

# The Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Research Foundation, Inc.

*A Duke University Support Corporation*

## **Ann B. Bussel Research Award Request for Applications, 2023**

**Background:** The Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Research Foundation, Inc., a support corporation of Duke University, funds research in the neurosciences with a specific focus on investigation that may advance the knowledge, prevention, or treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. The **Ann B. Bussel Research Award**, funded by the Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Research Foundation, Inc., is named in honor of Ann B. Bussel, long-time board member of the Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Research Foundation, in recognition of her thirty-year commitment to funding and supporting creative research efforts directed at understanding and treating Alzheimer’s disease at Duke and at other research institutions.

**Purpose of Award:** The purpose of this award is to improve our understanding of Alzheimer’s and related dementias, toward the goal of prevention and treatment. As such we are looking for human subject-based proposals to complement the Ruth K. Broad Foundation’s existing, primarily basic neuroscience, research grant programs. Studies should advance new approaches that have the potential to reveal new biomarkers, disease mechanisms, or novel therapeutic approaches and may be rooted in multiple disciplines, for example, but not necessarily limited to, studies in epidemiology, neurology, psychiatry, gerontology/aging, psychology, imaging/radiology, pharmacology, and data science. Proposals that present a new direction of study for the applicant’s lab are especially encouraged, as are interdisciplinary studies.

**Eligibility:** The grant will be awarded to a faculty member at Duke University or UNC Chapel Hill. Collaborations between investigators at any of these institutions are especially encouraged.

**Support:** Ann B. Bussel Research awardees may request up to \$100,000 per year in direct funding, depending on project needs. Funding will begin on July 1, 2024, and be provided for two years, with Year 2 funds contingent upon successful completion of Year 1 activities. The budget justification should detail how effort or other budgeted items are necessary to support the proposed project. This award does not allow for indirect costs.

**Eligible Research:** Research proposals should be human subject-based. Studies should advance new approaches that have the potential to reveal new biomarkers, disease mechanisms, or novel therapeutic approaches and may be rooted in multiple disciplines, for example, but not necessarily limited to, studies in epidemiology, neurology, psychiatry, gerontology/aging, psychology, imaging/radiology, pharmacology, and data science. Proposals that present a new direction of study for the applicant’s lab are especially encouraged, as are interdisciplinary studies.

Research proposals are encouraged to utilize one or more of the Duke/UNC ADRC cores (see descriptions here: <https://sites.duke.edu/alzcollaborative/research/>).

**Application Process and Timeline:** As a support corporation of Duke University, the Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Foundation is partnering with the Duke/UNC ADRC to administer and select the 2024-2025 Ann B. Bussel Research awardee. Applicants are encouraged to meet with Duke’s Administrative core leader (listed below) prior to submission to optimize their project’s fit with the Foundation.

- RFA released September 1, 2023. It is highly recommended that you schedule a meeting with the Duke Administrative Core leader to discuss your project idea. Please contact ADRC leader (see email for Heather Whitson, MD below) early to allow adequate opportunity to find an available meeting time.
- Letters of Intent are requested by October 16, 2023. Letters of intent should be **no more than 1 page**. Please include:
  - Title
  - Principal investigators and other known members of the team. Names, titles, affiliations
  - Rationale for the proposed project and overall objective
  - Brief description of methodological approach
  - Whether you are applying for the Ann B. Bussel research award, the Duke/UNC Developmental projects award found here: [https://dukeuncadrc.org/files/2023/08/RFA.ADRCDP.2023\\_080823.pdf](https://dukeuncadrc.org/files/2023/08/RFA.ADRCDP.2023_080823.pdf) or both (projects are only eligible to receive one award but may apply for both)

Letters of intent will be used to identify appropriate reviewers and communicate with investigators about how to optimize their proposal for this mechanism.

- Full application will be due 11:59pm on November 30, 2023
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by February 12, 2024
- Award start date is July 1, 2024.

**Application Format:** All documents should adhere to NIH formatting requirements (*e.g.*, half-inch margins, minimum 11pt font, no more than six lines per vertical inch). Applicants should combine the following documents into a single PDF with the naming convention “PIlastname.PIfirstname.Full” (*e.g.*, PDF is named “Whitson.Heather.Full”):

- Specific aims (1 page)
- Alignment with Ann B. Bussel Award theme (250 words)
- Research Strategy (up to 5 pages, including references) include the following sections: Background/significance, Innovation, Approach, Timeline, Use of ADRC Cores or NACC resources, Plan for future research based on findings
- [Budget with budget justification](#) Resource Sharing plan (1 page)
- Applicant Biosketch and Biosketch of each key co-investigator (adhere to NIH format)

**To begin the submission process and upload your Letter of Intent, please use the link below:**

<https://strongbox.oit.duke.edu/strongbox/uploader/ABB%20Award%20LOIs%202023/223796274894>

To schedule your 1:1 meeting, and for programmatic/scientific questions, please contact: Heather Whitson, MD, MHS, ADRC Co-Director (Duke) ([heather.whitson@duke.edu](mailto:heather.whitson@duke.edu))

For questions about the Ruth K. Broad Biomedical Research Foundation, please contact: Cathleen Durgin, RKBF Secretary ([cathleen.durgin@duke.edu](mailto:cathleen.durgin@duke.edu))

**Awardee Requirements:**

- The award may require a research presentation at the spring Ruth K. Broad Foundation Board of Directors meeting, and will require a one-page written progress report after year 1 and a one-page written final report after year 2. The Foundation also requests recognition on any publication emanating from funded research.
- Where practical, the grantees will be recognized as Ann B. Bussel Research Grant recipients in their institution's and external publications.
- Grantees are asked to present their research and findings to as broad an audience in the Duke and UNC communities and greater scientific community as appropriate and practical.