The University’s internal deadline for the limited submission competition for The Charles A. Dana Foundation, 2016 David Mahoney Neuroimaging Program is 2/1/16 by 12pm. If you are interested, please read on for details.

- Program Announcement: http://dana.org/uploadedFiles/Pdfs/2016%20David%20Mahoney%20Neuroimaging%20RFP.pdf
- Purpose: The Dana Foundation’s neuroimaging research program focuses on improving human brain and brain-immune functioning to promote health, and prevent and treat disease. Funds support pilot-testing by investigators, who are early in their research careers, to enable them to pursue promising, high-risk, and innovative ideas that have a direct clinical application. The pilot data are anticipated to help increase competitiveness for seeking larger-scale support from other funders.

This program, like all other Dana-supported research, is designed to improve human health. Investigations need to be applicable to human brain or brain-immune functioning or malfunctioning. To be considered for funding, submitted proposals should focus on imaging in patients or patient tissues, and healthy volunteers. Applications for animal model studies of brain conditions or injuries will be considered only if they relate directly to humans but cannot yet feasibly be undertaken in humans, and are anticipated to be translated into human research following the three-year grant period. Such studies include research on:

1) normal brain anatomy and physiology in the animal model that can help to better understand the roles of cells and networks in specific cognitive functions and how these are altered by disease or injury; and
2) animal models of human diseases, either through transgenic methods or through naturally occurring or induced disease states that are directly related to the human condition. Specific criteria for animal model studies are listed in the section on Eligibility (please use the link above for pertinent details).

In addition to these three general areas of continued interest, it is becoming increasingly apparent that neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease, and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and depression start long before they are clinically evident. The Foundation, therefore, encourages studies that seek to understand developmental processes of disease, surrogate measures of early disease existence, and measures of disease progression.

The Foundation invites each institution to submit one preliminary application (see eligibility), using either or both:
• **Physiological and Structural imaging** - anatomical imaging of white or gray matter and measures of physiological functioning. These proposed studies should focus on patient-oriented clinical research;

• **Cellular/molecular imaging** - biochemical actions of specific brain cells, or their interactions with immune cells, which have direct clinical relevance to human health and disease. These studies may involve human tissues or animal models. Applications can involve the study of cells within neural circuits, using a combination of imaging and single cell electrical recording, if the techniques have already been developed.

• **Eligibility:** Support is focused on faculty researchers who have demonstrated the potential for independent research careers who are at the assistant professor level, or in the first few years of their associate professor appointments. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible to apply. Applications from junior investigators that are an extension of the work of a senior mentor, particularly if from the same institution, are discouraged. **Note: Early career investigators who have not yet been awarded more than one independent research grant (R01 from the NIH or equivalent from another Federal agency).**

• **Budget & Project Period:** Funding of up to $200,000 payable over three years.

• **Application Details:** Since the University of Miami may only submit one (1) proposal, this opportunity is a limited submission competition. An expert panel will internally review our candidates to determine which application will be submitted for competition by The Charles A. Dana Foundation deadline on February 18th by 3pm EST.

To apply, please send the following materials to Karen Lamper at klamper@miami.edu by 2/1/16 by 12pm:

- **Indicate the imaging category:** structural/physiological; cellular/molecular, or a combination of both and specify the imaging technique(s) to be used (such as fMRI, two-photon, etc.)
- Title of Proposal
- Your biosketch; including current and pending grant support.
- A brief summary of your project (no more than two pages including figures) addressing the following:
  a. Section I: A clearly and succinctly stated hypothesis
  b. Section II: The aims of the proposed research project. What disease(s), disorder(s) or injuries would be better understood, diagnosed, or treated? Or, what normal brain function or brain-immune interaction would be better understood? Or, what imaging technology would be refined and for what specific purposes? Such technology development or modification aims need to be accompanied by initial evidence of the project’s feasibility.
  c. Section III: The research significance and potential clinical application(s) of the research.
  d. Section IV: The methods. Please clearly describe the research design and specify tests and analyses proposed to develop the pilot data. If enrollment of human participants is planned, please provide preliminary evidence that the number required can be recruited from the participating institution(s).
  e. Section V: The qualifications of the primary investigator(s) for undertaking the proposed research. What facilities and resources at the applicant institution(s) would be used in the research? Please provide evidence that required technologies would be available for this project.
Please be cognizant that requested information above is required for the reviewers to make an informed decision/ranking regarding your research proposal for consideration as an internal award applicant. Failure to address each numbered sub-heading above can impact the ranking of your proposal.

**Note:** Biostatistical considerations in the design and analysis of proposed investigations are critical to the procurement of funding and quality of research. The Biostatistics Collaboration and Consulting Core (BCCC), as part of the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI, is available to provide support for grant proposal development. This support may be funded by service credits awarded by the Research Design and Biostatistics Component of the Miami CTSI. For more information, please contact Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez at mjrodriguez@biostat.med.miami.edu.

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