Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) & Alzheimer’s Association
Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders
Request for Application (RFA)
(Invitation only)

**Competition objectives:** The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) and the Alzheimer’s Association aim to support emerging leaders in brain health and dementia by funding small-scale pilot projects and/or studies (hereafter referred to as “pilot project(s)”) to advance skills, knowledge, activities and general efforts to delay, prevent and/or mitigate the impact of dementia. The goal of these awards is to both support leadership development of the awardee and to advance the pilot projects that improve outcomes in brain health and dementia.

**Background:** The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) trains a new generation of health leaders empowered to break down disciplinary boundaries and to find innovative ways to intervene on behalf of vulnerable people in their communities to prevent and limit the impact of dementia globally. GBHI brings together two leading institutions in brain science, the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (TCD). As the world’s leading non-profit funder of Alzheimer’s and dementia related research, the Alzheimer’s Association shares the commitment to developing the next generation of brain health leaders, aligning with the vision and mission of GBHI. To further emphasize the commitment to these goals, GBHI and the Alzheimer’s Association are partnering to offer the Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders.

**The Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders** will prioritize research, activities and efforts that demonstrate potential to lead to larger projects in the awardees’ home regions with an emphasis on lower and middle income countries and/or countries in the Latin America and Mediterranean regions. Priority will be given to pilot projects that utilize an evidence-based approach to identify, or direct change and/or improve care and outcomes among aging individuals with cognitive loss and dementia. Pilot projects that involve innovative or exploratory elements that are less well tested are also welcome as long as the rationale for the approach is clear. Pilot projects selected for funding must contribute to the following **long-term impact goals:**

- Populations: Promote equity in prevention strategies and care models for vulnerable aging populations
- Practice: Improve dementia diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients and families
- Policy: Develop and refine brain health policies through evidence-based advocacy and outreach
- Publication: Generate and distribute knowledge to advance the field of brain health and dementia prevention
- Perception: Create social change, reduce stigma, and inspire optimism and dignity for elders

**Areas of emphasis for this RFA include, but are not limited to:**

- Leverage longitudinal studies of populations to include individuals living with dementia and/or their care partners or consider the addition of measures or observations related to brain and/or cognitive health
- Community-based participatory research, including dissemination and implementation. For example, pilot projects that create awareness and/or social change, focus on shaping dementia care and policy, aim to reduce stigma associated with brain aging, or expand knowledge of effective dementia interventions in vulnerable populations
- Studies focused on diagnosis and/or prognosis of diverse populations
- Prevention interventions, including primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, for diverse populations
- Community awareness and community-based interventions with a specific focus on implementation and outcomes of interventions (e.g. for person with dementia, for the caregiver or for staff at a community-based organization) for culturally diverse populations
- Intervention studies, including biological, social and behavioral interventions for diverse populations
- Surveys or longitudinal studies of providers, emphasis on effective communication strategies and outcomes of interventions
- Pilot projects that have implications for clinical practice, policy, or culture change

The Alzheimer’s Association and GBHI anticipate funding awards of $5,000 to $25,000 each.

Award success will be evaluated based on successful completion of the aims, as outlined in the original application. In addition, awardees will be expected to engage in the following activities, as examples, but not limited to:
- Submission of funding proposal(s) to additional external funding agencies
- Attendance and presentation at an international meeting such as the GBHI annual conference (travel support provided by GBHI; cost should not be included in the proposed budget), or another international recognized meeting and/or the Alzheimer’s Association’s International Conference (AAIC), AAIC Satellite Symposium (offered twice annually in different parts of the world) or other internationally recognized meeting (travel support may be included in the proposed budget per the allowable costs outlined below)
- Acceptance of an abstract at AAIC or other appropriate international conference, and/or manuscript submission
- Meaningful inclusion of a mentor in the planning and the implementation of the proposed pilot project from a GBHI host institution, as well as an in-country mentor, if applicable
- Providing awardee an opportunity to engage other trainees as well as other Alzheimer’s Association and/or GBHI engagement opportunities to become involved and/or contribute to the pilot so as to enrich the GBHI educational experience

Eligibility: Atlantic Fellows at GBHI, including alumni, who have not previously received an award under this pilot program.

Ineligibility: Applications from investigators currently funded by the Alzheimer’s Association who are delinquent in submitting required reports and other deliverables on active grants are ineligible. Investigators that have previous Alzheimer’s Association awards closed as ‘Incomplete’ are also not eligible to apply without exception. Atlantic Fellows at GBHI who have previously received an award under this program.
Timeline:
- January 16  RFA distributed
- February 28  Letters of Intent (LOI) due
- (March 05  Invitations for Application)
- April 2  First draft due for Mentor review
- May 31  Final draft due to Selection Committee
- June - July  Review and decisions
- (July 31  Review panel discussion)
- August 3  Funding notice
- September 1  Pilots implementation begins

Application review will be conducted by a joint review process managed by the Alzheimer’s Association and GBHI.

Submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI): The Letter of Intent (LOI) is a required step in the application process. All LOIs must be completed and submitted online at proposalCentral http://proposalcentral.altum.com. First-time users must register and fill out a Professional Profile to begin the LOI process. No hard copies will be accepted.

The full application materials, including the application format, templates, and instructions, will be available online at proposalCentral after your LOI has been approved.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
- A well-designed and feasible proposed pilot project plan; proposed plan is clearly linked to the long term goals of this initiative as outlined above (30%)
- Addresses feasibility for the pilot to be continued, expanded and/or adapted in home country (20%)
- Includes a well-developed mentorship plan (see below) (20%)
- The pilot outcomes such as data and/or development of infrastructure provide potential for further implementation and activities (10%)
- Demonstrates the likelihood of receipt of additional external funding (10%)
- Describes potential opportunities to engage global partners, including UCSF, Trinity College Dublin and the Alzheimer’s Association (10%)

The full application consists of the following (template and instructions located under the Work Plan and Other Attachments section):
- Statement(s) of Mentorship — written by mentor(s) to outline plan for the individual’s continued training (1 or 2 pages). If applicant has more than one mentor, application should include statements of mentorship from each mentor. For example, one each from the home community (i.e. regional) mentor and the GBHI mentor.
- Statement of Commitment — written by applicant to highlight their commitment to GBHI’s mission and the long term impact goals stated above (1 or 2 pages)
- Pilot Description and Plan — summary of the area of work the applicant is pursuing, description of the scope and importance of the problem being addressed, specific aims or pilot project objectives, approach (strategy, methodology), and analyses/evaluation plan used to accomplish the aims, timeline (3 to 5 pages)
- Available Resources & Budget Justification (1 to 2 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) — a CV/bio for the applicant and the mentor(s) must be included, limited to four pages; mentor(s) should also include a table of other mentees (i.e. protégés, advisees,
partners) with whom they have worked.

**Mentorship Plan:** A mentorship plan should be clearly described. The role of the mentor(s) in the applicant's proposed pilot project must be defined in the proposal. It is expected that the designated mentor(s) will be heavily involved in the preparation of the application proposal and serve as a co-participant (or investigator) in the proposed pilot project.

**Mechanism of award, reporting requirements and allowable costs:** The mechanism of the award is an individual grant for the pilot project proposed in the application.

**Budget:** Budget summary and budget narratives are required and must be submitted with the application. Budget narratives are to provide budget line justification, including known details and reasoning associated with all salary related costs. If the application is to be awarded, a more detailed budget will be required and must be approved before the disbursement of funds.

**Allowable costs include (but are not limited to):**
- Salary for the grantee/principal investigator, technical assistance, and other staff (including administrative support related directly to the funded pilot project)
- Travel (with justification in the narrative), not to exceed 20% of the total proposed budget
- Computer equipment, hardware, or software (if used strictly for pilot project implementation and with justification in the narrative), not to exceed 20% of the total proposed budget; if proposed equipment expense will exceed this limit, awardee must have prior approval in writing.
- Purchase and care of laboratory animals and/or small pieces of laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies
- Indirect costs up to a maximum of 10% included in the total award not in addition to the award

**Direct Costs not allowed under this award include:**
- Tuition for full degree programs (workshops, seminars are allowed)
- Rent for laboratory/office space
- Construction or renovation costs
- Facilities fee
- Laboratory or supply costs not directly relevant to proposed pilot project

**For more information:** Contact [grantsapp@alz.org](mailto:grantsapp@alz.org) and [pilots.projects@gbhi.org](mailto:pilots.projects@gbhi.org).