



Weill Cornell Medicine
Feil Family Brain & Mind
Research Institute

NewYork-Presbyterian
Weill Cornell Medical Center

FEIL FAMILY BRAIN AND MIND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
WEILL CORNELL MEDICINE
NEW YORK, NY

LEON LEVY FOUNDATION
LEON LEVY FELLOWSHIP IN NEUROSCIENCE
REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS 2019



IMPORTANT DATES

LETTER OF INTENT DUE:	JULY 1, 2018
APPLICATION DUE:	OCTOBER 1, 2018
AWARDS ANNOUNCED:	DECEMBER 1, 2018
FELLOWSHIP BEGINS:	FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Contact

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About:

The Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute is pleased to invite applications for the **Leon Levy Fellowship program in Neuroscience**. In 2012, the Leon Levy Foundation, known for its exemplary support of groundbreaking research related to the human brain, awarded Weill Cornell a grant to establish this program, under the leadership of Costantino Iadecola, M.D., Director and Chair of the Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute and Anne Parrish Titzell Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience. As of 2018, the program has successfully been renewed for a second time for three years of support. Three fellowships per year will be awarded to junior faculty, senior post-doctoral fellows, and residents for 1–2 years to conduct clinical or basic science research in the neurosciences. Medical students taking a research year in the neurosciences will also be considered. Aligning with WCM's vision of investing in the future of medicine, the goal of this program is to advance the field of neuroscience through the support of highly promising early-career basic or clinical scientists who are seriously committed to a career in academic medicine. The award is intended to provide support for individuals early in their career, promoting their development and progress toward independence.

Leon Levy Foundation:

The Leon Levy Foundation was established in 2004 by Leon Levy's widow and well-known philanthropist, Ms. Shelby White, to continue Levy's philanthropic legacy and to build on his vision of encouraging and supporting excellence. The Foundation is highly regarded as one of the most generous supporters of neuroscience research, having awarded significant grants in the past to Weill Cornell and several of our peer institutions, including Rockefeller University, New York University, Columbia University, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

Since its inception, the Leon Levy Foundation continues to advance Leon Levy's interest in neuroscience through grants to select institutions throughout the New York metropolitan area. New grants will continue to focus on funding creative research ideas that would not find support from other means, affiliating with the most renowned institutions, and always, supporting individual excellence at the highest level.

The foundation is interested in fundamental research to increase humanity's understanding of the brain with particular emphasis on the relationship between brain function and its impact on human behavior. Although the LLF will not fund clinical trials, clinical-epidemiological studies of brain diseases (particularly those that affect behavior) are also of interest to the foundation.

The Leon Levy Foundation Neuroscience Fellowship Program

The overarching goals of the Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship program are:

- To support the brightest researchers early in their academic career and the best research project ideas in the field.
- To support research that will make a meaningful contribution to the basic and clinical neurosciences.
- To help the best starting investigators advance their careers toward independence.
- To use LLF grant funds as efficiently as possible.
- To promote synergies among grantee institutions.
- To create a fitting legacy to honor Leon Levy's interest in neuroscience.

Award:

Each year of the present grant period, two or three Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowships will be awarded. Each award will provide up to **\$100,000/year of support for 1–2 years**, with the second-year contingent upon the submission of a progress report and approval by the Steering Committee. K-to-R applicants that get R01 funding during year 1 will not be funded for year 2 (see Eligibility).

Fellowship funds can be used for the Fellow's salary, including fringe benefits (but no more than 75% of the salary and fringe, in accordance with LLF guidelines), as well as research expenses (consumables, small pieces of equipment, technician's salary, etc.). The remainder of the Fellow's salary and fringe, as well as research expenses not covered by the grant will be the responsibility of the laboratory or clinical unit hosting the fellows' research activities. Purchase of computer equipment is permitted only after a formal request and approval by the Steering Committee.

Eligibility:

Fellows will be selected from a candidate pool of early-career faculty members (instructors and assistant professors), senior post-doctoral fellows (PhD researchers or clinical fellows), and residents in clinical disciplines with dedicated research time, e.g., neurology, psychiatry or neurosurgery. Funding will also be available for medical students who decide to take a research year and have already identified and arranged to work in a laboratory under the mentorship of a PI. Eligibility for a Leon Levy Fellowship is generally limited to those no more than five years beyond their highest degree earned, but exceptions will be made for highly promising applicants whose post-graduate education was prolonged by a residency program, multiple or protracted post-doctoral fellowships, or by other circumstances. In some cases, faculty members early in their career and transitioning from a K-type (mentored) award to independent R01 funding (K-to-R transition) will also be considered. However, the application must provide evidence that LLF funding will be instrumental in the success of the R01 application. If the R01 is awarded during the first year of the fellowship, the second year of funding will not be provided.

Letter of Intent Format:

Letters of intent (1 page, Arial 11) should be submitted via email to Veronica Bohorquez by July 1, 2018, and should include the following components in a single PDF:

- Proposal title
- Name, title, and department of applicant
- Name, title and department of mentor(s)
- Proposed project description and relevance to mission of the LLF (1–2 paragraphs)
- Career development plans and plans for obtaining extramural funding (1–2 paragraphs)

Attachments:

- Applicant's NIH style curriculum vitae (CV)
- Mentor(s)'s NIH style CV, including funding

Application Format:

Based on the evaluation of the letters of intent, select candidates will be invited to submit a full application by the October 1, 2018 deadline. The application should propose five years of work, specifying what will be achieved in the one-two years of the fellowship that will make an impact on the academic career of the fellow, e.g., extramural funding, etc.

Applications should be modeled after the NIH guidelines, e.g., K-type or R01 applications for faculty; K99 applications for post-docs, etc.

For NIH form pages and instructions please refer to:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>.

The full application should include the following components:

- **Cover page**
 1. Title of proposal
 2. Applicant name/contact information/department
 3. Mentor(s) name/contact information/department
- **Research and related project information**
 1. Abstract (400 words)
 2. Statement of relevance to the Leon Levy Foundation Mission (1/2 page)
 3. Research Environment and Facilities (use NIH-style form).
- **Proposal elements**
 1. Specific Aims (1 page)
 2. Research Strategy — Significance (1-2 pages)

3. Research Strategy — Innovation (1/2 page)
 4. Research Strategy — Approach (10 pages maximum, single spaced, Arial 11 font)
 5. Literature cited
 6. Training plan (1 page, to be completed by mentor per NIH guidelines)
 7. Vertebrate animals (per NIH guidelines)
 8. Human Subjects (per NIH guidelines)
- **Applicant and Key Personnel**
 1. NIH-style biosketch of applicant (including career plan in the Personal Statement section)
 2. NIH-style biosketch of mentor(s) including funding sources
 - **Budget**
 1. Budget for year 1 and 2 (using NIH-style form)
 2. Budget justification
 - **Attachment(s)**
 1. Letter of recommendation from the proposed mentor(s)
 2. Letter of recommendation from another scientist familiar with the candidate's work

[Applicants selected to submit a full application are encouraged to reach out to Veronica if further clarification is needed.](#)

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed by the Steering Committee after the submission deadline (October 1, 2018). Additional external opinions may be obtained as well. The candidates will be ranked for award selection by the Steering Committee.

The Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Steering Committee includes:

- Costantino Iadecola, M.D., Director and Chair, Anne Parrish Titzell Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, Feil Family Brain and Mind Research Institute
- Michael Kaplitt, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Neurological Surgery,
- Gary Koretzky, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Research
- Matthew Fink, M.D., Chair, Department of Neurology
- M. Elizabeth Ross, M.D., Ph.D., Nathan Cummings Professor of Neurology

Time line, award notification, post-award activities, contact information:

- Deadline for submission is October 1, 2018.
- The new group of Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellows will be announced in December of 2018.
- As required by the LLF, prior to receiving funds, Fellows must submit a letter from their mentor/supervisor stating that the Leon Levy Fellow will have 80% protected time for research

and that the academic unit where the fellow will perform the work (laboratory, division, clinical service, or department) will be responsible for the remainder of the salary not covered by the fellowship.

- Leon Levy Fellows enrolled in a residency program need to provide written assurance by the Residency Program Director and Department Chair that the Fellow will have 80% research time for the duration of the fellowship.
- Leon Levy Fellows must submit approval of animal protocols, IRB approval, and other institutional requirements for the proposed studies before funds are released.
- The Fellows are required to attend the course on Responsible Conduct of Research and grant writing seminars offered at WCM.
- The Fellows are also required to participate in the Leon Levy Neuroscience Fellowship Symposium in Spring 2019 (exact date to be announced) to formally present their results. and progress to date. Attendance by Fellow and Mentor(s) is mandatory and failure to comply will results in award termination.
- The Fellows and their mentors are required to participate in the 2019 site visit by the LLF and in related preparatory activities. Attendance by Fellow and Mentor(s) is mandatory and failure to comply will results in award termination.
- Carryover of research funds not spent is not encouraged and needs approval by the Steering Committee and the Foundation.
- Fellows will be identified as Leon Levy Fellows for the duration of the award and the Leon Levy Foundation should be acknowledged in all presentations, publications, press releases and other form of communication.
- Lack of adherence to the training plan or of compliance with mandated post-award activities listed above will result in suspension or withdrawal of the Fellowship award.
- Additional post-award information will be provided after the award is made.

Contact information:

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