

## [Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain: Research Awards](#)

Simons Foundation

**Coordinator:** Tiffany Worboy, Office of Corporate & Foundation Relations ([tworboy@emory.edu](mailto:tworboy@emory.edu))  
**Website:** <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/scpab-research-awards/>  
**Submission Limitations:** None  
**Foundation Deadline:** **January 31, 2022 (no later than 5:00 PM EST)**

*Please contact your RAS unit **\*and\*** Tiffany Worboy to inform them of your intent to submit*

**The Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain** invites investigators to submit applications for targeted collaborative awards.

### **Scope**

The focus of this call for applications is potentially conserved mechanisms of resilience and reserve in cognitive aging, in the absence of disease. As the age of the population increases, the need to understand the phenomenon and mechanisms of cognitive decline also increases. SCPAB projects specifically address changes in normal aging, to distinguish from well-funded efforts to study Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases, and to distinguish from work focusing on developmental trajectories. For more information on the SCPAB program, please visit: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/collaborations/plasticity-and-the-aging-brain/>

Grants awarded through this Research Award will advance our understanding of cognition in the aging brain. The scope of this RFA is very specific and applications that do not fall within this scope will not be considered for funding. **The RFA seeks to fund studies on mechanisms of resilience and reserve in normal cognitive aging in the absence of disease. We seek to fund research on human and model organisms, and areas of particular interest in resilience and reserve in cognitive aging include the vasculature, neuronal plasticity, neural-immune interactions, and sleep.**

Supported work will contribute to large databases of information that can be shared and widely used, as well as identify possible mechanisms of intervention. We encourage applicants to develop collaborative proposals.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and have a faculty position or equivalent at a college, university, medical school, or other research facility. Applications may be submitted from domestic and foreign nonprofit organizations; public and private institutions, such as colleges, universities, hospitals, laboratories, and units of state and local government; and eligible agencies of the federal government. There are no citizenship or country requirements. Applications involving multiple or all new investigators not already funded by SCPAB are strongly encouraged. **We encourage proposals for collaborative projects involving 2-3 labs. An investigator can be part of more than one collaborative project. Proposals from applicants underrepresented in the field are encouraged.**

### **About the Awards**

Research awards will provide funding for **up to three (3) years**. The funding provided is flexible and based on the type of support requested in the proposal. We encourage proposals for collaborative projects involving 2-3 labs.

**Grants will be for no more than \$250,000 USD per year per PI**, including indirect costs (limited to 20% of modified total direct costs), for a period of up to three years, subject to annual reviews and continuation of research in areas relevant to the purpose of this program.

Appropriate expenses include salary support for the investigator and postdoctoral and graduate research assistants, travel, equipment, supplies and other research expenses. Allowable indirect costs to the primary institution for subcontracts are not included in the \$250,000 budget threshold (see grant policies).

Awards will begin September 1, 2022. Awards will be governed by the Simons Foundation policies, which can be found at <http://www.simonsfoundation.org/funding/policies-and-forms/>.

### **Submission of LOIs**

The LOI should be developed by the collaborative group and submitted by the Spokesperson PI of the collaborative group. **Applicants must submit their LOI by January 31, 2022, 5:00 PM Eastern Time.** It must be completed electronically and submitted using forms provided at <https://proposalcentral.com/>. Please log in as an applicant, go to the grant opportunities tab, scroll to Simons Foundation, and click apply now for the “Life Sciences-Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain” program. For assistance, please call 800-875-2562 or email [pcsupport@altum.com](mailto:pcsupport@altum.com).

The following templates must be downloaded and submitted to proposalCENTRAL:

- Research narrative, which must include:
  - Define the scientific goals of the research; 3 pages including figures, references can be on additional pages.
  - Statements of the roles and responsibilities of each PI (0.5 pages per PI). This must include a designation of a spokesperson PI. LOI proposals must have a spokesperson PI who is responsible for submitting the LOI on behalf of all team members.
  - A brief project leadership plan, including data-sharing plans among investigators, publication and intellectual property policies, and procedures for resolving conflict.
- NIH Biosketches of all PIs and collaborators.
- Proposed budget (both annual and 3-year total amounts) and brief budget justification (2-3 sentences per PI) for each PI and institution.

### **Review Process**

The SCPAB review committee will review all LOIs and make recommendations to the Simons Foundation for funding. **Successful LOIs will be notified of their invitation to submit full proposals on or around March 28, 2022, with a due date of May 9, 2022.** This will include a collaborative research narrative, data sharing plan, other support, and detailed individual budgets. Each investigator will be asked to submit their own full proposal with institution sign off to allow awards to be given directly to individual PIs for their contributions to the collaborative project(s). Awards will be given directly to each individual PI’s institution for his or her part of the collaborative project outlined in the LOI. Award letters will be sent in June 2022.