



Center for Neuroengineering

Call for Proposals: 2025 Pilot Funding Program

The Center for Neuroengineering (CNE) requests applications for pilot projects designed to further grow the neuroengineering community at Georgetown and foster collaborations with CNE partners at Lawrence Livermore National Labs (LLNL), the Technical University Munich (TUM), MedStar and NIH. The pilot program is open to all full-time faculty at Georgetown University. Our goal is to fund innovative research projects that have significant potential to attract additional funding.

Submissions must be emailed to neuroengineering@georgetown.edu no later than Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. EST. Notification of awards will occur by June 6, 2025, with funding to start July 1, 2025, pending the availability of funds.

Eligibility:

Proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i. The principal investigator must hold a full-time faculty position at Georgetown University.
- ii. The investigative team must have access to adequate resources to perform the proposed research with the requested budget.
- iii. Multi-PI and multidisciplinary applications are strongly encouraged; applications that involve CNE partner labs from LLNL, TUM, MedStar or NIH are particularly welcome.
- iv. A faculty member can only be PI on one application; there is no limitation on the number of awards in which a faculty member can participate as a co-investigator/collaborator/consultant.

Application Guidelines:

Applicants must submit the following materials:

- a. Research Plan (2 pages total)
Describe the project in no more than 2 pages (one page of Specific Aims and Hypotheses, one page of Background and Preliminary Data).
- b. Current NIH-formatted biosketch for PI and senior personnel
- c. Budget & Justification (1 page)
Describe how the award money will be spent by June 30, 2026. See the budget guidelines below.
- d. Strategic Alignment (1 page)
Statement indicating how the proposed project fosters neuroengineering at GU and could lead to new grant applications to external funding agencies.
- e. Letters of Support and/or agreement from any collaborators (1 page each).

Budget Guidelines:

- We expect to make awards in two project categories: “large” pilots with a maximum budget of \$50,000 and “small” pilots with a maximum budget of \$25,000. Note that no IDC is awarded.

- Funds may be requested for supplies, travel, non-capital equipment (\leq \$5,000), and use of shared resource services at Georgetown University.
- Resources may also be used to offset existing salary effort in support of the research as provided by research track faculty, tenure-track faculty, laboratory technicians, trainees (e.g., graduate students, postgraduate fellows, residents, medical students) and undergraduate students.
- Funds for salary support may not be used for bonuses or other incremental increases to faculty, staff, or student compensation, which must follow current GU guidelines, e.g., as described in the current faculty compensation plan.
- Funds should not support tenured faculty salaries or relieve existing bridge support.
- Upon selection, all awardees will acknowledge budget rules and research timelines; progress reports will be requested after six months of funding and at the conclusion of the project.
- CNE Pilot Award funding will be available for spending July 1, 2025 (pending availability of funds for FY26) and must be fully expended on or before June 30, 2026. No funds will carry over beyond June 30, 2026.

Peer Review:

A review committee of faculty affiliated with the CNE will review applications according to the criteria listed below. Where possible, review committee membership will reflect the areas of expertise needed to adequately evaluate the research proposals submitted by the faculty. Other than institutional affiliation conflicts, NIH conflict of interest requirements will be followed. All peer review will be fully confidential. Prior to any award, the budget component will be reviewed by the SAVP/Chief Business Officer. PIs of applications selected for award will be notified of any recommended modifications to the budget and offered the opportunity to respond before funding is released.

Review Criteria:

- Innovation (as defined by NIH)
- Significance (as defined by NIH)
- Approach (as defined by NIH)
- Resources and Environment (as defined by NIH)
- Likelihood of attracting external funding
- Potential of the proposal to foster neuroengineering research at GU
- Budget – is the request appropriate for the award? Unlike NIH, this will be a score-driving criterion.

Questions? Please contact neuroengineering@georgetown.edu.