



Innovative technologies, interventions and novel approaches in the field of neuro-wellness: 2019 Joy Academic Grant Call for Proposals

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Introduction

The Annual Joy Grant program aims to promote and contribute to the emerging field of neuro-wellness. Neuro-wellness focuses on improving or enhancing the resilience of the *healthy* brain towards stress, emotional imbalance and instability, and understanding their underlying mechanisms.

The support this year will primarily focus on innovative technologies and research that can potentially impact human well-being, improve regulation of emotions in personal and social context and increase mental and physical resilience under challenge.

We seek to support research efforts towards elucidating mechanisms that comprise and contribute to human wellness; generate new neuro-wellness-related knowledge through new implementations of existing data; or use state of the art scientific tools, technologies and new modalities to generate new approaches for sensing, monitoring, modulating and stimulating the human brain and body.

2019 Neuro-Wellness Call for Proposals: Themes and Topics of Interest

This year's call for proposals will cover a wide span of technological and research aspects relating to neuro-wellness.

Proposals that will be considered for the 2019 grant will include early stage technologies, advanced research, or applied approaches that will eventually provide novel solutions for at least one of the following objectives (you will be asked to select one or more in the submission page) – all focusing on healthy people:

- Novel technologies aimed at intervention for emotion regulation
- Emotion sensing and characterizations
- Sensory neuromodulation for improving emotion regulation or neuroenhancement to alter affective states in healthy individuals by non-pharmacological means



- Technological means for alleviating stress or uplifting mood
- Characterizing and understanding the neuroscience of habit formation and habitual behavior in humans
- Basic science of emotion regulation, resilience, homeostasis, allostasis
- Multiparametric big data approaches for understanding, monitoring and predicting emotional states and mood
- Human-machine interactions (such as brain-computer interfaces) for improved emotional wellbeing in healthy individuals

2019 Joy Grant tracks and selection criteria

Applications for the 2019 grant call must be assigned to one of three tracks:

- (i) **Novel technology track:** This track covers novel technologies that are being developed or can be utilized towards one of the grant topics of interest

Selection criteria for the “Novel Technology Track”:

- (a) Novelty (20%)
- (b) Likelihood of implementation and applicability (20%)
- (c) Expected impact in the field (20%)
- (d) High research quality (20%)
- (e) Facility / Feasibility (10%)
- (f) Collaboration among various disciplines and/ or industry or a “high risk, high gain” study (10%)

- (ii) **Basic science or intervention track:** Studies that are relevant for this track are those that aim to elucidate mechanisms that are relevant to the grant aims or suggest/test a novel intervention relevant to one of the listed objectives. Future application of the research must be addressed.

This track is not open to researchers with an active grant from Joy.

Selection criteria for the “Basic science or intervention track”:

- (a) Novelty (20%)
- (b) Expected impact in the field (30%)
- (c) High research quality (20%)
- (d) Completion feasibility within the 2y timeframe (10%)
- (e) Collaboration among various disciplines and/ or industry or a “high risk, high gain” study (20%)



- (iii) **Small study and pilot track:** This track is for single year studies, intended mainly for technologies that are developed and should be piloted on healthy populations; small proof-of-concept studies or other small scale studies that are relevant to the grant aims. The maximum budget for this track shall not exceed \$20K

Selection criteria for the “Small study and pilot track”:

- (a) Novelty (20%)
- (b) Likelihood of implementation and applicability (20%)
- (c) Expected impact in the field (30%)
- (d) High research quality (20%)
- (e) Completion feasibility within the 1y timeframe (10%)

Eligibility

The grant will support research performed in academic education centers (universities and colleges) and medical research institutes in Israel. Collaborations between various academic disciplines, different Israeli research institutes, and/or with industry are highly encouraged. International collaborations and studies can apply – as long as at least 60% of the funding and the work will be done in Israel.

Applied approach is encouraged. We welcome basic research proposals as long as the future application of the research is clearly stated.

We support studies on human subjects that ultimately target healthy populations.

Who can apply for the Joy grant?

- ✓ Lab heads and principal investigators
- ✓ Post-doctoral fellows
- ✓ PhD candidates (with supervisor approval)

Joint interdisciplinary teams from any discipline are invited (neuroscience, psychology, life sciences, medicine, engineering, computer science, physics, humanities and others). Inter-disciplinary teams of researchers from exact/life sciences, together with researchers from social sciences and humanities are encouraged.



About Joy Ventures & The Joy Grant Program

Joy Ventures aims to facilitate the creation of a joint, inter-disciplinary, collaborative ecosystem between academia and industry. The goal is to implement the latest advancements in neuroscience, technology and related fields for improving the everyday human experience and emotional well-being by cultivating mental resilience, reducing mental vulnerability and allowing people to cope beneficially with difficulties and challenges of daily life. Joy's long-term goal is to create solutions catering individuals directly, with no need for FDA clearance or medical guidance/supervision.

More information about [Joy Ventures](#)

The Joy Grant Program is an annual effort to support research in the neuro-wellness field. This is the third year of the program. The program will provide, each year, up to US \$1 million (in aggregate) funding, to proposals consistent with the program's goals, through a competitive application, review, and selection process.

Selected proposals in the technology or basic science tracks will be funded with amounts of \$40,000-\$100,000 per annum, for two years, beginning December 15, 2019; selected proposals in the pilot track will be funded with amounts of up to \$20,000 for up to one year.

The grant does not support clinical studies and studies that focus on mental or physical diseases. To get a better idea of supported research, see previous grant [winners](#).

Additional information & inquiries: hagit@joyventures.com

Joy Grant - Guidelines

1. Letters of Intent (LOI's) will be submitted in the first stage. Only applicants with approved letters of intent will proceed to submit a full proposal.

2. Scientific Committee: The Grant's Committee consists of leading researchers in the field, who serve as our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). Full proposals will first undergo peer review of at least two reviewers. SAB members will review and evaluate short-listed proposals to decide which projects will be supported, subject to approval by Joy Board of Directors.

3. Procedure and Timetable

Unlike the previous cycles, the 2019 cycle will have a rolling deadline: LOI (extended abstracts of up to 1.5 pages, [see below](#)) can be submitted at any time. Full proposals can be submitted anytime, upon approval of LOI.

Call Publication Date: 20 January 2019



Answers regarding next phase: up to two months post submission

[Full proposals](#) can be submitted at any time upon LOI approval

Scientific Committee meetings will be held twice a year; Notifications to applicants regarding decisions will follow. LOIs that submitted after 30 June will be considered for 2020.

Formal Research Initiation & Funding: 15 December 2019

4. The Letter of Intent (LOI) shall include:

An extended abstract of the proposed research. The LOI will not exceed 1.5 pages and should contain the following elements:

One page: An abstract detailing the motivation for the research, methodology, expected outcome and expected impact. In addition, the abstract will explain about the novel aspects of the research, whether it is inter-disciplinary and/or “high risk, high gain”. The one-pager can include a figure. References do not count towards the one page and can be submitted on a separate page.

Half a page: A short description about you and why you/your group should execute the study.

PhD students and post-doc fellows will also include a separate letter of support from their supervisor.

[\[I am ready to submit my LOI\]](#)

5. The proposal (upon approval of LOI) shall include:

a) Title page with names of all PIs, research institute(s), phone numbers and email addresses

b) Short version (2 page) CV of leading researchers involved in the proposal

c) An abstract summarizing the main proposed objectives.

d) Description of the proposed research program & expected outcome.

e) The following sections:

- o Specific research goals - what is the problem/experience to be researched and how is it related to improving the everyday human experience

- o Rationale for the study; please state specifically what are the novel aspects in the study and what is the expected impact to the field.



- o Research plan and milestones
- o Collaboration contributions & responsibilities
- o Preliminary relevant data (if exists)
- o Expected results & outcomes
- o Applicative potential

The proposal (narrative & figures, but not references) should not exceed five numbered, single-spaced pages, in 12-point font with one-inch margins.

f) Detailed statement: A tabulated column/dollar amount format of plans for the full research term, including detailed itemized budgets for each year.

g) Statement/ approval of the affiliated institute for submitting the proposal, by the financial officer and/or research authority, including applicants name.

You will get a link to submit a full proposal once your LOI is approved.

6. Funds allocation: Allowed salaries/scholarships may include those for post-doctoral, PhD or master students, research assistants, technical services & support. The grant funds may be used for equipment & lab testing, supplies, animal costs & travel. The grant will accept allocation of up to 15% for institutional overhead or indirect costs.

7. Reporting policy: written reports will be submitted twice a year and will include description of progress, achievement, obstacles and products. Joy Ventures will supply a reporting template. Joy Ventures representatives reserve the rights to visit the researchers in their facility for informal pre-arranged periodic review meetings.

8. Payments are subject to milestone completion. The sponsoring institute is responsible for fiscal management. Payment terms- upon milestone completion: 50% of the annual funding at the beginning of the first year of research (after completing formal approval of terms and agreements and acceptance of an invoice produced by the research institute); Thereafter – each project will be funded based on agreed milestones in the workplan.

Additional information & inquiries: hagit@joyventures.com