The James S. McDonnel Foundation – 2021 Opportunity Award
Unrestricted funding opportunity

Coordinator:	Connor Cook, Associate Director, Foundation Relations (connor.cook@emory.edu)
Website:	https://www.jsmf.org/apply/opportunity/
Submission Limitations:	None
Application Deadline:	<mark>April 9th, 2021 at 15:59 PM (CDT)</mark>

<u>*Please contact your RAS unit *and* Connor Cook to inform them of your intent to submit*</u>

James S. McDonnell Foundation - Mission Supporting research and scholarship. The Foundation was established in 1950 to "improve the quality of life," and does so by contributing to the generation of new knowledge through its support of research and scholarship.

JSMF is internationally known for supporting research on cognition and behavior, and currently does so through its Understanding Human Cognition (UHC) program. In 2020, JSMF announced priorities for the foundation's support for the fields of cognitive science, cognitive psychology and developmental science with the intent of launching a funding initiative that would be forward looking and responsive to contemporary questions, while building on JSMF's history. The Opportunity Awards were initiated because the foundation believes the time is right to advance the understanding of human cognition and behavior via a developmental science approach.

Much of the current understanding of behavior is derived from experimental laboratory work that makes substantive conceptual and methodological assumptions during task selection and data acquisition. Cognitive psychology and cognitive neuroscience experiments are typically pursued in artificial environments with subjects drawn from narrowly defined populations performing tasks assumed to be valid proxies for real cognition and behavior. As a result, these experiments may not reflect the naturally occurring, free-flowing behaviors humans engage in their everyday lives. It is reasonable to ask how much has been missed or ignored because researchers' experimental designs are based on pre-selected and specific aspects of cognition and behavior deemed to be of interest prior to the study. What more might be learned by challenging preconceived notions and common assumptions about cognition and behavior by advancing new theories and by using methods where it is possible to observe what behavior looks like in every day, real-world, dynamic contexts? With the Opportunity Awards, JSMF is seeking to fund projects leading to new conceptual and empirical studies of cognition and behavior that

- recognize the dynamic nature of cognition and behavior,
- are situated in real world contexts,
- cross levels of analysis,
- unite traditionally separate domains of inquiry (e.g. vision and speech),
- embrace complexity, and
- consider how behavior is influenced by interactions among individuals.

Award Details: The JSMF Opportunity Awards provide up to $250,000 in seed funds expendable over a flexible time period (between 2 and 4 years) as needed by researchers to design and carry out new studies motivated by questioning, revisiting, or re-examining the current state of academic knowledge of human cognition and behavior using a dynamic, context-sensitive lens. New theories, tools, and techniques have opened myriad opportunities for rigorously studying cognition and behavior as individuals engage in ongoing real-world activities in everyday life contexts in ways not previously possible. This call for proposals is focused on applications from researchers who are not now using the approaches described in this call for proposals, but who want to adopt this approach as an experimentally coherent way of conceptualizing, designing, and pursuing an understanding of human cognition and behavior.

Opportunity awards will not provide additional support for already established research programs. Such proposals will be triaged out early in the review process.

How to Apply: The entire process must be completed online at https://jsmf.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp

Application Guidelines:
Applications must be submitted electronically via the JSMF website and are due no later than April 9, 2021 15:59 CDT.

Guidelines for Proposals for UHC Opportunity Awards
1. A brief and accessible summary of the proposed project (maximum 500 words) suitable for posting on the JSMF website.

2. Proposal narrative (3000 words maximum excluding references and brief figure legends; proposals using extended figure legends as an attempt to circumvent the word count will be declined prior to review).
The proposal narrative should clearly characterize the question motivating the proposal. The narrative should describe the current state of knowledge and how conceptual or methodological assumptions or misconceptions have contributed to inadequate explanation of human behavior and how humans solve the challenges posed by everyday life, *and what it is that the proposed research would do differently to advance knowledge and understanding.*
Proposal narratives must describe the methodologies to be used, including data acquisition and analysis, in enough detail for the Opportunity Awards advisory panel to evaluate the likelihood that the study designs will provide interpretable and meaningful results. Due to word constraints, descriptive clarity about the design and methodological choices should take priority over the provision of ever finer-grained description of experimental materials.
3. A budget narrative (500 word maximum) describing why JSMF funds are required to carry out the proposed project and how the requested funds will be utilized in the context of other ongoing and funded work the applicant is pursuing. A percentage of funds (up to 10%) must be reserved for the preparation of post-grant publications, and for other aspects of dissemination such as data, tool or code sharing.

4. A complete list of the applicant(s) **current** and **pending** support and any studies that may be related to this work.

5. The biosketch of the primary applicant and a brief (less than 100 words) paragraph detailing the contribution of any other researcher or trainee supported by the award. Optional: Consider using Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENcv) for the submitted biosketch.

6. Statement concerning data management and data sharing.
JSMF is committed to open science and best practices for transparency and reproducibility. Validation and progress in research is dependent on access to scientific data. Sharing scientific data helps validate research results, enables researchers to combine data types to strengthen analyses, facilitates reuse of hard to generate data or data from limited sources, and accelerates ideas for future research inquiries. Central to sharing scientific data is the recognized need to make data as available as possible while ensuring that the privacy and autonomy of research participants are respected, and that confidential/proprietary data are appropriately protected.
JSMF requests all applicants to use video to document the procedure for data collection from subjects (including instructions to participants, putting equipment on participants, displays viewed by participants, etc.). A video record of at least one participant (or model) encompassing from the start to end of data collection should be made openly available on Databrary. For applicants who use video as a primary source of data, describe the plans to request participant permission for sharing (see, for example, the Databrary template or document what an IRB or equivalent allows) and describe plans for depositing shareable videos in an appropriate repository such as Databrary. It is recommended that other data and materials should be shared through an appropriate data repository.

For more information about these opportunities, please visit www.jsmf.org