

# **Konishi Neuroethology Research Awards**

## **Research Project Funding for Early Career Investigators**

### **I. General Guidelines**

**Purpose:** **Konishi Neuroethology Research Awards** from the International Society for Neuroethology (ISN) are intended to promote research by early career investigators. Funds awarded can be used to cover any direct research expenses (including travel to a field site) but conference travel, participation in formal workshops or courses, and salaries are excluded. Applications will be reviewed on the basis of scientific merit, feasibility of the project, and consistency with the mission of the ISN.

**Eligibility:** All early career investigators who are members of the ISN at the time of application; for the purposes of this research award, an early career investigator is defined as a graduate student currently enrolled in a doctoral program or an investigator who has received a doctoral degree within the past 10 years; investigators more than 10 years beyond the doctoral degree are welcome to apply, but must provide a statement on their biosketch explaining why their career path was interrupted.

**Topics:** Neuroethology seeks to understand the neural basis of natural animal behavior. All research topics encompassed within the field of neuroethology will be considered.

**Deadlines:** Applications are due by 30 April of each year. Proposals should be sent as a single PDF file to: [isn@allenpress.com](mailto:isn@allenpress.com).

**Amount:** Funds are available to support a small number of awards of up to \$2,500. Awards are not renewable. Early career investigators may only apply for a single award per deadline. Awardees may apply for a subsequent award for a different project, but priority will be given to new applicants over previous awardees.

**Review:** Applications are evaluated by a committee appointed by the President of the ISN. Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- a. Relevance to the ISN's focus on the neural basis of natural animal behavior.
- b. Clarity and significance of study question.
- c. Sound scientific methodology, appropriate to study question.
- d. Demonstration that the proposed project is feasible.
- e. Prior publication record, awards, and honors of the applicant.
- f. A clear statement of how the awarded funds will enhance the proposed project.
- g. A demonstration of financial need.

Funding during any given round will be affected by the desire to balance awards across different categories of early career investigators (graduate students and postdocs) and geographically.

**Award period and budget procedure:** When a grant is awarded, the awardee's institution will establish an account for the funds and disburse them on the written authority of the awardee through the sponsoring institution's usual budget mechanisms. Funds will be transferred as a lump sum at the start of the award and must be spent within 12 months from the start date of the award. All funds must be used to support the research of the awardee, and the sponsoring institution must waive all claims to recovery of indirect costs. In exceptional cases, alternative arrangements may be devised to handle the transfer of funds to the investigator. Such alternative arrangements shall be approved by both the President and the Treasurer of the ISN.

**Unused funds:** Any balance unexpended upon grant expiration must be returned to the ISN unless a no-cost extension is requested by the investigator and approved by the award committee.

**Reporting:** A written final report is required at the end of each project (within 90 days of the end date). The final report (typically no more than 1 – 2 pages) should include scientific findings, abstracts and/or publications resulting from the project; a brief description of how the funding was spent, and whether the funding was instrumental in the completion of the project.

## II. Instructions for Proposal

- A. General guidelines. Use standard fonts and margins (11-point font or larger and 1-inch margins; line spacing: single). The header should include the early career investigator's name (Last Name, First Name) and the page number. A PDF of the proposal should be submitted electronically to [isn@allenpress.com](mailto:isn@allenpress.com) by the appropriate deadline.
- B. The proposal should begin with a one-page *cover page* that includes:
- a. A project title
  - b. Contact information for the early career investigator
  - c. Name and location of the sponsoring institution
  - d. A brief statement by the sponsoring mentor (or an institutional representative familiar with the investigator's activities) accompanied by the mentor's signature (and the date on which the cover page was signed). The mentor's statement should read: *I have read and approved this proposal for submission to the Konishi Neuroethology Award Program of the International Society for Neuroethology.*
  - e. A brief statement by a representative of the sponsoring institution accompanied by the signature of the institutional representative (and the date on which the cover page was signed). The institution's statement should read: *This proposal is approved by [name of sponsoring institution] for submission to the Konishi Neuroethology Award program of the International Society for Neuroethology. Any awarded funds administered by the institution will be used entirely for the direct support of the proposed project.*
- C. The *research plan*, limited to a total of three (3) pages, excluding references, should include the following:

**Abstract:** A brief summary of the proposed activity (easily interpreted by neuroethologists outside the investigator's field).

**Specific Aims:** Bullet point statements of what the project intends to accomplish.

**Background and Significance:** Summary of the most pertinent prior published work and the current state of the field. Applicants may include, if available (not required), their own unpublished preliminary data. Identify the gaps in the field's knowledge that the proposed project may fill. If, as will likely be typical, funds are sought for a project embedded within a larger project, describe how the smaller project will enhance the larger effort.

**Methods:** Describe the experimental design and methods proposed to accomplish project objectives briefly but in sufficient detail to allow assessment of their feasibility and applicability. Indicate the type of data to be generated, and how they will be analyzed and archived.

**Future plans:** Provide plans for future efforts directly related to the proposed project, including publication of results or submission of proposals to other sponsors. Include a proposed project timeline.

**References (all that are pertinent; give full citations; references are NOT included in the three-page limit)**

D. *Additional pages*, limited to three, should detail:

**Budget:** Include a brief and informal but descriptive budget and budget justification. If this budget is not adequate to fund the entire proposed research project, indicate the likely source and estimated amount of additional funds.

- a. Equipment: justify why the equipment requested is necessary for the proposed study.
- b. Supplies: list major categories of reagents and disposable supplies.
- c. Other: list additional costs, such as essential travel to a field site, computer charges, equipment charges, hazardous waste disposal costs, etc. (This list is not to be considered limiting, but note that conference travel, workshop fees, and salaries should not be requested, as they will not be covered by a Konishi Award.)

**Research support and environment:**

- a. Describe the facilities (equipment) and space (including labs and field sites) to be used in the research.
- b. List all active and pending additional sources of financial support for the project.
- c. If other support is available, briefly explain the need for ISN support.
- d. If field permits or permits to work with animals in a laboratory setting are required, provide evidence that the appropriate permits have been obtained or specify what permits will have to be sought prior to commencing the project.

E. Within two additional pages, provide a *biosketch* of the early career investigator, including:

- a. Name, current affiliation, and academic position.
- b. Education. Include dates of enrollment at all named institutions and dates degrees were awarded, beginning with the undergraduate degree.
- c. Record of professional employment.
- d. Awards and honors.
- e. Publications. Distinguish peer-reviewed publications from non-peer reviewed publications (such as commentaries and book chapters).
- f. Presentations at conferences and meetings.
- g. Attendance at pertinent workshops and short courses.
- h. If applicable, include a statement describing the nature and duration of any career interruptions at the end of the biosketch.