

# Caltech | Funding Memo

**Title:** SCPAB Transition to Independence Award - LOI

**Funding Agency:** Simons Foundation

**External Deadline(s):**

02/16/2023 09:00 AM PST (LOI)

**Cognizant Office:** Office of Sponsored Research/Office of Foundation Relations

**Description:**

The Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain (SCPAB) Transition to Independence (TTI) Award aims to facilitate the transition of the next generation of outstanding scientists from historically underrepresented groups to research independence in the field of cognitive aging. Through this effort, the Foundation seeks to support the transition of scientists doing work consistent with [SCPAB's scientific mission](#). SCPAB's TTI Award program supports talented early-career scientists by facilitating their transition to research independence in the field of cognitive aging by providing up to two years of postdoctoral support as well as three years of grant funding at the start of their professorships. **This request for applications (RFA) is aimed at Ph.D. and M.D.-holding scientists who are currently in training positions but intend to seek tenure-track research faculty positions during the upcoming academic job cycle.**

**Frequency:** First-time opportunity

**Award:**

- Upon selection as a TTI fellow, fellows will receive up to 2 years of postdoctoral support at their postdoc institution with an annual salary of \$70,000, as well as a resource and professional development allowance of \$10,000 per year. During this time, postdocs will receive mentorship and professional development resources to assist in their search for a faculty position.
  - In order to receive the postdoctoral support portion of the award, your institution must appoint you as an employee of the university with no teaching obligation, and provide the standard benefits package that the university provides to employees.
- Fellows have 24 months to secure a tenure-track professorship at an academic institution and submit a second-stage approval application. Review of the approval application is a non-competitive, internal process intended to confirm that the fellow has secured an academic research position and adequate institutional resources to support their research program. After the Simons Foundation accepts the second-stage approval application, the awardee will receive research support at the level of \$600,000 over 3 years.

**Indirect Costs:** 20% of Modified Direct Costs

- Indirect costs to the primary institution are limited to 20 percent of direct costs with the following exceptions: equipment, tuition and any portion of each subcontract in excess of \$25,000.
  - Postdoc portion: If administered at Caltech, this award will be considered a “true fellowship” and will not be subject to the minimum overhead requirement beyond the allowable 20%. An approved MORA and DAF are still required.
  - Faculty portion: The award is administered through the institution at which the TTI fellow has a tenure-track faculty appointment. **If administered through Caltech, minimum overhead rate is based on the award’s annual gross funding. Please refer to the [FY23 Annual Rate Memo](#) for applicable minimum overhead requirements. Applicants must work within their division to account for the required overhead via an approved MORA form.**

**Duration:** Up to 5 years

- Postdoc portion: Up to 2 years.
- Faculty portion: Up to 3 years.

**Discipline(s):** Biology and Biological Engineering; Chemistry and Chemical Engineering; Engineering and Applied Science; Humanities and Social Sciences

**Eligibility:** Postdoc

- The program application is open to individuals who are from racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in cognitive aging, including individuals with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. This includes, but is not limited to, any individual identifying as Hispanic or Latine, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native.
  - The Foundation will consider applicants to have come from a disadvantaged background if they meet at least two of the following criteria:
    - Were or currently are homeless;
    - Were or currently are in the foster care system;
    - Were eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program\* for two or more years;
    - Have/had no parents or legal guardians who completed a bachelor’s degree;
    - Were or currently are eligible for Federal Pell\* grants;
    - Received support from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children\* as a parent or child;
    - Grew up in one of the following areas: a) a U.S. rural area, as designated by the [Health Resources and Services Administration Rural Health Grants Eligibility Analyzer](#), or b) [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-designated Low-Income and Health Professional Shortage Areas](#) (qualifying zip codes are included in the file). Only one of the two (2) possibilities in this bullet can be used as a criterion for the disadvantaged backgrounds.
    - \* For non-U.S. applicants, please consider approximately equivalent programs.
- A previous background in aging research is not required; candidates with a background in fields including neuroscience, molecular biology, genetics, immunology, cell biology and the physical and information sciences are encouraged to apply.
- Applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree.

- Applicants must be currently in non-independent, mentored training positions, as recognized by their institution.
- Applicants must be actively seeking a tenure-track position at an institution of higher education during the next job cycle.
- Applicants are not eligible if they are recipients of other career development awards with similar budgetary scopes as the SCPAB Transition to Independence Award.
- Applicants must **not** have accepted a formal offer for a tenure-track faculty position.
- There are no citizenship requirements.

### **Research Areas of Interest:**

- Proposed research should be relevant to SCPAB's mission to discover mechanisms of resilience and functional maintenance in the aging brain, and to establish a baseline for plasticity-related changes with age across many model systems, in order to identify and test potential interventions to minimize cognitive decline and extend healthy life span.

### **Post-Award Obligations:**

- TBD

### **Recent Caltech Recipients:**

- None, New Opportunity

### **Guidelines & Other Information:**

RFA: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/scpab-transition-to-independence-award/>

How to Apply: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/scpab-transition-to-independence-award/?tab=how-to-apply>

FAQ: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/scpab-transition-to-independence-award/?tab=faq>

Simons Foundation Policies and Procedures: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/funding-opportunities/policies-and-procedures-text/>

SCPAB-funded Projects: <https://www.simonsfoundation.org/collaborations/plasticity-and-the-aging-brain/projects>

Please notify the Foundation Relations team if you anticipate making a submission or if you have any questions regarding this opportunity. We are here to help ensure that Caltech's proposals are competitive. We can assist with proposal development and advise you on the routing of your paperwork. Interested researchers should work with their division grant manager to prepare the budget, the MORA form, and the Division Approval Form (DAF). Submissions and awards for this grant program will be processed through the Office of Sponsored Research.

Opportunity ID: 1371