to diagnose, prevent and treat disease.

The Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards will support new high-impact projects that can illuminate the causes of sensory disorders and launch efforts to treat them. Preference will be given to well-defined late-stage research on the path to commercialization of a therapeutic, diagnostic, medical device or biomedical technology. Projects that have the potential for near-term clinical use will receive funding priority.

#### *Award Funding*

The Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards will fund up to five projects beginning **June 2020**. Non-renewable awards will be up to \$250,000 USD total costs per project per year and may be funded for up to four years.

- Up to five projects will be funded, each up to four years' duration.
- Budgets can request up to \$250,000 USD total costs per year (for a four-year maximum of up to \$1,000,000 total costs per project).
- Applications are due by **April 1, 2020** and decisions will be made in **May 2020**.
- The funding period is anticipated to start **June 2020**.

### *Eligibility*

- Projects are preferably new work that is not currently funded.
- An individual faculty member may submit only one full proposal as a Lead PI.
- Projects likely to make a significant advance within the grant period will be favored.
- All faculty at the rank of assistant professor, associate professor and full professor, or equivalent, in an HMS Quad department, at an HMS affiliated hospital or institute, or at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) are eligible to apply for funding as the Lead PI. There can be a maximum of one Lead PI per application. Faculty members with appointments as assistant professor, associate professor, or professor at HMS, other Harvard Schools, and HMS-affiliated institutions are eligible as Co-PIs. A Co-PI collaborator contributes to the intellectual development of the project, designs the study or a part thereof, and is involved with the study throughout the term of funding. Proposals may include one or more Co-PIs, but inclusion of a Co-PI is not required. Instructors, Lecturers, and Trainees (e.g. students, clinical trainees, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows) cannot serve as the Lead PI or Co-PI of an application.

### *Award Requirements*

- *Progress reports*  
An annual progress report with sequential milestones will be required for each award. Demonstrated progress on the sequential milestones outlined in the project proposal must be submitted to **BlavatnikSensory@hms.harvard.edu** with copy to **DeansInitiatives@hms.harvard.edu**. Continued funding will be contingent on demonstration of satisfactory progress. A final report summarizing the results of the research, including any intellectual property and purchased equipment, will be required following the end of the project period. Further information regarding progress reporting requirements will be included in award documentation for funded projects.
- *Research Compliance*  
The principal investigator, department and research institution are responsible for meeting all compliance requirements associated with the Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards, including any IRB or animal research approvals. Any such approvals must be submitted via email to:  
**BlavatnikSensory@hms.harvard.edu** with copy to:  
**DeansInitiatives@hms.harvard.edu**.

- *Intellectual Property*

It is anticipated that intellectual property may be developed through work on projects funded by the Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards. Regardless of the location at which the work is performed (whether in facilities of Harvard or of an HMS-affiliated hospital or institute), if any PI or other individual employed by Harvard or enrolled as a student at Harvard creates intellectual property through work on a project funded by the Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards, Harvard will own his or her interest in that intellectual property in accordance with Harvard's intellectual property policy. If any PI or other individual (except for any individual enrolled as a full-time student at Harvard) employed by an HMS-affiliated hospital or institute creates intellectual property through work on a project funded by the Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards, the employing hospital or institute will own his or her interest in that intellectual property in accordance with the hospital or institute's intellectual property policy.

- *Publications*

The Blavatnik Sensory Disorders Research Awards must be cited in all publications that describe work supported by this award. Electronic reprints and/or links to an electronic version of all publications containing this acknowledgment should be submitted via email to **BlavatnikSensory@hms.harvard.edu**.

### *Review and Evaluation*

Projects will be selected in consultation with a scientific review board composed of experts in the field from HMS and HMS affiliates.

### *Proposal Format*

- Research Plan. No more than six pages (including figures) to include
  - Background and significance (~1 page)

Describe the long term goal of this research and how it can lead to new treatments. Explain how the project is different from published work or existing efforts elsewhere, and how the proposal for a four-year project will move you significantly closer to attaining that goal.

- Research design with specific aims (4-5 pages)

The first page should include a description of specific research aims. Describe the planned experiments in sufficient generality for someone outside the field to understand them and sufficient detail for someone in the field to know if they will work.

- Milestones

The Research Plan should conclude with a concise list of milestones describing expected accomplishments and dates for each.

- Appendices (not included in six-page-limit requirement):

- References

- Biosketches for PIs and Co-PIs, if any

- PHS 398 Face Page for each PI/Co-PI receiving funds. Face pages from lead PIs or Co-PIs from HMS-affiliated institutions require a signature from an institutional authorized official

- Budget for each laboratory, for salaries, supplies, and equipment for each year of the research plan. One page per PI/Co-PI receiving funds. Budget items may include PI salary, research personnel salary, publication expenses, capital equipment, supplies, and project-related travel for each year of the research plan. Funding may be used only for research directly related to and budgeted under the project and may not be used for any other purpose.

**For HMS Quad and HU/FAS PIs** – Budgets should reflect direct costs only.

**For HMS-Affiliate Institution PIs** – Direct and indirect expenses must be itemized and budgeted within the award amount. Itemized indirect expenses are capped at a maximum rate of 15% of total direct costs. No additional funds to cover general indirect costs will be provided.

- Budget justification

The project proposal must include justification for each major item (salaries, supplies and equipment) for the duration of the award.

- Human and animal welfare certifications where relevant and as required by the home institutions to be provided upon award.
- Margins and font restrictions as for NIH proposals. Each proposal should be compiled into one single PDF document and received via email to **BlavatnikSensory@hms.harvard.edu** by **April 1, 2020**.
- Decisions are expected in **May 2020** for funding by **June 2020**.

*Contact*

Applicants may email all inquiries regarding proposal submission, review and selection to **BlavatnikSensory@hms.harvard.edu**.