

2022 McKnight Scholars Awards

The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience

Coordinator: Tiffany Worboy (tworboy@emory.edu)
Submission Limitations: Unlimited (*no internal selection process needed*)
Foundation Deadline: January 10, 2022
Website: <https://www.mcknight.org/programs/the-mcknight-endowment-fund-for-neuroscience/scholar-awards/how-to-apply/>

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

Opportunity Details

The McKnight Scholar Award program gives promising young investigators in the early stages of an independent research career the opportunity to develop their work on critical problems in brain science. The intent of the program is to support the commitment by young scientists to a research career that will have an important influence on the study of the brain.

Applicants for the McKnight Scholar Awards must demonstrate their ability to solve significant problems in neuroscience, which may include the translation of basic research to clinical practice

Eligibility

Awards are given to exceptional young scientists who hold the M.D. and/or Ph.D. degree and who are in the early stages of establishing an independent laboratory and research career. Traditionally, successful candidates have held faculty positions for at least one year.

Applicants for the McKnight Scholar Award:

- Must hold a full-time appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor, and must have served at that rank for less than four years at the application deadline. (Scientists holding other titles such as Research Assistant Professor, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor Research Track, Visiting Professor or Instructor are not eligible, and time spent in service in those ranks does not count against the four years of service for determining eligibility.)
- Must have a record of meritorious research and evidence of a commitment to a career in neuroscience.

Applicants may not:

- Apply in more than two rounds of competition.
- Have already been granted tenure.
- Hold another award from the McKnight Endowment Fund.

Funding

Up to six McKnight Scholars will be selected to receive three years of support, for a total of **\$225,000**. Allowable budget items include salaries and fringe benefits, equipment, supplies, animal costs, costs for technical services, etc – but no indirect costs.

Application Process

- 1) The application process is completely online and applicants will need to create an account.
- 2) Components include a description of the proposed research project, supporting information from your Chair, a budget, a list of recent publications, four reference letters, and a NIH biosketch.
- 3) The McKnight Scholar Awards Review committee will evaluate the applications and select a limited number to be interviewed. Applicants will be notified in late March and interviews scheduled for April 2022.
- 4) The committee recommends candidates to the Board of Directors of the Endowment Fund for final decision. Awards will be announced in late May 2022.

THE MCKNIGHT ENDOWMENT FUND FOR NEUROSCIENCE

Guidelines for the 2022 McKnight Scholar Awards

The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience supports innovative research designed to bring science closer to the day when diseases of the brain and behavior can be accurately diagnosed, prevented, and treated.

The Endowment Fund, an independent charitable organization established by The McKnight Foundation, carries out one of the intentions of William L. McKnight (1887-1979), who created the Foundation. His personal interest in memory and its diseases led him to set aside part of his legacy to bring hope to those suffering from brain injury or disease and cognitive impairment. In 1986, after 10 years of supporting investigators at different levels of neuroscience research, the Foundation made a permanent commitment to supporting fundamental research in neuroscience by establishing The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience.

The McKnight Scholar Award program gives promising young investigators in the early stages of an independent research career the opportunity to develop their work on critical problems in brain science. The intent of the program is to support the commitment by young scientists to a research career that will have an important influence on the study of the brain. Applicants for the McKnight Scholar Awards must demonstrate their ability to solve significant problems in neuroscience, which may include the translation of basic research to clinical practice.

In this competition, up to six McKnight Scholars will be selected to receive three years of support, beginning July 1, 2022.

Applicants for the McKnight Scholar Award must be independent investigators at not-for-profit research institutions in the United States, and must hold a Full-time appointment at the rank of Assistant Professor, and must have served at that rank for less than four years at the application deadline. Scientists holding other titles such as Research Assistant Professor, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Assistant Professor Research Track, Visiting Professor or Instructor are not eligible, and time spent in service in those ranks does not count against the four years of service for determining eligibility. If the host institution does not use professorial titles, a letter from a senior institutional official (e.g. Dean or Director of Research) must confirm that the applicant has his/her own dedicated institutional resources, laboratory space, and/or facilities. We are interested in geographic, gender, and racial diversity, and we encourage women and communities of color to apply. Additionally, applicants must have:

- A record of meritorious research
- Evidence of a commitment to a career in neuroscience
- Documentation that the sponsoring institution has government approval for the applicant to work in the U.S.

Applicants may not:

- Apply in more than two rounds of competition
- Have already been granted tenure
- Hold another award from the McKnight Endowment Fund

Stipend and expense allowance. Scholars will receive \$75,000 annually in 2022, 2023, and 2024, subject to an annual review of research progress. The sponsoring institution is responsible for fiscal management. The award does not provide institutional overhead or indirect costs.

Applications are complete only when they include all of the following components.

1. Completed face sheet.
2. Biographical sketch in NIH format.
3. Description of the proposed research project. Applicants should propose experiments based on their best work. The proposal should be introduced with an abstract of 200 words or less, followed by a detailed statement of plans for the three-year research program. The proposed research does not need to present a totally new line of research, but it should not be identical to projects supported by other funders. The proposal (abstract, narrative and figures, but not bibliography) should not exceed six numbered single-spaced pages, in 12-point font with one-inch margins.
4. Proposed budget. The applicant should indicate how he or she proposes to use the McKnight Scholar Award funds (\$225,000 paid in equal installments of \$75,000 in 2022, 2023, and 2024). Allowable budget items include salaries and fringe benefits, tuition, equipment, supplies, animal costs, costs for technical services, etc. The application should include itemized budgets for each year, in a tabulated column/dollar amount format; narrative budgets are not acceptable. **Funds cannot be used for overhead or indirect costs.**
5. List of Active and Pending Funding (annual direct costs to lab)
6. Statement from responsible financial officer at sponsoring institution (1 page, form attached).
7. Supporting information from applicant's chairperson at sponsoring institution (2 pages, form attached).
8. Links to five recent publications that are publicly accessible PDFs of your papers; include all authors on the publication.
9. Four references from former teachers, supervisors, or senior colleagues familiar with the applicant's work. **Letters of reference must be sent separately and in confidence by the four individuals listed as references on the face sheet of the application.**

The application process is completely online. Please [click here](#) to access the online portal. You will be required to set up a user name and password (**please retain your username and password as you will need it throughout the process**); then fill out the information requested and upload your application.

If you do not receive email confirmation of receipt of your application within a week of submission, please contact Eileen Maler at emaler@mcknight.org

Please forward the following instructions to your four references:

The McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience Scholar Awards support young applicants embarking on an independent research career in the neurosciences. We would appreciate your candid comments on the applicant's training and research accomplishments, and on the applicant's potential as an independent investigator in the neurosciences. There is no specific format for the letter. Please email a PDF of your reference letter by Monday, January 10, 2022 (last time zone on earth) to neuro@mcknight.org. In the subject line of the email, please indicate clearly who you are recommending. Please include your name and institution in the letter. Your comments will be seen by the McKnight Scholar Awards Review Committee and will otherwise be held in strict confidence.

Procedures for review of applications and notification of awards. The McKnight Scholar Awards Selection Committee will review the applications and select a limited number of applicants to be interviewed. Applicants selected will be notified by **late March, 2022**. The interviews are scheduled for **Friday, April 29** via zoom. The committee will make its final selection from those interviewed, subject to approval by the Board of Directors of the Endowment Fund, and awards will be announced by late May 2022.

1. Face Sheet

THE MCKNIGHT ENDOWMENT FUND FOR NEUROSCIENCE
APPLICATION FOR THE MCKNIGHT SCHOLAR AWARDS
Please print or type and fill in all fields; can go beyond form pages

Name _____
(last) (highest degree[s]) (first) (middle initial)

Title of Project _____

Academic Institution/Department _____

Academic Position/Start Date _____

U.S. Mail Address _____

Contact Information _____
(email address) (telephone number)

THIS INFORMATION IS OPTIONAL

Background (check all that apply)

- African-American (Black)
- Native American/Indigenous
- Alaskan Native
- Pacific Islander
- Asian
- White
- Latino/a/x
- Other _____

Gender

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary
- Transgender
- Other _____

INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING LETTERS OF REFERENCE

	Name	Title	Email Address
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

Signature of Applicant: _____
Date: _____

2. Insert Biographical sketch in NIH format
3. Insert Proposal
4. Insert Budget
5. Insert list of active and pending funding (annual direct costs)

6. Statement of Responsible Officer of Sponsoring Institution

Please print or type information clearly

**Applicant's
Name:**

_____ (last) (first) (middle initial)

**Sponsoring
Institution:**

**Name of
Responsible**

Financial Officer:

Email:

Title:

Department:

U.S. Mail

Address:

Signature:

(date)

By signing this statement, the responsible financial officer indicates approval of applicant's proposed use of McKnight Scholar Award support and agreement by the sponsoring institution to administer the award.

7. Supporting information from chairperson at sponsoring institution

Please print or type clearly

**Applicant's
Name:**

_____ (last)

_____ (first)

_____ (middle initial)

**Sponsoring
Institution:**

Department:

**Name of
Chairperson:**

_____ Title _____

Signature:

(date)

PLEASE USE AS MUCH SPACE AS YOU NEED

1. Does the applicant's proposed experimentation involve human and/or animal subjects?
2. If the answer to question 1 is "yes," has the proposed experimentation been submitted to and passed the review of the appropriate institutional committee(s)?
3. What is the title and nature of the applicant's appointment at your institution?
4. When did the applicant's appointment begin?
6. What is the source of the applicant's salary? (If there is more than one source, be specific.)
7. What are the applicant's teaching responsibilities?
8. What sort of startup money and other institutional support has been provided to the applicant?
9. What sort of space and facilities have you provided to the applicant?
10. Is there anything we should know about your institution's commitment to this applicant, or the applicant's research environment?