



Multi-Investigator Research Initiative (MIRI)
The Azrieli Neurodevelopmental Research Program
in partnership with
Brain Canada

There has never been a better time to invest in research on neurodevelopmental disorders, thanks to recent research advances that have dramatically improved our understanding of the fundamental deficits in neuronal communication in many disorders of genetic origin, including Fragile X syndrome and Rett Syndrome, and the rational application of drugs that may correct these deficits.

Through this joint venture, The Azrieli Foundation and Brain Canada will support excellent **systems or translational research in the area of neurodevelopmental disorders, with a special focus on ASD and Fragile X syndrome**. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to develop new diagnostics, treatment and prevention strategies for neurodevelopmental disorders, to reduce their economic and social burden on Canadians, and to improve the quality of life for those affected by neurodevelopmental disorders and their families.

The Partners will support Canadian teams, or the Canadian components of international teams, proposing innovative, collaborative, research projects in the area of neurodevelopmental disorders. Proposals should focus on systems and/or translational approaches. **Proposals relevant to ASD or Fragile X syndrome are especially encouraged**. The goal of proposals must be on the translation of scientific discoveries into interventions to reduce the incidence, severity, and morbidity of neurodevelopmental disorders. **Proposals without a translational component, dealing only with the fundamental biology and pathology of neurodevelopmental disorders, will not be accepted**.

The Partners will each contribute \$750,000 a year, and other funding partners are encouraged to contribute to the initiative, possibly triggering additional matching contributions from the Canada Brain Research Fund. It is expected that at least three teams will be funded, in the range of \$500,000 per year, for five years.

There will be a two-stage application process, beginning with a letter of intent which will be reviewed by an expert international selection committee, after which authors of the most promising proposals will be invited to submit a full application for review. The selection criterion will be: innovation and originality; multidisciplinary and teamwork; feasibility; and potential for impact through new diagnostic, treatment and prevention strategies for neurodevelopmental disorders.

Key dates: deadline for letters of intent, **April 5, 2013**; and for full applications, **August 16, 2013**; funding to begin on or after **November 18, 2013**.

Request for Applications: [NEURODEV_MIRI_RFA_EN.pdf](#)

For further Information:

About the Azrieli Foundation: <http://www.azrielifoundation.org/>

About Brain Canada and the Canada Brain Research Fund: <http://braincanada.ca/>

About this competition: Neurodev@braincanada.ca

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