

NARSAD, The Brain and Behavior Research Fund is the largest non-governmental, donor-supported organization that distributes funds for brain & behavior disorders research. The **NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award** program offers **up to \$100,000 for a one (1) year period** and is intended for established scientists who maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs.

The *NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award* program supports basic and/or clinical investigators. However, research must be relevant to schizophrenia, mood disorders or other serious mental illnesses including research with anxiety, bipolar disorders, personality disorders or child and adolescent psychiatric disorders. A small number of letters of intent will be selected for further review with additional information requested. The second tier of applications will also be brief, but will provide the investigator an opportunity to provide more detail on methods, potential significance, feasibility, and institutional support.

The *NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award* program is designed to stimulate the development of key personnel and resources, to facilitate the rapid initiation of research in innovative areas, and to enable investigators to create unique scientific opportunities. The following are illustrative examples, but are not meant to identify priority areas, as innovative research in other areas is encouraged if the work is relevant to the NARSAD mission. Investigators applying for support are encouraged to define any area of scientific promise.

➤ **Unique Patient Resources**

Patient populations with unusual characteristics may prove informative if available as a resource to investigators. An example would be substantial numbers of representative patients who are lifetime drug-naïve or a post mortem collection where imaging and neurobehavioral data was collected during life.

➤ **Unique Conceptual Opportunities**

There is an explosion of information relevant to the development of the central nervous system and the various influences on this development. Much of this work takes place independent of disease interest. NARSAD funding could facilitate a synthesis of experimental neuroscience and clinical concepts in developing novel and testable theories of schizophrenia and depression. The intent here would be the heuristic and generative influence of new etiologically relevant concepts.

➤ **Genomic/Proteomic**

Rapid advances in gene and protein identification present new opportunities for discovery of vulnerability genes and disease related proteins. Transgenic animal models of severe mental illness based on genetic information may provide new approaches to the neurobiology of schizophrenia and depression.

These interests are listed only as examples. NARSAD seeks any novel and meritorious proposal relevant to the basic and clinical science of serious mental illness such as schizophrenia and affective disorders.

NARSAD is committed to spending its entire income for direct support of research. Administrative cost of review is small—reviewers are members of the NARSAD Scientific Council, and volunteer their time to evaluate applications; therefore, **no feedback can be provided to applicants.**

**** An automatic e-mail is generated upon submission of the electronic application. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact grants@narsad.org.**

**** Applications must be submitted electronically through the NARSAD website (www.narsad.org). Faxed, emailed, or mailed applications will NOT be accepted.**

AWARD REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Applicants must be a **full professor** (or equivalent), and maintain peer reviewed competitively funded scientific programs;
- 2) Scientists that have previously received a *NARSAD Distinguished (Established) Investigator Award* **may not receive the award for a second time until five years** has elapsed since the beginning date of the prior award. Grant requirements from all previous awards must be met (including Young Investigator and Independent Investigator Awards), only one applicant may apply per application, and an applicant cannot submit more than one application per cycle;
- 3) **Funding is for one year and is up to \$100,000.** Funding of institutional **overhead at an 8% rate** (excluding equipment) is allowed and overhead must be included within the total budget request which may not exceed \$100,000. Equipment, salary, and technical support are typical budget requests, but NARSAD wishes applicants to identify requirements specific to their research and setting;
- 4) Since applicants are already funded, it is essential that the letter of intent state how the proposed work is not feasible without new funds—NARSAD does not seek to extend current work of established investigators, but rather to stimulate new approaches and projects from senior investigators;
- 5) Applications must be **complete and submitted online by July 1, 2010** (11:59 p.m., EST). Do not submit before June 1, 2010;
- 6) Requests for further information will be made to selected investigators and declinations will be mailed in October, 2010;
- 7) Final applications (second round—by invitation only) will be due in November, 2010 (a deadline will be included in second-round materials);
- 8) Notification of awards will be mailed in March, 2011. It is NARSAD’s policy to provide no feedback on applications, other than funding notification. **Earliest award start date is May 1, 2011.**

The application should enable reviewers to determine eligibility; judge that independence and productivity are established; establish the relevance of the proposal to the NARSAD mission; and estimate the originality and scientific promise of the investigator.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must be submitted electronically via the NARSAD website as a **single, combined electronic document (PDF), be brief, typed in a standard font size no smaller than 11 pt., with 1” margins.** Please label each section accordingly (a separate page for each) and include applicant’s full name in the upper right corner, in the following order:

- (a) **Letter of Intent (max. of 1 page)** – a description of the purpose of the project, including enough detail that reviewers can understand the value of the study, the budget requirements (total budget request and general categories for expenditures only), and the long term implications of the short term funding. If funded, this material may be used in NARSAD announcements;
 - (b) **C.V. (max. of 4 pages)** – the biography portion of the curriculum vitae **only OR an NIH biographical sketch**, with current grant support listed;
 - (c) **Bibliography** - a separate page stating the total number of publications and listing **up to 12 relevant articles**;
 - (d) **Institutional Approval (max. of 1 page)** – a signed statement from the applicant’s Grants and Contracts office indicating their knowledge of the application. If the applicant is the “equivalent” of a full professor, then a statement from the departmental chair or equivalent must be included (on a separate page) which specifies how the position is the full professor equivalent in the host institution, and asserting that this rank is held at the time of application.
- **** IRB/IACUC approval for human and animal subjects will need to be verified at the **time of the Award**, as will institutional acceptance of the terms of the Award.
- **** In fairness to all applicants, **supplemental material** (i.e., letters of reference/support, appendices) will **NOT** be considered in the review process. Additionally, any material **exceeding the specified length will be discarded.**
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