

LATIN AMERICAN BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE (BrainLat)
Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago, Chile
Seed Grant for Brain Health Leaders
Request for Application (RFA)

Competition objectives: The Latin American Brain Health Institute (BrainLat) aims to support emerging leaders in brain health, aging and dementia by funding small-scale seed projects, activities and/or studies (hereafter referred to as “seed project(s)”) to advance skills, knowledge, activities and general efforts to delay, prevent and/or mitigate the impact of dementia or to promote brain health. The goal of these seed projects is to advance seed projects to develop further initiatives for external funding.

Background: The overarching mission of BrainLat will be to empower a new generation of health leaders to break down disciplinary boundaries and forge innovative approaches for promoting **brain health in their communities and reducing the global impact of dementia**. BrainLat brings together leading national and international institutions in brain science, including the UAI (School of Psychology, Faculty of Engineering and Science, School of Government and School of Business), the Geroscience Center (GERO), the Memory and Neuropsychiatry Clinic of the University of Chile (CMYN). BrainLat aims to be affiliated with the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Supported by this network, the institute will conduct world-class interdisciplinary and translational research with real-world implications, train new researchers, and disseminate evidence to broad audiences.

The Seed projects for Global Brain Health Leaders will prioritize activities that demonstrate potential to lead to larger projects with an emphasis on Latin American communities while demonstrating how the proposed activity adds to the BrainLat emerging trajectory. Priority will be given to projects that propose a seed initiative (e.g., preliminary study, planification of an extended project, focused networking, or impact-based proposal) and utilize an evidence-based approach to identify, change or improve outcomes around age-related cognitive loss and dementia. Seed projects that involve innovative or exploratory approaches that are less well tested are also welcome as long as the rationale for the approach is clear and there is a plan for further funds application. **Only members of BrainLat** (School of Psychology, Faculty of Engineering and Science, School of Government, School of Business), **GBHI** (fellows or faculty), **and the Multi-partner Consortium to Expand Dementia research in Latin America** (ReDLat, including PDs, PIs, or other significant contributors) **can apply**. The proposed project must clearly identify synergies with BrainLat, ReDLat and GBHI goals, as well as provide a concrete plan for further expansion.

Seed projects selected for funding must contribute to the following **long-term impact goals**:

- **Innovation:** Developing fresh and original ideas to a well-characterized problem
- **Networking:** Promoting the interaction between members of BrainLat, ReDLat or GBHI.
- **Perception:** Create social change, reduce stigma, and inspire optimism and dignity for elders.
- **Populations:** Promote equity in prevention strategies and care models for vulnerable aging populations.

- **Practice:** Improve dementia diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients and families.
- **Policy:** Develop and refine brain health policies through evidence-based advocacy and outreach
- **Publication and support:** Generate knowledge and new opportunities to advance the field of brain health and dementia prevention

Seed projects have a limit of \$25,000,000 CLP (1-2 years)

Eligibility: This opportunity is only available for members of BrainLat, GBHI (fellows or faculty), and the ReDLat (PDs, PIs, or Other significant contributors). Letter of Intent (LOI) is required before to apply.

Timeline:

- **November 10:** RFA distributed
- **December 10:** Deadline to submit the Letter of Intent (LOI)
- **December 20:** Notification to submit the proposal
- **February 10:** Deadline to submit full proposal
- **March 15:** Funding notice
- **April 1:** Seed project implementation begins (formal start expected for April-June)

Submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI):

The Letter of Intent (LOI) is a required step in the application process. The LOI must include: **i)** Brief project summary, including methodology (1000 characters), **ii)** Specific aims (1000 characters), **iii)** Innovation/novelty of the proposed project (1000 characters), **iv)** Overall Impact (1000 characters), and **v)** a description of any previous relevant interaction with BrainLat, GBHI or ReDLat members (1000 characters).

The full application consists of the following:

- Seed Description & Plan – summary of the area of work the applicant is pursuing, description of the scope and importance of the problem being addressed, specific goals/aims or seed project objectives, relevance for BrainLat, GBHI or ReDLat goals and its Latin American impact, approach (strategy, methodology), evaluation plan, timeline, plan to expand the work of the seed and/or seek leveraged funding (3 pages).
- Statement of Mission Alignment – written by the applicant to highlight their commitment to institute mission and the long-term impact goals stated above. This statement should include how the proposed work will add to the applicant’s career trajectory, including next steps once the activity is successfully accomplished (1 page).
- Available Resources & Budget Justification – the projected budget and justification must be comprehensive and match the Seed Project Plan in scope and breadth (1 to 2 pages).
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) – a CV/biosketch for the applicant must be included, limited to four pages.

Applications will be evaluated with special attention to:

- Potential role of the proposal as a seed initiative for a larger proposal.
- Impact for the BrainLat, GBHI or ReDLat community.
- Significance of the question being studied.
- Applicant information – including the training of the applicant insofar as it enables them to perform the work proposed, qualifications of the collaborators and the expertise they bring to the project.
- Quality of the work plan, including novelty and innovation of the proposed project (projects that involve human subjects will be evaluated on planned recruitment efforts).
- Quality and adequacy of available resources and budget.
- Impact-risk of the proposal and how it will add to the field's overall knowledge and advancement.

Allowable costs include (but are not limited to):

- Salary for applicant, technical assistance, and other staff (including administrative support related directly to the funded seed project).
- Travel (with justification in the narrative), not to exceed 40% of the total proposed budget
- Computer equipment, hardware, or software (if used strictly for seed project implementation and with justification in the narrative), not to exceed 20% of the total proposed budget; if proposed equipment expense will exceed this limit, awardee must have prior approval in writing.
- Purchase and care of laboratory animals and/or small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies.

Direct Costs not allowed under this grant include:

- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs
- Facilities fee
- Laboratory or supply costs not directly relevant to proposed seed project

Application: Questions and all application materials should be e-mailed to Dr. Agustín Ibáñez and Dr. Claudia Duran-Aniotz at brainlat@uai.cl