

# Limited Submission Scoring Matrix

## Brain Research Foundation's Fay/Frank Seed Grant Program

Principal Investigator(s):

### BACKGROUND & INSTRUCTIONS

A "limited submission" refers to a grant program that places a limitation on the number of proposal applications a single eligible entity can submit each cycle. The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has a process in place to allow for an internal competition among interested PIs to determine which application(s) will move forward. Once a limited submission opportunity is identified, an internal call for pre-proposals is sent out to potential PIs. Those interested in being considered for full submission are required to submit a pre-proposal by a specified date. If more applications are received than the institution is allowed to submit to the sponsor, the applications are moved forward to a peer review process in order to make final selection(s).

That peer review process is what you are taking part in now. While we do want you to be aware that the proposals you review here are *not* finalized and will be expanded before they are submitted to the sponsor, we ask that you be as critical in your review as you would be if these applications were moving forward to a sponsor now. We are especially interested in your feedback on weaknesses of the applications and where improvements can be made either before they move forward through submission to this program or others.

If you are reviewing more than one application for this same program, we ask that you use the applications as a reference for one another in your scoring, knowing that the pool will be ranked based on scores received to determine which move(s) forward to the sponsor.

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## SCORING

Selection of applications to be submitted to the Brain Research Foundation's Fay/Frank Seed Grant Program will be based on a 9-point scoring scale for criteria given below.

### **No. of applications allowed per institution this cycle: 1**

- Ratings should be given in whole numbers (no decimals).
- Reviewers should consider not only the relative number of strengths and weaknesses, but also the importance of these strengths and weaknesses to the criteria or to the overall impact when determining a score.
  - For example, a major strength may outweigh many minor and correctable weaknesses

**Minor weakness:** easily addressable weakness, does not substantially lessen impact

**Moderate weakness:** lessens impact

**Major weakness:** severely limits impact

## SCORING RUBRIC

Impact	Score	Descriptor	Additional Guidance
High	1	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
	2	Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
	3	Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
Medium	4	Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
	6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses
Low	7	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
	8	Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
	9	Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

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### SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of scientific and technical merit, and give a separate score for each.

*Below, please summarize the factors that informed your individual criteria scores:*

#### 1. **Significance**

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? If the aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

**Strengths:** Click here to enter text.

**Weaknesses:** Click here to enter text.

#### 2. **Innovation**

Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical practice paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

**Strengths:** Click here to enter text.

**Weaknesses:** Click here to enter text.

#### 3. **Approach**

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed?

**Strengths:** Click here to enter text.

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Weaknesses: [Click here to enter text.](#)

### 4. Relevance to Funder's Mission

The Brain Research Foundation supports neuroscience research that leads to advanced understanding of brain function in children and adults. This Foundation is committed to advance discoveries that will lead to novel treatments and prevention of all neurological diseases.

Strengths: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Weaknesses: [Click here to enter text.](#)

### 5. Current & Future Directions

**Assistant Professors** – A new research project should be proposed that will generate pilot data and lead to R01 funding or a comparable grant. Applicant should note any overlap between this new project and their current grant projects (if not applicable, note this).

**Associate Professors** – A new research project/direction should be proposed and it should be made clear how it is a new research direction. Applicant should not any overlap between this new project/direction and their current grant projects (if not applicable, note this).

**For Both:** A new technique is not considered a new direction unless it pertains to a different area of study. Also, these grants are NOT to be used for bridge funding between grants.

Strengths: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Weaknesses: [Click here to enter text.](#)

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO APPLICANT

Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against resubmission without fundamental revision.

[Additional Comments to Applicants](#) (Optional)

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**Brain Research Foundation's Fay/Frank Seed Grant Program**

Click here to enter text.

**EVALUATION SCORES**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Your Score</b>
1. Significance	
2. Innovation	
3. Approach	
4. Relevance to Funder's Mission	
5. Current & Future Directions	