REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Research Innovation Fund: High-Risk/High Yield Research

The UCSF | UC Berkeley Schwab Dyslexia and Cognitive Diversity Center seeks innovative, cross-campus, cross-disciplinary grant proposals related to dyslexia, co-occurring neurodevelopmental disorders, and comorbid psychopathology. The goal of the Schwab Center is to leverage the remarkable clinical, scientific and educational resources of UCSF and UC Berkeley to advance the understanding, treatment, and clinical assessment and care of individuals with reading disorders and to help build a workforce that can better address reading and learning challenges.

The overall aim of this Request for Applications is to spur research that is innovative, cross-disciplinary, cross-campus to the greatest extent possible, and likely to yield future successful applications for extramural funding. Applications may address basic, clinical, learning science or related policy, implementation, advocacy, and/or dissemination projects. Proposals are welcome that address these issues across the lifespan.

The types of proposals we anticipate may address any of the exemplar topics below. Note that this list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive or restrictive, of the kinds of proposals we anticipate.

- Early development and/or neurodevelopment of phonology and phonological awareness.
- Screening methods for young children at risk for learning differences and focal neurological disorders
- Improving strategies for diagnosing dyslexia
- Optimal school environments for promoting success in reading
- Promoting evidence-based interventions for learning disorders
- Stigma, learning differences, and learning disorders
- Validated subtypes of learning disorders
- Cultural factors related to learning differences and disorders
- Accommodations in secondary/post-secondary education related to learning differences and disorders
- Biomarkers of learning, learning problems, and/or learning disorders (e.g., white-matter markers/changes in dyslexia vs. ADHD)
- Home-school collaborations to support achievement and learning
- Linkages between reading/math disorders and markers of behavioral/emotional disorders
- Evidence-based policy issues related to learning disorders
- Genetic, neuropathological, and molecular basis of learning
A list of Spring 2020 Schwab Innovations Fund pilot projects can be found [here](#).

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all full-time paid faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, residents, fellows, and post-docs at UCSF or UCB.

### CATEGORIES

There are three categories of proposals:

- Faculty-initiated (up to $150,000)
- Post-graduate (i.e. post-docs, fellows, and residents; up to $100,000*)
- Student-initiated (undergraduate and graduate, up to $5,000)

*Post-graduates may apply for up to $150,000 if the project and budget justify this amount.

Please note: we will consider one resubmission of previously submitted proposals.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of reviewers external to UCSF and UCB for overall significance, quality of the proposed approach and methods, innovation, and the prospect that the work has the potential to lead to future extramural funding. In addition, multi-disciplinary and cross-campus collaborations will be afforded priority, as will proposals that include investigators/practitioners who are new to the area of work either as individual applicants or members of the research, clinical or policy/dissemination team. For topics not directly related to dyslexia, familiarity with the dyslexia literature and the strength of the rationale for the study as it pertains to reading disorders will be carefully evaluated.

### PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please enter a “Letter of Intent” at the [Schwab Center Innovations Fund Letter of Intent site](#). This form will request the lead investigator and institution, any other investigators and institutions, a tentative title, and brief description (maximum 5 sentences). These are not scored during the selection process but should reflect the general theme of the forthcoming proposal.
2. Prepare the proposal using the [Schwab Center Innovations Fund Application Template](#).
3. Upload the finished proposal and investigator CVs at the [Schwab Center Innovations Fund Proposal Site](#).

All these materials can be found on the [Schwab Center Innovations Fund Fall 2020 wiki page](#).

### FUNDING INFORMATION

Funds will be awarded for a 1-year period. Budgetary start dates should be on or after February 15, 2021. If more time is needed to complete the project, any remaining funds can be carried forward for an additional year. However, for trainees with a one-year appointment, the proposed budgetary start and end date should be within the one-year appointment period. We are seeking proposals that can plausibly be completed over the
ensuing 12 months (that is, February 2021 through February 2022). In addition, future RFAs of the same magnitude are planned to be released in the Fall of 2021, 2022, and 2023.

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<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent (strongly encouraged)</td>
<td>November 16, 2020</td>
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<td>Proposal Submission Deadline</td>
<td>December 7, 2020</td>
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<td>Review Period and Finalist Selection</td>
<td>December 7 – late January, 2021</td>
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<td>Announcement of Award</td>
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<td>Approximate Funding Start Date</td>
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
If you have additional questions not addressed in this document, please contact Phaedra Bell at Phaedra.bell@ucsf.edu.