



Scientific Advisory Committee

Fact Sheet: The Brain Science Foundation's Tested and Proven Funding Model

The Brain Science Foundation provides seed funding for innovative, cutting-edge brain tumor research projects not yet qualified to receive more traditional forms of funding. The Foundation's unique and proven funding model relies heavily upon the expertise of our Scientific and Medical Advisory Committee (SAC), which exists to provide comprehensive review of research projects submitted for funding.

The committee's main functions include:

- Solicit research proposals from a range of neuroscience endeavors at institutions including Brigham & Women's Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Children's Hospital-Boston, and Harvard Medical School.
- Determine the scientific merits of grant submissions.
- Make recommendations to the BSF Trustees regarding the relative worthiness, feasibility and appropriate funding levels of the grants and endeavor to award grants in conformity with the missions of the BSF and the Institute for the Neurosciences.

Project Selection Process:

The SAC meets annually to review and discuss submissions for funding. Projects meeting the highest standards of quality and merit are recommended to the Brain Science Foundation Board of Trustees. Following the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee, the Board of Trustees convenes in April for a three hour "special session" to evaluate the recommended project proposals. The number of such projects broadly reflects the funding available for each yearly cycle. The Board evaluation includes a short presentation from each project's principal investigator that allows the Trustees the opportunity to seek clarity from the Scientific Advisors and/or the investigator. Trustees make final funding decisions for the following fiscal year within two months of the April special session.

Projects typically receive a grant for a period of two years at \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. Renewal of ongoing work will be considered for up to one additional year (beyond the initial grant) based on accomplishments during the period of the initial grant. Preference will be given to new grants over renewals.

SAC Members

Committee Chair >> Allan Ropper, MD, Neurology, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Steven Haley, Brain Science Foundation

Peter Black, MD, PhD, President, World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies

Charles Stiles, PhD, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Liliana Goumnerova, MD, Neurosurgery, Children's Hospital-Boston

Srinivasan Mukundan, MD, PhD, Neuroradiology, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Patrick Wen, MD, Dana Farber / Brigham and Women's Cancer, Neuro-Oncology

David Silbersweig, MD, Institute for the Neurosciences, Brigham & Women's Hospital

Scientific Advisory Committee Composition

Brain Science Foundation Trustees propose potential SAC members for consideration. SAC Members serve a term of two years. At the conclusion of the term, and if the committee member is an active member and performs according to the objectives of the Scientific Advisory Committee Charter, the member can be voted to serve a subsequent two-year term.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will be composed of members (not to exceed ten) from:

- Departments of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Psychiatry at Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- Affiliated entities: Children's Hospital Boston and Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Harvard Medical School
- An outside independent advisor as endorsed by the committee chairman
- One non-medical professional Trustee from the Brain Science Foundation

Projects are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Innovation in neuroscience as it relates to brain tumors;
- Future promise of the investigator in career development;
- Likelihood of securing additional funding (e.g. National Institute of Health) based on BSF supported work;
- Likelihood of obtaining results and completing the project within grant funding timeframe;
- Innovation that is specific to the advancement of understanding brain tumor behavior, occurrence, and treatment that improves patient experiences, care, and outcome;
- Consistency with BSF and Institute mission and strategic goals.



Dr. Allan Ropper, SAC Chair

Budget Reallocation Process:

The Brain Science Foundation maintains strict expectations regarding project budget reallocation requests and approvals. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to be fiscally responsible for their budget allocations, including:

- No changes or reallocations of approved project budgets can be made without the express approval of the Brain Science Foundation. Investigators must submit requests to the Foundation's Accounting Manager from the Department of Neurosurgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital.
- Request for reallocation must be submitted to the BSF in writing. Approval must be secured before funds can be reallocated.
- In the event of a postponement of a project or a substantial change to the timing, a proposal will be sent to all SAC members, giving members 72 hours to question, discuss and render their vote. The poll results will then be sent to the BSF President, and if and when appropriate, to the Board of Trustees, for a decision.
- No changes or reallocations to project grant budgets will be approved anytime during the last 90 days (fourth quarter; July - September) of the project funding cycle. For example, for two year project, the reallocation deadline will be June 30th of the second year of funding.

Procedural

In April, the SAC evaluates submissions, selecting new projects recommended for funding. Recommended applicants present to the board within two months, with final awards made before the end of August. A quorum of not less than a majority of the members is required to evaluate grant proposals. The chairman may invite special consultants from the community to provide their opinion to evaluate proposals requiring unusual expertise.

Every June—coinciding with the Foundation's board meeting—the SAC meets to review mid-project cycle updates. This process ensures projects stay on track to meet their documented goals.

SAC Members are invited and encouraged to submit a project application for funding through the submission process. Their projects will follow the regular guidelines and review process. Applicants will be expected to excuse themselves and abstain from the discussion, evaluation, and voting process of their project during the formal review process.

The Brain Science Foundation operates strategically with speed, efficiency, and expertise to hasten advances in the neurosciences. This proven funding model, including the dedicated volunteers within the Scientific Advisory Committee, enables the Foundation to continue to fund innovative initiatives and advance promising careers in brain tumor research.

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