

THE BIG BRAIN THEORY PROGRAM -5th Call 2024



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PROGRAM FOR COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Key principles and eligibility criteria:

The Institute will award seed grants to fund innovative, “out the box thinking” and interdisciplinary research projects in Neuroscience. We seek original, new and constructive collaborations between at least 2 Principal Investigators (coordinators) from different research teams, clinical groups or iCRIN teams piloting a novel idea. *Big Brain Theory (BBT)* program aims at engaging PIs in synergistic collaborative efforts to broaden the impact of their individual research programs and elaborate new pioneering projects with the potential for breakthroughs in any domain of neuroscience. The project must require that the collaborators combine their expertise in an innovative fashion to address important unresolved problems and/or methodological/technological bottlenecks in basic and/or clinical neuroscience.

NEW: For this 2024 edition, Institut Pasteur is joining the BBT program as a step forward to foster and catalyze the structured collaboration initiated with the Paris Brain Institute (ICM).

A **consortium** of at least two teams is required with **one of two alternative tracks:**

- 1) **Internal consortia:** at least two Paris Brain Institute teams, clinical groups or iCRIN groups within ICM’s IHU/DMU perimeter.
- 2) **Collaborative ICM/IP consortia:** collaborative projects associating at least two teams, **one from Paris Brain Institute perimeter** and **one from Institut Pasteur** will be considered. Up to two collaborative ICM/IP projects may be funded. Only new collaborative projects between IP and ICM teams, clinical or iCRIN groups will be considered.
 - The *BBT* program will award grants for up to 200k€ each for 24 months.
 - Proof of concept studies involving at least 2 PIs as indicated in point 1 and 2 based on a novel idea. Projects/ideas already funded in a previous BBT call or by external grants **are not eligible**.
 - Principal Investigators (Researchers, Scientists, Clinicians, University Researcher’s affiliates), holding a permanent position and defined as such by the ICM and the IHU/DMU/iCRIN perimeter and IP (when relevant) are eligible to participate (see attached information on the template).
 - Each PI can be coordinator of only two project proposals maximum for the 2021 call. PIs who led previous BBTs **are eligible**. The institute will base its choice on innovation and excellence.

- Extensions of BBT projects funded during the 1st and 2nd phase of the BBT call **are not eligible**.
- Core facility personnel cannot be coordinators of a BBT, but core facilities can, and are encouraged to, participate as collaborators. Other internal funding tracks dedicated to core facilities are available.
- External collaborations with scientists outside the ICM perimeter or IP are permitted but no funding from BBT will be dedicated to them. A PI external to ICM's scientific and clinical perimeter cannot lead a BBT.

Selection criteria:

Projects will be sent out for evaluation by the Paris Brain Institute's scientific advisory board (SAB), and external experts. The final decision will be taken by the direction of the institute(s) based on the recommendations of the SAB.

The committee will review proposals based on:

1. Scientific merit of the proposal, with quality, innovation and creativity.
2. Feasibility/Risk balance.
3. Synergy of the applicants with emphasis on interdisciplinarity and added value of the collaboration.

Full Proposal requirements:*

The application proposal should follow the template attached and follow (Arial 11):

- Title, names of the 2 coordinators, potential collaborators and summary (1 page)
- Two coordinators' CVs (1 page per coordinator)
- Five recent publications from each of the two coordinators (1 page)
- A list of all grants and fellowships received (including approved grants whose funding period has not yet started and internal calls) over the last five years up to the application deadline. Please list the grant/fellowship title and state clearly the degree of potential overlap, if any, with the project application (1/2 page)
- Description of the program: background, hypothesis, scientific or medical question, specific objectives, methods, preliminary data when applicable, feasibility/risk balance and alternative solutions, expected results, working arrangements (no more than 5 pages, excluding references)
- Interdisciplinarity and synergy, emphasis of the strategic interfaces (1/2 page)
- Potential impact and innovation (1/2 page)
- Strategy to pursue the scientific programme in a follow-up project (1/2 page)
- Budget and milestones for 24 months (1 page)
- List of 3 proposed referees (name, institution, email) and up to 2 excluded referees exclusion (names)

** For more details, please see the application template*

The applications **must be sent by January 30th, 2024** at the following address: scientific.affairs@icm-institute.org

KEY DATES FOR 2021 BIG BRAIN THEORY PROGRAM

Deadline Submission: January 30th, 2024

Notification of award: Spring 2024

Funding period: 24 months

Questions regarding the program should be directed to scientific.affairs@icm-institute.org

For any questions related to Institut Pasteur regarding the program should be directed to spis.coordination@pasteur.fr