



Funding the Best & Brightest

The Brain Science Foundation's Proven Model for Funding and Driving Leading Edge Research

The Brain Science Foundation's (BSF) objective is simple: provide funding for innovative, cutting-edge brain tumor research. With a focus on primary brain tumors, the BSF funds seed projects not ordinarily qualified for more traditional means of funding.

This funding philosophy allows researchers and clinicians to focus on the most promising scientific leads, enabling them to gather enough pilot data to attract additional funding beyond initial grants. BSF invests in new projects to promote promising research, accelerate clinical application, and expedite discoveries in the neurosciences.

Our grant program includes basic, clinical, and epidemiological research. BSF-supported research promises new diagnostic methods, treatments, and opportunities to improve the quality of patient care by:

- Promoting the development of new knowledge about the brain and primary brain tumors, especially meningiomas;
- Accelerating the pace of translation from research to practice;
- Enhancing quality of patient care from early detection through post-surgical treatment.



Overcoming Challenges, Mitigating Risk

Many funding institutions require a great deal of evidence to support funding a project. Otherwise, the risks are too great. As a result, projects with high potential can take several years to get off the ground.

We mitigate the risk of funding new, innovative research by using our close partnerships with some of the world's leading institutions in cancer research and treatment. Our engaged Scientific Advisory Committee is composed of the top experts in the neurosciences. Hailing from



Projects are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Originality
- Future promise of investigator
- Likelihood completion
- Relevance to BSF mission

Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Children's Hospital Boston. Members of the committee meet twice per year to discuss foundation priorities and evaluate research proposals. Many committee members are past recipients of BSF funding themselves.

The committee also provides its expertise in the semiannual monitoring of projects. Projects are typically funded for two years at \$50,000 to \$100,000 per year. Renewal of ongoing work is considered for up to one additional year (the initial grant plus one subsequent year) based on accomplishments during the period of the initial grant. Preference is given to new grants over renewals.

Additionally supporting members who are committed to the Foundation's mission for help in supporting several projects that need additional funding. Supporting members may choose to target their contributions toward a specific initiative and gain exclusive access to project progress reports and fund balances.

How it works

1. A call for proposals is released, usually in February.
2. Principal investigators seeking funding submit proposals via the BSF website.
3. The Scientific Advisory Committee meets and discusses the merits of each project and principal investigator, ranking them accordingly.
4. BSF staff and board members reach out to potential partners—individuals and foundations—to gauge interest in projects. Partners are invited to support individual projects or add to the overall pool of funds available for the grant year.
5. Finalists are invited to a BSF Board of Trustees meeting, open to potential partners, to present their projects.
6. The BSF board meets again to approve the budget for the next fiscal year, formally approving funding for a set number of projects.
7. Principal Investigators are notified of their award status, within two months of submission.

For more information about the Brain Science Foundation or to learn about investing in brain research, please contact:

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