BCN seed grants – Send your application before December 1st!!

For many years, BCN researchers and educators have been training Msc- and PhD students in an interdisciplinary environment. It is our aim to train highly capable T shaped researchers*; scientists who are specialised and knowledgeable in their own field (the leg of the T) but at the same time integrated in broader interdisciplinary collaborations to enable novel connections and ideas (the horizontal part). This BCN aim provides excellent chances for prospective PhD-students to obtain PhD positions after the research master; either in the participating faculties or beyond.

We now want to go further in stimulating interdisciplinary collaborations, both for early career researchers and more senior faculty. Additional to the current curriculum and PhD programs, we will provide competitive interdisciplinary seed grants for new projects and ideas, with the aim to build this into larger collaborations en grant applications which could include new PhD trajectories. As the first of the six participating BCN faculties, the medical faculty has been so kind to financially support this 2021 edition of BCN starting grants with a sum of 30K euros. We hope the other faculties will soon follow.

We especially encourage early career researchers [MSc-students, PhD-students, post-docs, and other scientific (non-tenured) staff within first ten years after having received their PhD] to apply, or to form teams including at least one early career researcher.

Project description and criteria:

- The project is written by master/PhD students or faculty from at least two of BCN’s participating faculties.
- The topic concerns the (broad) field of neuroscience, and bridges interests from different research groups within BCN.
- The recipients can choose the best way to spend it. This can include salary, travel costs, lab work or equipment to enable a pilot study or small research project; all fitting the above goals.
- Grants are to a maximum of 10.000 euro each
Applicants should write a proposal (with a maximum of 3 pages A4 (font size 10) including references) containing:

- title
- aim
- applicants including affiliations
- short description (500 words max)
- interdisciplinary aspects (150 words max)
- fit to BCN objectives (150 words max)
- innovative aspects (150 words max)
- description of open science practices (if applicable; 100 words max),
- budget, time planning and its justification (150 words max)
- perspectives for further funding (150 words max)
- expected output in terms of publications and outreach (100 words max).

- A short CV (max 1 page each) from all applicants
- Deadline for submission is December 1st 2021 to e.t.kuiper-drenth@umcg.nl
- A selection committee with members from BCN board and faculties, PhD council and educational council, headed by Marie-José van Tol, will decide before December 15th 2021