



## OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Limited Submission (NDNP) General Submission (MIND)

**PLEASE DISSEMINATE TO ALL FACULTY**

1. **NDNP is a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress (LC)** to create a national digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1690 and 1963 from all 56 states and U.S. jurisdictions. LC will permanently maintain this searchable database, which will be freely accessible online (see *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*),  
If your application is successful, you will select newspapers—published in your state or jurisdiction between 1690 and 1963—and over a period of two years, convert approximately 100,000 pages into digital files (preferably from microfilm), according to the technical guidelines outlined by LC. You may select titles published in any language with a valid ISO 639-2 language code (or ISO 630-3, if appropriate). For newspapers published after 1926, you may only select those in the public domain (i.e., published without copyright or for which the copyright was not registered or renewed by 1963). If you wish to select titles for digitization published after 1926, you must indemnify LC and NEH. **Internal Deadline November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Funding Organization Deadline January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**
2. The [MIND \(Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery\) Prize](#) (\$750,000 over three years) supports and empowers early-to-mid-career investigators to rethink conventional paradigms around NDDs. Modeled after the Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research, the MIND Prize catalyzes interdisciplinary approaches and facilitate collaborations across academic departments and institutions. It fuels the groundbreaking research that will accelerate our understanding of NDDs at every level. If you have any questions regarding the MIND Prize, please contact us at [info@MINDPrize.org](mailto:info@MINDPrize.org). **Letter of Intent application is Monday, December 12th, 2022 by 5:00pm EST.** Visit: <https://pershing-squarefoundation.org> to learn more about The Pershing Square Foundation and review the guidelines appended to this email.

Details of these announcements are found on [InfoReady](#) (NDNP only) and the [Announcements](#) page of OVPR's website. Please reach to OVPR [funding@temple.edu](mailto:funding@temple.edu) with questions.

## MIND PRIZE

### “Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery”

*An initiative from The Pershing Square Foundation*

### 2023 Application Guidelines

#### PRIZE OVERVIEW

The Pershing Square Foundation’s (PSF) brain initiative funds cutting-edge research that revolutionizes our ability to predict, prevent, and treat neurodegenerative diseases (NDDs). Advancing our fundamental understanding of the brain and cognition to ultimately combat neurodegeneration and related diseases is a goal of increasing urgency. Breakthroughs in basic scientific and translational research will yield critical tools for and knowledge of NDDs, including Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia, which affect millions of people worldwide.

The MIND (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) Prize supports and empowers early-to-mid-career investigators to rethink conventional paradigms around NDDs. Modeled after the Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research, the MIND Prize catalyzes interdisciplinary approaches and facilitate collaborations across academic departments and institutions. It fuels the groundbreaking research that will accelerate our understanding of NDDs at every level.

Projects may range from the invention of novel tools, techniques, and technologies for mapping and analyzing the brain to bold approaches that demonstrate extraordinary therapeutic potential. Research domains may include—but are not limited to—neurobiology, brain imaging and mapping, machine learning, drug delivery, and synthetic biology.

MIND Prize winners will each receive \$250,000/year for three years, and they become part of a unique network of researchers associated with PSF. Generally, five to seven prizes will be awarded annually. Benefits include:

- Facilitated partnerships with like-minded researchers within and across institutions
- Networking programs such as collaborations and discussions with industry mentors, introductions to philanthropic and for-profit investors in the business community, special industry networking and entrepreneurship events, and more
- An annual retreat
- Opportunities to present at conferences and events (hosted by PSF and other organizations)

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process will be conducted in two stages:

**Stage 1:** Letter of Intent (LOI) and Budget – Opens on **Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022** to all who meet the eligibility criteria.

**Stage 2:** Presentation – Finalists will be invited to present their proposal to the Scientific Board at the 2023 MIND Prize Review Board Meeting in Manhattan, New York (a remote option will be available, as needed) on **Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023** or **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023** (only one of the two dates will be selected; the final date will be determined in late fall).

## TIMELINE AND KEY DATES

Please note that PSF may adjust the notification dates without notice to applicants:

<b>November 7, 2022:</b>	Application opens to receive Letters of Intent (LOI)
<b>December 12, 2022:</b>	Deadline to submit LOI
<b>Early February 2023:</b>	Selected applicants invited to present at finalist Review Board Meeting
<b>February 27/28, 2023:</b>	MIND Prize Review Board Meeting
<b>Early March 2023:</b>	2023 MIND Prize winners notified
<b>April/May 2023:</b>	2023 MIND Prize winners officially announced
<b>May 2023:</b>	Projects start

## CRITERIA

**Radical innovation:** PSF seeks high-risk, high-reward proposals that focus on novel interdisciplinary approaches to neuroscience research and are grounded in sound reasoning from first principles. The MIND Prize was created to fund projects that have been deemed too risky or speculative for traditional funding sources but still hold the potential for radical impact. Investigators with or without core neuroscience backgrounds are encouraged to apply. We are committed to supporting scientists whose imagination and fresh insights could substantially change an area of research by applying their expertise to new directions.

**Scientific excellence:** The scientific merit of proposals will be determined by peer review by the Scientific Review Board.

**Quality of the applicant:** Applicants must display creativity, adaptability, strong written communication skills, and the ability to collaborate with others. They embody an entrepreneurial spirit for driving impact and scale.

**Application to neurodegeneration:** Proposals that articulate a clear application to neurodegenerative and neurocognitive disorders will be favored.

## ELIGIBILITY

An MD, PhD, or MD-PhD degree (or equivalent) is required. Applicants must have completed at least one (1) but no more than ten years of independent research experience by the start date of the Prize (May 2023). Principal Investigators (PIs) must hold faculty appointments at academic research institutions in the United States of America. An applicant, who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, by submitting an application for this funding, assures that his/her visa status will provide sufficient time to complete the project and grant term within the United States. Investigators need not be specifically trained in neuroscience; however, they should have access to an environment capable of conducting high-quality, high-impact research related to the understanding of the human brain and/or cognition.

The Pershing Square Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

## LETTER OF INTENT (LOI)

LOIs are due **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by 5pm EST**. The LOI is a one-page document in Georgia, 11-point font and single-spaced (figures are accepted, references not included in the limit), that answers the following questions: **What do you think is missing in this field and what is your proposal to fill that gap? Why you, and why is this a project worth funding?**

It must include the following elements:

1. A description of the applicant's scientific accomplishments to date;
2. A description of the proposed research project –must include scientific background, aims, and research plan;
3. A description of why the project is innovative within the specific research focus area;
4. A description of how the MIND Prize funding will help your research contribute to the field.

A **budget** and a **biosketch** will be required in along with the LOI. Templates for both will be provided. Templates and the link to submission form can be found on our application portal: <https://prizeapplication.smapply.io/>.

## REVIEW MECHANISMS

- After submission of the LOI, applications will undergo review by the Scientific Advisory Board.
- Applicants will be selected from a group of qualified individuals based on their credentials, the merits of their proposals, and the connection of their proposals to the goals of the Pershing Square Foundation's MIND Prize.
- Finalists will be invited to present their proposal at the 2023 Review Board Meeting, to be held on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> or Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. *(Please note that only one date will be selected and is subject to change; finalists will be notified if this is the case.)*
- The final selection will be contingent upon ratification by the Trustees of PSF.
- PSF will not provide reviewer critiques or evaluations to applicants.

## PRIZE ADMINISTRATION

### **Award Agreement**

Upon acceptance of the MIND Prize, the PI and his/her employing institution will be required to sign an award agreement indicating acceptance of the PSF Terms and Conditions. Among other requirements, PSF must be notified in advance and approve of any significant changes in research objectives, key personnel, or budget.

### **Funding**

PSF will allow no more than 10% of the award amount (\$25,000/year) to be allocated to indirect costs. Full term funding will be contingent upon review of annual progress reports and other oversight activities conducted by PSF. PSF will determine future funding at its sole discretion. Multi-year support is not automatic and is conditioned on meeting certain milestones and deliverables defined in the Full-Length Proposal and Award Agreement, including submission of complete and accurate progress reports indicating that the project is meeting measurable objectives.

### **Annual Retreat**

Prize winners, academic and industry leaders, Scientific Advisory Board members, and select guests will be invited to attend an annual scientific retreat.

### **Reporting Requirements**

All projects are required to provide an annual written progress report in accordance with applicable IRS requirements. The reports will be reviewed to ensure that the purposes of the grants are being fulfilled. A template and reminder will be sent in advance of the deadline. The procedures outlined above are in accordance with the procedure for making grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations approved by the IRS for The Pershing Square Foundation.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Any questions concerning this RFP should be addressed to:

Christy Hudson ([chudson@persq.org](mailto:chudson@persq.org))

*Program Director, The Pershing Square Foundation*

Emily Hotaling ([ehotaling@persq.org](mailto:ehotaling@persq.org))

*Program Associate, The Pershing Square Foundation*

About The Pershing Square Foundation:

<https://pershingsquarefoundation.org/>

<https://MINDPrize.org>

[info@MINDPrize.org](mailto:info@MINDPrize.org)