



STARK NEUROSCIENCES
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine

Pre-Clinical Neuroimaging Pilot Grant

AN INITIATIVE FUNDED BY
Roberts Neuroscience Imaging Fund

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026

UPLOAD via the [Start a Submission](#) link here: [SNRI Neuroimaging Link](#)

Please note that you will be submitting through the Indiana CTSI's grants management software WebCAMP.

The WebCAMP user's guide is available under the funding announcement here:
<https://www.indianactsi.org/researchers/funding/open-funding-opportunities/>

For RFA questions, contact Yu-Chien Wu yucwu@iu.edu, Scientific Director for the Roberts Translational Imaging Facility

Contact Julie Drisco judrisco@iu.edu for WebCAMP questions.

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

GENERAL

The goal of the Pre-Clinical Neuroimaging Research Pilot Study program is to facilitate the generation of new knowledge in the neurosciences through the development of funded research programs. This mechanism will provide seed-support up to \$10,000 for neuroimaging technology development and high-risk small animal projects using the Bruker BioSpec 9.4T PET-MRI scanner in the Roberts Translational Imaging Facility.

This funding opportunity announcement invites applications from all Indiana CTSI investigators with a full-time faculty appointment, regardless of track, at Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM, regardless of campus), Indiana University (IU, regardless of campus), Purdue University, or University of Notre Dame. Work supported by these funds is expected to lead to submissions of major extramural grants (NIH R01/equivalent, NSF, major foundation awards, DOD, etc.). It is strongly recommended to discuss the feasibility of the intended imaging techniques with the Core Director.

2026 special interest areas: funding priority may be given to studies utilizing magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) or chemical exchange saturation transfer (CEST) imaging.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants (the contact PI) belonging to the following three categories are eligible to apply.

- Category 1: New investigators without current or past NIH research support as PD/PI. New investigators, as defined by the NIH, have never received a substantial federal grant award (e.g., R01) (see http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/#definition).
- Category 2: Established investigators who do not belong to Category 1 and do not have neuroimaging experience but wish to apply neuroimaging to enhance their current research.
- Category 3: Established neuroimaging investigators who do not belong to Category 1 & 2 and propose testing innovative ideas that represent clear departure from ongoing research interests.

Applicants (the contact PI) should provide a brief justification of their category.

All eligible investigators must have faculty appointments who have the education, skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. National and international collaborations are allowed. Faculty with visiting rank and postdoctoral fellows or their equivalent are not eligible. Applicants with limited neuroimaging experience are encouraged to consult the core personnel on the feasibility of their imaging protocols and budget plans.

RESTRICTIONS/ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

1. All budgets must have a start date of July 1, 2026.
2. Budget may not exceed \$10,000.
3. Budget requests may not include indirect costs, F&A, PI salary, student stipends, travel

expenses, membership fees, or publication charges.

- Priority should be given to image acquisition, image processing, and data analysis related expenses.

APPLICATION & SUBMISSION PROCESS

Application

The deadline for receipt of the application is April 1, 2026.

The 2026 Grant Application Form containing detailed instructions and all the required parts can be downloaded from the **Start a Submission** link: [SNRI Neuroimaging Link](#)

Application narratives should follow the sequence provided in the application form and be single spaced in at least 11-point Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface, using 0.5-inch margins.

Applications should follow the sequence outlined on the application form:

- Research Plan: up to 2 pages including specific aims, significance, innovation, and approach.
 - Resubmissions are permitted an additional ½ page to indicate how they have responded to reviewers' comments.
- References (not included in the research plan page limit)
- Key Personnel page
- NIH Biosketch for all PIs
- Budget and justification
 - Supplies and costs must relate directly to the performance of the project.
 - Travel and faculty salaries are not allowed.
 - Student stipends are not allowed.
 - Core costs should be budgeted at the internal rate.
- Previous reviewers' comments if this is a resubmission
- Letters of Support from collaborators
- Letter of Support and Approval from Core Director

Submission

- This funding opportunity will open for submission once a year.
- Submit the proposal via uploading to the Indiana CTSI Grants Management mechanism using the **Start a Submission** link: [SNRI Neuroimaging Link](#)

POST AWARD REQUIREMENTS

- Awards cannot be given without proof of any applicable regulatory documentation. It is, therefore, important that applicants be ready to submit any necessary IACUC documents at the time of award notification.
- Any publications and/or grant submissions should acknowledge this award, the Roberts Neuroscience Imaging Research Fund, Stark Neurosciences Research Institute, and the IRI Research Imaging Core.

3. Completion of a closeout report once the project is closed and then annually for two years following the completion of funding is required to collect outcomes and assess impact. (Please note: If a one-year no-cost extension (NCE) is given, the project will require an additional progress report during the NCE.) Reports will be due in December and an online link will be sent via the Indiana CTSI staff.
4. Presentation of findings at one or more SNRI-sponsored events.
5. Written notification to SNRI executive director, if you leave your institution before the project is complete and/or if the project is transferred to another PI.
6. Requested grant funding period cannot exceed 12 months. However, with approval, funded projects may be extended for up to one year. Guidelines for submitting a request for a no-cost extension may be found at:
<https://www.indianactsi.org/researchers/funding/no-cost-extension/>

REVIEW CRITERIA

The application will be reviewed and scored based on its scientific premise by internal and external technical reviewers, and the final selection will be determined by the awarding executive committee.

The research plan should address the following review criteria:

- i) Quality* – The application should have a strong rationale for the project grounded in the literature and should demonstrate the scientific significance of the project.
- ii) Impact* – the PI should clearly articulate why the project is necessary to support applications for subsequent extramural funding (e.g., funding from the NIH, DOD, and/or the VA)
- iii) Future Plans* – briefly outline plans and putative timeline for presentations, publication(s), and application(s) for extramural funding.