CALL FOR PROPOSALS
PILOT/SEED PROJECTS—Brain, Big Data, and Computation
SPRING 2016

1. BACKGROUND
The UNM Brain, Big Data, and Computation Seed Fund Program supports innovative, early-stage research across the spectrum of brain-related research, encouraging faculty from throughout UNM's campus to collaborate in exploring new ideas and to open up new avenues for research. The program targets faculty well-established in the field, new faculty, and others who are applying their expertise in new areas. Partnerships with other organizations, including the Mind Research Network (MRN), are encouraged.

For Spring 2016, the focus areas for funding are:
- Projects involving collection of new brain imaging data
- Big data approaches to neuroscience (using existing or new data)
- Integration of multimodal data to bridge spatial and temporal scales
- The use of brain imaging to provide individualized predictions
- Novel models for capturing brain dynamics
- Scalable informatics approaches for processing or sharing

Each funded project must result in an innovative proposal for extramural funding to be submitted to a funding agency or a foundation. Support is aimed at projects that will lead to the collaborative development and testing of important ideas and theories and the investigation of relevant social issues. Funding will support gathering and/or analysis of data that will serve as the foundation of more extensive research projects that fall within the scope of the NSF and NIH Brain Initiatives. See http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/brain/initiative/ and http://www.braininitiative.nih.gov/ for more information.

2. ELIGIBILITY
Any main campus tenure-track UNM faculty member with an appointment of at least 0.75 FTE or main campus research faculty of at least 0.75 FTE with a minimum of two-year residency at UNM may submit a proposal; postdocs are encouraged to submit as a co-PI. Each PI may submit only one proposal (as PI) during the proposal cycle. Someone who submits a proposal as a PI may serve as a collaborator on other proposals.

3. FUNDING AMOUNT AND AWARD PERIOD
Awards will be for a maximum of $20,000 for a period of one year.

4. PROPOSAL GUIDELINES
Seed award proposals should be hypothesis or problem-driven, focusing on some aspect(s) of the complex challenges involved in the research focus area. **The extramural funding opportunity to be targeted must be specified**, including the sponsor/agency and program. Proposals must have significant scientific merit and build or strengthen cross-disciplinary research partnerships.

Budget

The proposal must include a one-page budget in an Excel spreadsheet that does not exceed $20,000 for one year only. Funding is available for salaries and fringe benefits of postdoctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, technical supplies, equipment and miscellaneous expenses. The funds **cannot** be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year), travel that is not directly related to project research (conference attendance is not supported), consultants, or office equipment, including computers. Priority will be given to proposals that leverage other resources and in-kind contributions, including equipment, datasets, and cyberinfrastructure.

5. FORMAT OF PROPOSAL

Proposals must be submitted in digital format in MS Word or as a PDF file, using a standard font in 11 point or larger, with one-inch margins. A maximum of 6 pages, excluding the budget and appendices, is allowed but must include the information below. Reviewers will not review materials that exceed the page limits.

Proposal Cover Page (1 page)	• Proposal Title • Lead Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), department, and all contact information • Date of Submission and Total Amount Requested • Signature of PI's Department Chair or Center Director
Summary (1 page)	• Abstract of the proposal and aims
Project Description (3 pages)	• Statement of research focus area/problem • Technical significance of the research and potential impact on society and application areas • Specific goals, objectives and anticipated results • Description of methods, including potential barriers • Description of expected outcomes, including specific grant programs targeted • Collaborators/partners and their contributions • Project management timetable
References (1 page)	• Do not include urls
Budget with Justification	• Budget Spreadsheet (see details above) and 1 page Budget Justification
Appendices	• Curriculum vitae of PI's and Co-PIs (maximum 2 pages each) • Current and Pending for PIs and Co-PIs

6. PAYMENT

Upon selection, OVPR will transfer funds (according to the approved proposal budget) to the PI's index. The PI will have responsibility for following UNM policies and procedures to administer all funds and must be certain over-expenditures do not occur. Capital equipment purchased is the property of the University of New Mexico. All unexpended funds will revert to the OVPR at the end of the award period.

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Seed award PI is required to submit a summary report of seed award outcomes within 30 days after the end of the award period as well as a new proposal for extramural funding. The report will describe the project outcomes in language readily understood by the public, focusing on the benefits and potential impacts of this initial work.

The PI must provide the FRDO information about proposal submissions, publications and other presentations resulting from the seed funding. All printed materials, including websites, should include the following acknowledgement: "This work was conducted as part of a Brain Initiative Seed Award supported by the University of New Mexico Office of the Vice President for Research."

8. PROPOSAL REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by the Seed Grant Committee, using the review criteria below. Final funding decisions will be made by the VP for Research.

Review Criteria
- Significance and merit of the proposed research within the focus areas
- Appropriate methodology and plan for implementation
- Evidence of significant collaboration between faculty
- PI and collaborators have the necessary experience to complete the project
- Leveraging of other funds or in-kind support
- Upon completion, the likelihood of securing extramural funding through the agency/program identified

Applicants will be informed of the funding decisions within one month of the application due date.

9. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted as a single complete document with any graphics embedded in the document. Submit the proposal document by email to the Faculty Research Development Office: frdo@unm.edu.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by 5:00 pm on **April 27, 2016.**

Proposers are encouraged to contact the FRDO for additional information:
    Dr. Mary Jo Daniel, Director
    Faculty Research Development Office
    mjdaniel@unm.edu or (505)277-0168