

Kavli Exploration Award for Sculpted Light

The Kavli Foundation invites letters of interest (LOI) for one-year projects exploring innovative technologies to observe or control neural activity using photonic methods. Funding is intended to seed collaborative efforts between attendees of the ***Sculpted Light in the Brain*** 2024 conference.

Funding Opportunity Goals:

- Seed new, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research projects
- Support innovative, high risk/high impact projects that focus on basic science (as opposed to translational or clinical applications)
- Accelerate the development of optical approaches to study brain function

Funding Details

- Projects can request up to \$50,000 USD per scientist, with a maximum of \$150,000 for teams of up to three researchers
- Indirect costs up to 15% of direct costs are allowable
- Grant duration: One year

Scope of projects should be appropriate given budget and duration. The expectation is that these grants will kickstart well-designed preliminary projects or analyses, that could lead to future grant applications for larger, federally funded projects.

Application Process

- Two-stage process: LOI and Full Proposal (by invitation)
- Preliminary data are not required.
- Detailed budget and additional project specifics are required in the Full Proposal
- LOIs must be submitted electronically by 5pm PT **July 8, 2024** through the application portal: <https://kavlifoundation.smapply.org/prog/SLB2024/>

Eligibility

- All collaborators must hold a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent.
 - Ph.D. student applicants will need a letter of support from their lab head during the Full Proposal stage. (Note: A lab head does not need to attend the ***Sculpted Light in the Brain*** conference.)
- All collaborators must have attended the ***Sculpted Light in the Brain*** 2024 conference.
- Only new collaborations are eligible; applicants must not have collaborated on funded projects in the last five years.
- Each scientist may participate in only one proposed project.
- Applicants for funding must be at a US or international institution of higher education, or non-profit research organization, or affiliated with such an entity. For international awards, status equivalent to

a US public charity or nonprofit educational institution may be required. The Kavli Foundation is unable to accept applications from individuals at organizations located in certain [sanctioned territories](#).

Timeline

- ***Sculpted Light in the Brain*** conference: June 19 - 21, 2024
- LOIs due: July 8, 2024, 5pm PT
- Notification of proposal requests: by July 19, 2024 at 5pm PT
- Project proposal submission due: August 16, 2024 at 5pm PT
- Notification of awards: Early September 2024
- Funds will be disbursed in Q4 2024, in coordination with recipient organization procedures

Instructions for LOI Submission

Each LOI should be submitted using The Kavli Foundation application portal and include:

- Co-applicant details: name, email, organization/job title, ORCID URL or identifier
- Proposal details: Title (limited to 60 characters), Summary/Scope of Work (max 500 words), Value of proposed research (max 250 words), optional References
- Eligibility questions: Attendance at the conference and confirmation of no recent collaborative funding.

Review Process

- LOIs will be reviewed and selection for applications will be based on alignment with program goals, scientific merit, innovation, and feasibility.
- Cross-disciplinary collaborations and diverse project participants are encouraged.
- Applications will be kept confidential to the extent possible, except as necessary for processing and evaluation.

Statement on inclusion

The Kavli Foundation is a catalyst for advancing scientific research, strengthening the relationship between science and society, and honoring scientific achievement. We are dedicated to the belief that scientific excellence can come from anyone, anywhere and is enriched by diverse perspectives, skills, and ways of thinking. We believe the scientific community should reflect the rich diversity of the globe - in race, gender, age, cultures, and beliefs - and we support this diversity through our grantmaking practices.

All applicants will benefit from equality of opportunity and fair treatment without regard to race, color, age, religion, pregnancy, sex, sexual orientation, disability, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and prior protected activity.

Questions?

Contact science@kavlifoundation.org and include **"SLB2024"** in the subject line.