

# Seed Grant Program for MR Studies

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The Zuckerman Institute's *Seed Grant Program for MR Studies* funds scientifically excellent magnetic resonance (MR) studies to help the Columbia community ramp up its MR research and MR grant acquisition. Our Seed Grants are intended to support the acquisition of preliminary data to help the Columbia community acquire external funding for MR research. The ultimate aim is to help the community expand the utilization of MR techniques, including functional (fMRI), structural (e.g. diffusion), and metabolic (e.g. spectroscopy) imaging. The program can fund basic and applied, cognitive, clinical, and methodological studies that align with the scientific mission of the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute.

Each application will be considered on the basis of merit and need, and will be accepted subject to availability of resources (including scan time and staff). Criteria considered in deciding about an application include:

- **Merit:** Is the project of high scientific quality and importance?
- **Need:** Does the PI currently have insufficient funding for conducting the study? Will their existing funding not cover the project?
- **Grant plan:** Is the PI committed to a concrete plan for an external grant proposal that the seed study contributes to (e.g. pilot data) and that budgets for scanning at the Zuckerman Institute? We usually expect the grant application to be submitted within 12 months of the Seed Grant application.
- **Track record:** Is the applicant a PI eligible to apply for an NIH R01? (A tenure-track position is not a requirement, but a postdoc position is not sufficient.) In case the PI previously received a *Seed Grant for MR*: Has the external grant proposal been drafted? Has it been submitted?

## Details on Zuckerman Institute *Seed Grant for MR*

- (1) The program will fund seed studies that (a) are scientifically excellent, (b) cannot be funded by external grants the PI already holds, and (c) form the basis of a new grant application that budgets for MR measurements to be performed at the Zuckerman Institute.
- (2) The program can support one study for each grant proposal a PI commits to developing and submitting.
- (3) The PI must make use of their seed hours within 1 year of the notification of award. Leftover hours after 1 year will be lost.
- (4) The program funds only the hourly rate of scanning at the Zuckerman Institute's MR facilities. *All other costs associated with the study, including subject payment and the MR reads for incidental findings required for human scans, have to be funded independently.*
- (5) There is no guarantee that any given application will be funded as acceptance depends not only on the quality of the proposal, but also on the availability of resources (including scan time and staff).
- (6) Publications using data acquired in part or entirely on a *Seed Grant for MR* must be reported to the Zuckerman Imaging Center and must acknowledge the Seed Grant. Please include a statement such as the following in the Acknowledgements of the publication: "This study was funded [in part] by the *Seed Grant Program for MR Studies* of the Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute at Columbia University."
- (7) Seed grants can be rescinded for noncompliance with MR Core policies (unsafe practices, not booking time in iLab, frequent lateness or overrun, inconveniencing other users, damaging or reconfiguring equipment).
- (8) Seed time is unpaid, and thus lower priority than paid time. In a given week, from M-F 9-5, total unpaid time is limited to 8 hours. Unpaid time can only be booked M-F 9-5 if there will still be 14 hours available M-F 9-5 in that week, after the seed time is booked. Evenings and weekends are unaffected by these restrictions. You are encouraged to make use of evenings and weekends.

Researchers who intend to be considered for a *Seed Grant for MR* from the Zuckerman Institute are requested to fill in the application form (see below) and submit it by email to Nikolaus Kriegeskorte ([n.kriegeskorte@columbia.edu](mailto:n.kriegeskorte@columbia.edu)), Director of Cognitive Imaging, Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute

# Zuckerman Institute Seed Grant for MR

## *Application form*

<b>Seed study name</b>	
<b>PI name, department</b>	
<b>Study description</b>	<b>Provide a brief description of your seed study.</b>
<b>Justification for ZI Seed Grant for MR</b>	<b>Why is your seed study ground-breaking?</b>  <b>List your current funding sources:</b>  <b>Why can't your current funding support the seed study?</b>
	<b>Information on the grant proposal this seed study will contribute to</b>  Title of grant proposal: _____  Type of grant (e.g. NIH R01): _____  How many hours of MR at the Zuckerman Institute will be budgeted for in the proposal? _____  Which upcoming deadline will the grant proposal be submitted by?  MM/DD/YYYY

<b>Previous Seed Grant funding for PI</b>	<p>Has the PI previously received a ZI Seed Grant for MR?</p> <p>If so, what was the project name and has the corresponding grant proposal been submitted?</p>
<b>Hourly rate requested</b>	<p>\$0 (no funding available)    [   ]</p> <p>\$400 (reduced rate)        [   ]</p>

<b>Researchers involved</b>	List all researchers involved in scanning, their roles, and MR training level.
<b>Scanner</b>	Which MR scanner do you intend to use?
<b>MR technologist support</b>	Do you require support by an MR technologist for this study?
<b>Peripheral equipment</b>	State coils, stimulus presentation and response devices, physiological monitoring, or anesthesia, ventilator and restraint requirements for animals.
<b>Internal/external</b>	<p>internal user (Zuckerman affiliate)</p> <p>external user (other Columbia University employee)</p>
<b>Population</b>	Does this seed study involve a patient population?
<b>Subjects and hours</b>	<p>How many subjects would be scanned on the ZI Seed Grant?</p> <p>How many MR hours in total are to be funded by the ZI Seed Grant?</p>
<b>Justification of requested scan time</b>	Provide a brief justification of the amount of time requested.
<b>Time constraints</b>	<p>When do you require a decision on ZI Seed Grant approval?</p> <p>When do you plan to start scanning?</p> <p>Will you require specific times on the scan calendar (e.g., only weekends, only mornings)?</p>

<b>Challenges anticipated</b>	Describe difficulties (if any) you anticipate with the MR component of your study.
<b>Requesting prioritized scan scheduling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If yes, provide justification (prioritized scheduling requires a strong justification):
<b>Enclosed documentation</b> (check for provided documents)	<input type="checkbox"/> proof of IRB or IACUC approval <input type="checkbox"/> CV for PI <input type="checkbox"/> draft of grant proposal (optional)
<b>Date of submission</b>	
<b>PI signature</b>	