

Caltech | Funding Memo

Title: SFARI Bridge 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 autism research community has expanded substantially in recent years and Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) has contributed to this change by attracting outstanding established scientists to the field of autism. The SFARI Bridge to Independence (BTI) Award program engages talented early-career scientists in autism research by facilitating their transition to research independence and providing grant funding at the start of their professorships. The annual 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 cycle.

Frequency: Typically annual

Award:

- Upon selection as a BTI fellow, fellows will receive up to two (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.
- 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 accomplish the BTI research proposal. After the Simons Foundation accepts the approval application, fellows may activate their BTI grants, which provide \$600,000 over 3 years.
 - Funds are intended as a supplement to a standard start-up package.
 - Funds may not be used toward the faculty salary but may provide salary support for other laboratory personnel and other typical grant budget expenditures. Institutional start-up packages may not be reduced because of BTI funding.

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, however, an approved MORA and DAF are still required.
 - Faculty portion: **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; Humanities and Social Sciences

Eligibility: Postdoc

- 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.
 - Please review the [RFA](#) for guidelines to distinguish independent from non-independent positions.
- Applicants must be actively seeking a tenure-track position at a U.S. or Canadian institution of higher education during the 2023-2024 academic year.
- Applicants are not eligible if they are recipients of other career development awards with similar budgetary scope as the SFARI Bridge to Independence award. These include, but are not limited to:
 - NIH K99/R00 (please note that other K awardees may be eligible, e.g. K01 and K08).
 - Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists.
 - American Academy of Neurology Career Development Award.
 - Howard Hughes Medical Institute Hanna H. Gray fellowship.
 - You are strongly encouraged to contact SFARI prior to grant submission if you believe your career development award is comparable to the Bridge to Independence award but is not listed above.
- Applicants must **not** have accepted a formal offer for a tenure-track faculty position.
- There are no citizenship requirements.
- Applications from groups that have been historically underrepresented or excluded in the biomedical workforce, including but not limited to racial and ethnic groups, sexual orientation and gender identities, individuals with mental/physical disabilities and those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are encouraged.

Research Areas of Interest:

- The BTI Award program welcomes applications that span the breadth of science that SFARI normally supports, including genetics, molecular mechanisms, circuits and systems, and clinical science.

Post-Award Obligations:

- Annual narrative and financial reports are required.

Recent Caltech Recipients:

- John Elliott Robinson (Gradinaru lab, 2019)

Guidelines & Other Information:

Overview: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/bridge-to-independence-award-request-for-applications/>

RFA: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/bridge-to-independence-award-request-for-applications/?tab=rfa>

How to Apply: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/bridge-to-independence-award-request-for-applications/?tab=how-to-apply>

FAQ: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/bridge-to-independence-award-request-for-applications/?tab=faq>

SFARI Policies and Procedures: <https://www.sfari.org/funding-opportunities/policies-and-procedures/>

Past Awardees: <https://www.sfari.org/grant/bridge-to-independence-award-request-for-applications/?tab=awardees>

SFARI Advisory/Review Boards: <https://www.sfari.org/about/advisors/>

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: 1373