

YALE UNIVERSITY · SCHOLAR AWARD COMPETITION  
**THE DANA FOUNDATION**  
**2012 Program in Brain and Immuno-imaging:**  
**Using Brain and Immune Imaging Innovations to Improve Human Health**

---

**DEADLINES:**

January 24, 2012 – internal deadline  
February 28, 2012 – sponsor deadline for preliminary proposals

**SPONSOR'S WEBSITE:**

Current Cycle RFP: <http://dana.org/grants/imaging/default.aspx>  
Descriptions of Previously Funded Projects: <http://dana.org/grants/>

**FUNDING:**

Awards provide up to \$200,000 over a period of 3 years.

**NOMINATION LIMITATION:**

Yale University may nominate one candidate.

**PURPOSE:**

Funds support pilot-testing of promising but high-risk innovative ideas that have **direct** clinical application and that, when successful, are competitive for larger-scale support from other funders. This program is oriented to the human. Proposals should focus on imaging in patients or patient tissues, and healthy volunteers. Animal model studies of brain conditions or injuries will be considered only if they relate directly to the human, but cannot yet be safely and effectively undertaken in humans and are anticipated to be translated into the human following the three-year grant period.

Previously funded studies under this program have focused primarily on 1) understanding normal brain functioning, how it is altered by disease or injury, and how it recovers or repairs, 2) assessing and improving diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, and 3) refining and advancing imaging technologies to address specific clinical questions. In addition to these three general areas of continued interest, it is becoming increasingly apparent that neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression start long before they are clinically evident. The Foundation, therefore, encourages studies that seek to understand developmental processes of disease, surrogate measures of early disease existence, and measures of disease progression. Also, for chronic traumatic encephalopathy and Alzheimer's disease, the role of tau is becoming of increasing interest and the Foundation is receptive to considering studies on how to image tau.

**Physiological and Structural Imaging:** Proposals involve anatomical imaging of white or gray matter and measures of physiological functioning. The proposed studies should focus on patient-oriented clinical research.

**Cellular / Molecular Imaging:** Support is for research on biochemical actions of specific brain cells, or their interactions with immune cells with direct clinical relevance to human health and disease. These studies may involve human tissues or animal models. Applications can involve the study of cells within neural circuits, using a combination of imaging and single cell electrical recording, if the techniques have already been developed.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Independent researchers early in their career -- assistant professor through the first few years as an associate professor may apply. Applications that are an extension of work by a senior mentor, particularly if from the same institution, are discouraged.
- Ideas for which preliminary data or initial evidence of feasibility / clinical applicability is not available will not be funded.
- Investigators cannot have been awarded more than 1 independent research grant (R01 or equivalent).

**PAST YALE RECIPIENTS:**

2010 Arie Kaffman 2008 Erik Shapiro, Michelle Hampson, Thomas Biederer 2007 Michael Levene 2005 Gero Miesenböck, Graeme Mason  
2004 David Zenisek 2003 Julie Staley 2001 Neill Epperson 2000 Ralph Hoffman 1999 Hal Blumenfeld, Gerard Sanacora

**INTERNAL COMPETITION PROCEDURES:**

Use the instructions provided on The Dana Foundation website, <http://dana.org/grants/detail.aspx?id=1264> and submit the items listed for pages 2-4 and appendices A, B, and C, plus the Yale internal competition face page, [http://www.yale.edu/grants/funding\\_info/pdf/FACE-PAGE.pdf](http://www.yale.edu/grants/funding_info/pdf/FACE-PAGE.pdf). Email internal applications to: [melanie.smith@yale.edu](mailto:melanie.smith@yale.edu) with cc: [grantsmd@email.med.yale.edu](mailto:grantsmd@email.med.yale.edu).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

[melanie.smith@yale.edu](mailto:melanie.smith@yale.edu) ▾ Funding Resource Center ▾ Office of Research Administration, Strategic Research Initiatives ▾ Yale University ▾ 785-4978