



Queensland Brain Institute



University of Zurich^{UZH}

ETH zürich



The Neuroscience Center Zurich-Queensland Brain Institute Partnership

Call for Applications for Joint Pilot Research Projects

Queensland Brain Institute the Neuroscience Center Zurich (ZENZ) have partnered to establish collaborative research and training opportunities in **neuroscience**. Within the framework of this collaboration, we invite applications for competitive *Joint Pilot Project Grants*. Focus can be on fundamental or clinical/applied research. The goal of these projects is to foster scientific excellence through collaboration. It is anticipated that data generated through these collaborations will allow researchers to pursue more comprehensive joint external research funding.

Proposals are invited for up to three 1-year Grants. A collaborative application should involve investigators at QBI and ZENZ. The maximum total amount that can be requested for each joint application is AUD 50'000 or CHF 30'000. High-risk/high impact approaches are encouraged: in these cases, risk will be evaluated against the potential to deliver ground-breaking results. Proposals should clearly demonstrate the added value of the planned joint research that would not be possible without the collaboration.

Key Dates

	2024 Pilot Grant Round
Application call	26 Sept 2024
Application deadline	26 Nov 2024
Decision expected	January 2025

Eligible Costs: Salary of a student, research assistant or postdoc, research consumable costs, equipment and animal costs.

Non-eligible Costs: Salaries of Principle Investigators, visitor fees, student fees, or bench fees, honoraria for guest lecturers, and publication costs.

Review Process

An *ad hoc* Joint Review Panel composed of ZNZ and QBI Principle Investigators will review applications according to the following criteria:

- Quality and originality of the proposed activities
- Added value of the collaboration
- Track record of the applicants
- Evidence that the proposed research might lead to a continuing collaboration between the partner laboratories

Each partner institution will establish a Review Panel consisting of two senior researchers, which may choose to seek further scientific expert advice if deemed necessary in order to reach a consensus on recommendations for funding. Funding recommendations may take into consideration the longer-term strategic objectives of the partnership; or other factors deemed appropriate. The Panel's decision will be final and there will be no appeal procedure. The Joint Review Panel reserves the right to not award any grants. Applicants may not take part in the review process.

How to Apply

Please email applications to both Prof. Helen Cooper (h.cooper@uq.edu.au) and Dr. Wolfgang Knecht (wknecht@neuroscience.uzh.ch). Documents should be submitted in a single pdf file:

- Completed application form (attached)
- CV/Biosketch of PIs including a maximum of 20 relevant and recent publications (maximum 3 pages)
- Short biosketch of any listed collaborators (publication list not required)
- A budget including justification of all costs requested

At the end of the project, a brief report detailing achievements is required. This should highlight key results, potential impact, student mobility, presentations at conferences, abstracts, and publications. Any publications arising from an award must acknowledge the support from this scheme. Should a project cease for any reason, including project end, unspent funds will be returned to the partnership.

The following websites can be consulted to find research partners at ZNZ and QBI:

ZNZ: <https://www.neuroscience.uzh.ch/en/research.html>

QBI: <https://qbi.uq.edu.au/research-groups>
