

UCL Neuroscience - ZNZ Collaboration Call for applications for joint research funding in neuroscience

UCL Neuroscience and ZNZ are leading institutions that cover a broad spectrum of basic and clinical research in neuroscience (www.neuroscience.ethz.ch/research and <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/domains/neuroscience>).

Our aim is to strengthen existing collaborations and develop new interactions in neuroscience research and training. As part of this initiative, short-term seed funding will be provided to support joint neuroscience research activities, which are intended to represent a priming step towards seeking comprehensive joint external research funding. Applications must involve at least one group leader affiliated with UCL Neuroscience and at least one group leader affiliated with ZNZ.

The added value of the joint effort must be demonstrated. One group leader team can only participate in one application per funding round.

	Deadline
Launch date	01 December 2015
Deadline: Expression of Interest	22 January 2016
Decision expected by	5 February 2016
Application deadline	26 February 2016
Decision expected by	18 March 2016
Earliest start date of funded activity	01 April 2016

Types of Activities Supported

Applications can be made under one of three categories:

1. **Joint workshops** to discuss areas of potential collaboration, where ZNZ and UCL Neuroscience research teams present their data and showcase their research capabilities. The maximum amount that can be requested for a workshop is GBP 3000 or CHF 4600.
2. **Pilot projects** designed to initiate collaborations or extend ongoing joint projects. This category foresees the possibility of staff or postgraduate student (master, MD, PhD) exchange or short stays of group leaders at partner institution. In particular, it is expected that the preliminary data generated will be used to support external research grant applications. The maximum amount that can be requested for a pilot project is GBP 10'000 or CHF 15'000.



- 3. Facilitating joint grant applications**, where funding is provided for travel and accommodation costs to allow researchers to co-locate for a short period of time and focus on drafting an external grant application for research funding. In the first funding round, applications under this category should only be submitted if the applicants feel that they are already able to progress directly to drafting an external grant application, without the need for a workshop or for pilot project funding to generate any additional data. The maximum amount that can be requested is GBP 1500 or CHF 2300.

Eligible Costs

Funds can be requested for:

- Return standard airfares between the Zurich and London, and internal standard travel costs, for the applicants and collaborators listed on the grant. Air travel must be claimed at the lowest economy fare.
- Directly incurred costs of the research project, including laboratory consumables.
- Per diem costs to cover accommodation and reasonable out of pocket expenses (as a guide, these costs should be in the range of GBP 100-150 in London or CHF 150-200 in Zurich, per day). If these expenses are expected to be significantly different (e.g., housing with a colleague; special needs), this should be indicated in the budget.
- Venue hire and costs of refreshments for workshops.

Non-eligible Costs

- Salaries or stipend costs
- No visitor fees, student fees, or bench fees will be levied by either University on collaborative activities funded under this scheme
- Scan or instrument use fees
- Honoraria for guest lecturers
- Costs of publication
- Significant items of equipment (over GBP 700 or CHF 1000 total)

How to Apply

This will be a two stage process. All documents should be in Arial 11pt.

- 1. For the first stage applicants** are asked to submit an Expression of Interest by **22 January 2016**, which should be sent electronically to both Wolfgang Knecht and Matt Wakelin (see below for contacts). This should include:
 - A description (max 1 page) of the aims of the project or collaboration and its added value
 - Names and current positions of the applicant and co-applicants.
- 2. For applications that are shortlisted**, the applicants will need to send electronically as a single PDF file:
 - A completed application form
 - A two-page description of the proposed activity and anticipated outcomes, including how and when it may lead to joint applications to external research funding organizations
 - A three-page CV of the applicants including a list of publications in the last five years
 - A shorter CV of any listed collaborators (a publication list is not required)
 - A budget including a detailed justification of all costs requested (one page)

Review Criteria

A joint review committee with members from UCL Neuroscience and ZNZ will review applications according to the following criteria:

Stage 1:

- Quality and originality of the proposed activity
- Added value of the joint activity

Stage 2:

- Track record of the applicants
- Quality and originality of the proposed activity, including the extent to which the activity represents an additional gain above what could be achieved by each group on their own
- Quality of the research environment where the proposed activity will take place
- Extent to which the proposed activity could not be supported by conventional means
- Whether the proposed activity will be of benefit to many or just a few

The committee reserves the right to not make any awards if they consider the quality of the applications is not sufficiently high to warrant an award.

Please email applications to:

Matt Wakelin (m.wakelin@ucl.ac.uk) and Wolfgang Knecht (wknecht@neuroscience.uzh.ch)

Contact Information

Matt Wakelin, PhD
Neuroscience Strategic Coordinator
SLMS Academic Research Support Centre
UCL
1st Floor Maple House
149 Tottenham Court Road
London W1T 7NF
Tel: 020 7679 6445
Email: m.wakelin@ucl.ac.uk

Dr. Wolfgang Knecht
Zentrum für Neurowissenschaften Zürich ZNZ
Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zürich
Tel. +41 44 635 3381
Fax +41 44 635 3383
Email: wknecht@neuroscience.uzh.ch