**WHO WE ARE**

"Grand Challenge to Provide Grant Funding and Resources to Facilitate Small Molecule Drug Discovery and Development to Treat CNS Disorders"

The NIH Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network (BPN) is part of NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research, a collaborative framework that includes the NIH Office of the Director together with eleven NIH Institutes and Centers that support research on the nervous system. The BPN was launched to enable neuroscientists in academia and biotechnology companies to develop new drugs for nervous system disorders. The BPN provides non-dilutive funding for small molecule drug discovery and development, for hit-to-lead chemistry through phase I clinical testing. Through the BPN program, investigators together with the NIH build a team and leverage drug discovery and development expertise who can help them advance their basic research into human testing. This is accomplished through a combination of grant funding and access to a full range of NIH-funded drug discovery development CROs (medicinal chemistry, pharmacokinetics/ADME, toxicology, drug manufacturing, drug formulation and phase I clinical trials) and most importantly access to NIH-funded consultants with extensive pharma experience spanning all drug development stages to help guide the team. A fundamental hallmark of the program is that the research institution retains the intellectual property rights. With a strong track record of success, the BPN program provides an excellent opportunity to translate basic and applied findings into novel clinical candidates and advance them to the clinic. The goal is to generate the required data to de-risk further funding for subsequent clinical trials, partnership, or out-licensing.

**PROGRAM GOALS**

- To de-risk potential therapeutics to the point that industry will invest in them allowing potential new drugs to reach patients efficiently.
- To provide grant funding and necessary resources (contracts, consultants, etc.) that are typically lacking in our research community.

**WHAT WE OFFER**

- BPN provides non-dilutive funding to investigators from academia and industry.
- Investigators retain rights to intellectual property.
- Access to CROs under contract to NIH.
- Access to consultants and staff with extensive industry experience covering the major needs:
  - Assay development expertise, pharmacology, medicinal chemistry, pharmacokinetics, toxicology, process research, chemical/formulation development, and Phase I clinical testing.
  - Fast track SBIR U44 grants for small businesses.

**ENTRY STAGES AND MECHANISMS**

- Complete entry criteria for SAR or IND-enabling studies
- Conduct due diligence

**ENTRY CRITERIA**

**Discovery**

- Novel target for the disease
- Strong biological validation
- Feasible path to the clinic
- Robust in-vitro assay for optimization
- Strong confirmatory assays
- Project must require medicinal chemistry
- Ameability to chemistry
- IP free of obvious roadblocks

**Development**

- Strong data linking target to disease
- Biological & ADME activity appropriate for intended clinical use
- Efficacy/Ph when delivered by clinically intended route
- Fully profiled, defensible ADMET results
- Feasible path to the clinic
- IP free of obvious roadblocks

**MILESTONE PROGRESSION BY STAGE**

**INFRASTRUCTURE, EXPERTISE, & FUNDING**

**BPN PROJECTS IN THE NEWS**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**