



# Canadian Neuroanalytics Scholars Program Application Guidelines

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## Overview

Canada is currently experiencing a surge in open neuroscience data, and this surge has the potential to fuel innovation and generate groundbreaking discoveries that can revolutionize our approach to disease prevention and treatment. Individuals with the most cutting-edge advanced analytics skills will be required to fully realize the potential of this data. Canada's exceptional data science talent is urgently needed in neuroscience to combat the growing challenge of dementia and neurodegenerative diseases.

Over the course of four years, the Canadian Neuroanalytics Scholars (CNS) Program will support and train up to 20 postdoctoral scholars in advanced analytics, providing them with hands-on experience. The program will leverage and connect the infrastructure, resources, and expertise available through research and industry partnerships across Canada. The goal is to cultivate a world-class talent pool that can effectively utilize the existing open neuroscience data and meet the growing demand for neuroscience research in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).

This program aims to increase the availability of skills that are crucial for success in this new era and grow the talent pipeline necessary to effectively harness existing open neuroscience data and address the incredible potential for advances in neurodegeneration, brain aging and other neurological problems. It will not only maximize the utilization of existing open neuroscience data but also make a positive difference in the wider neuroscience community by increasing the supply of skills essential for success in the evolving data-driven economy.

The impact of this program will be far-reaching. It will benefit the scholars themselves, as well as their partners. Moreover, it will maximize the use of the existing open neuroscience data. Beyond that, it will have a positive impact on the dementia and neurodegenerative disease community, and even extend its influence into the broader data-driven economy.

## Key Dates

Notice of Intent Applications Open:	December 11, 2023
Extended Notice of Intent Deadline:	March 27, 2024 by 12:00 PM (noon) MST
Full Applications Open:	<i>Successful NOIs will be invited to submit full applications</i>
Full Application Deadline:	May 15, 2024 by 12:00 PM (noon) MST
Notifications of Decision:	Summer 2024
Program Start Date:	Late summer/early fall 2024

## Funding and Award Period

The CNS Program will award up to 10 Scholars with **\$70,000 total funding per year** for a period of up to two years each.

Funding may be used only as salary for the awarded Scholar and may not be used for benefits, WCB, or other non-salary expenses.



## Eligibility

### Applicant

- Canadian citizenship is not a requirement, but the Applicant must be affiliated with a degree-granting research institution in Canada for the term of this award.
- At the start of the funding term, the Applicant must have five or fewer years of full-time training after completion of a doctoral degree. Applicants may be currently working toward a PhD at the time of the application submission, but must have obtained the degree before funding commences.
- At the time of application submission, the Applicant must identify a research supervisor according to the criteria below.
- The Applicant must be able to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award, as outlined below.

### Supervisor

- The supervisor must conduct research primarily in the field of neuroscience, with a preference for research conducted in neurodegeneration and/or aging.
- The supervisor must hold a full-time faculty position at a degree-granting research institution in Canada.
- The supervisor can only supervise one Scholar awarded from this competition, i.e., a supervisor can only be associated with a single Applicant.

### Research Project

- The proposed research project should be a novel project or novel collaboration, i.e. not a continuation of an existing project.
  - Existing projects may be considered for funding, but priority will be given to new projects and collaborations.
- The proposed research project must have a research question or objectives directly related to the field of neuroscience.
  - Preference will be given to projects with potential to improve quality of life and care for those living with a brain disorder.
  - Preference will be given to research conducted in neurodegeneration and/or aging.
- The proposed research project must prominently incorporate application of advanced analytics methods to open neuroscience datasets and prioritize the development of linkages among such datasets, in line with the objectives of the CNS Program.
  - The proposed research project must make use of at least one of the neuroscience open datasets from Ontario Brain Institute, Montreal Neurological Institute, or Hotchkiss Brain Institute. Justification will be required for projects using different datasets than provided by these institutions.
- The proposed project must be conducted within Canada.
- Special consideration will be given to projects which:
  - are multidisciplinary, have meaningful involvement of knowledge users, or are otherwise committed to a collaborative approach to research, as applicable.

- ethically and sensitively integrate consideration for diversity and traditionally underrepresented groups, including principles of SGBA+ (sex- and gender-based analysis plus), EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion), and/or framework for respectful involvement of Indigenous Peoples, as applicable.
- are committed to knowledge translation of research results and findings, via education, publication, clinical or policy implementation, commercialization, etc.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The CNS Program recognizes the importance of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in enriching the process and outcome of collaborative scientific inquiry and innovation. We encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.

## How to Apply

Application to this funding opportunity follows a **two-stage process**:

1. Notice of Intent (NOI), submitted via the Online Notice of Intent Submission and used for eligibility screening purposes.
2. Full Application, to be submitted through the online Full Application submission. A personalized link will be sent to the Applicant once the NOI has been screened and approved.

## Notice of Intent

Applicants intending to submit a Full Application to this program are required to submit a NOI electronically through the Online Notice of Intent Submission.

The purpose of the NOI is to provide necessary information in planning for peer review. NOIs will not undergo formal review and comments are not provided at the NOI stage. NOIs will be used to ensure that all Applicants are eligible for this program as per these program guidelines. As such, Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) and the CNS Program reserve the right to contact any Applicant to suggest revisions or retraction of the intent to apply.

Notices of Intent must be received before **12:00 PM MST on March 27, 2024**. A personal link providing access to the Full Application Submission will be sent to the Applicant once the NOI has been received and approved.

A list of questions to be answered via the NOI is provided in Appendix A.

## Full Application

Full Applications must be submitted electronically through the online application submission, accessed via a personal link sent to the Applicant after the NOI has been approved.

It is imperative that the Full Application is proofread before submission; changes to the Full Application after the deadline are not allowed. Only a single copy of a Full Application will be accepted. The use of a personal submission link will allow Applicants to leave a submission and come back to it, saving any progress that has been made.

**Full Applications and supporting letters must be received in full before 12:00 PM MST on May 15, 2024.** A list of questions to be answered on the Full Application is provided in Appendix A as reference only to allow the Applicant to prepare the necessary documents prior to submission of their application. Letters from Supervisors and Letters of Recommendation should be submitted with the Full Application, but may be emailed to CAN ([abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca)) directly from the referee.

**Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure the application submission adheres to all requirements and is received, including supporting letters, before the deadline.**

*By applying to the CNS Program, Applicants acknowledge that their information will be shared with a review committee for evaluation. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the sharing of applicant or project information, please contact [abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca) for further guidance.*

## Letters of Recommendation

This application requires the Applicant to identify two individuals (referees) who can provide letters of recommendation. It is suggested that the Applicant choose referees who can speak directly to their academic and research strengths, abilities, and achievements (current and past supervisors are recommended). Letters should focus on these areas, but may additionally address the quality and potential of the proposed research project and the Applicant's potential for professional development and career growth.

Letters of Recommendation should be submitted with the Full Application, but may be emailed to CAN ([abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca)) directly from the referee.

## Review Process

All eligible and completed applications will undergo peer review by individuals with expertise in data science, advanced analytics and neuroscience as related to the program scope. Any Conflict of Interest will be taken into consideration when assigning reviewers.

*By submitting this application, Applicants acknowledge that it is not possible to completely remove identifying information from applications undergoing review and that reviewers will have access to Applicant and supervisor CVs for the purposes of evaluation. Reviewers will be required to sign confidentiality agreements prior to accessing application information.*

Applications will be evaluated on the basis of merit of the applicant and supervision team, quality of the research project and environment, and relevance to the goals of the CNS Program. Specifically, applications will be evaluated based on:

- Academic qualifications, research experience, and leadership potential of the Applicant
- Supervisor's expertise and relevance to the Applicant's proposed research project
- Applicant "fit" for the program
- Feasibility of the proposed research project, including integration of open neuroscience data
- Innovativeness and potential impact of the proposed research project, including integration of open neuroscience data
- Appropriateness of the research environment for the proposed research, including access to expertise, tools, and connections required to successfully carry out the project as well as opportunities and plans for the Applicant's professional development and growth
- Letters of recommendation

Special consideration will be given to projects which:

- are novel or involve a novel collaboration, i.e. not a continuation of an existing project.
- are multidisciplinary, have meaningful involvement of knowledge users, or are otherwise committed to a collaborative approach to research, as applicable.
- ethically and sensitively integrate consideration for diversity and traditionally underrepresented groups, including principles of SGBA+ (sex- and gender-based analysis plus), EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion), and/or framework for respectful involvement of Indigenous Peoples, as applicable.
- are committed to knowledge translation of research results and findings, via education, publication, clinical or policy implementation, commercialization, etc.

Reviewers will evaluate applications using a scoring system. Applications with scores falling within the fundable range will be discussed at the review committee meeting. The review committee and CAN will submit recommendations for funding to the CNS Program. Funding decisions will be based on the review committee evaluations and availability of funds for the competition. The CNS Program and CAN will not enter discussion on specific items in the review process or reasons for the rejection of applications. **All decisions are final and cannot be appealed.**

Applicants selected for funding will be notified in writing in Summer 2024 (date is tentative and subject to change) and at that time will be required to accept the terms and conditions of the award. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that CAN and the CNS Program are provided with current contact information and to notify of any changes to the contact information provided in the original application.

*Innovative research, for the purposes of this award, is defined as research that expands the boundaries of what is currently understood as having a positive impact in the field of neuroscience research. Projects should think "outside of the box" and bring disciplines together in unexpected ways to form bold, innovative perspectives. It is important to note that many important research questions can be addressed with existing technologies and methodologies, but for the purposes of this award, it is the innovativeness in application of these technologies and methodologies that is important.*

## Payment of Funds

Funds for the first year will be transferred to the scholars' host institution upon acceptance of award, the second year funds will be released pending the submission of an annual report, as outlined in the Terms and Conditions. In the event that an annual report is not provided to CAN, funding for subsequent years may be revoked.

Should an awardee be unable to continue the research project for any reason for which they are receiving support, CAN should be notified immediately.

Recipients requesting a leave of absence from the research environment for longer than three (3) weeks must provide a written statement explaining the reason for their request at least three (3) months before their anticipated date of leave. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A timeline of when they expect to resume their project and a related work plan is also required. Funding will be suspended for the duration of the leave and shall recommence when, and if, the awardee returns to their research environment and provides a letter of verification from their Supervisor to CAN and the CNS Program.

## Terms and Conditions

### Acceptance of Award

Successful Applicants must accept the offer within ten (10) business days of receiving a notice of award from CAN. A funding acceptance form will be provided with the notice of award and must be returned with supporting documentation to CAN by email, signed by both the successful Applicant and their Supervisor, within this timeframe. Any potential funding conditions or required clarifications and their related timelines will be outlined with the offer. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to withdrawal of the offer.

*By accepting this award, CAN and the CNS Program reserve the right to share information such as applicant name, project title, and non-confidential lay research summary publicly on our website and social media. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the sharing of applicant or project information, please contact [abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca) for further guidance.*

### Funding and Award Period

Successful Applicants will be provided with funding of CAD \$70,000 per year for a period of up to two years. Payment of funds is dependent on compliance with program requirements and deliverables. Funding may be used only as salary for the awarded Scholar and may not be used for benefits, WCB, or other non-salary expenses. Host institutions are responsible for arranging to cover those expenses in compliance with their own policies/requirements.

Onboarding of the successful Applicant and any other fellowship, research, or employment requirements from the host institution will be the sole responsibility of the Supervisor.

## Documentation Requirements

All successful Applicants, on acceptance of funding, are required to submit:

- verification of term start date with the host institution
- all applicable ethics certifications and approvals or proof that they will be in place before research commences

Additionally, as a condition of this award, successful Applicants are required to submit an annual report, 11 months from the funding term start date, that includes:

- confirmation that no major revisions to the research proposal have occurred
- update on the progress of the research, including objectives achieved
- confirmation that all ethics certifications and other required research approvals are current and up-to-date
- signature from the Supervisor as verification that the contents of the report are accurate

In the event that this report is not provided to CAN, funding may be revoked.

Within six (6) months following the end of the funding period, Applicants must submit a final report to CAN that includes:

- an outline of results or findings
- any publications, in peer reviewed journals or in press, that resulted from the funding
- an outline of any intellectual property, including patents, and any services or products/technologies produced related to the funding
- a description of the impact of the project on the state of data science and analytics in neuroscience (e.g. code or methods developed, training of others, new ways of understanding a specific process or condition, etc.)
- a description of the applicant's professional development and career growth over the funding term

The annual and final reports will be consolidated and shared with the CNS Program. Reporting templates will be provided to successful Applicants. An important component of the annual and final reports is the lay summary. These summaries may appear on CAN and the CNS Program websites and be shared with relevant stakeholders and partners. CAN and the CNS Program reserve the right to make editorial amendments to summaries which will be returned to the awardee for review prior to dissemination.

## Knowledge Translation and Open Access

Knowledge translation, science education, and public engagement are key goals for CAN and the CNS Program. Therefore, awardees may be asked to attend and/or participate in events and media to showcase the importance of research in the field of neuroscience, provide education to both academic and lay audiences, and demonstrate the quality of research being done in Canada.



Related to these goals, CAN and the CNS Program require award recipients to ensure research outputs are available as Open Access resources. Open Access means that research outputs, particularly publications, code and data, are free, publicly accessible, and generally available online. Open Access also includes the right to use these research outputs, with little or no restriction, in the digital environment. By adhering to Open Access practices, researchers can share their work on a wider scale and increase the potential impact, and funded research is made more accessible to everyone.

**The financial support of the Canadian Neuroanalytics Scholars Program, The Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation, and the support of [Campus Alberta Neuroscience](#), the Hotchkiss Brain Institute at the University of Calgary, the Ontario Brain Institute and the Neuro at McGill University must be acknowledged in all publications, releases, presentations, and scientific communications pertinent to the research project.**

## Questions

If you are interested in applying to this program and require further information, please contact Campus Alberta Neuroscience at [abneuro@ucalgary.ca](mailto:abneuro@ucalgary.ca) with the subject line “CNS Program”.

## About the CNS Program

The CNS Program is intended to create a cohort of Scholars who can collaborate on the use and linkage of open neuroscience datasets. It is expected that Scholars awarded through this funding opportunity will embrace the goals of the program and participate fully in all that the program has to offer. The main goals of the CNS Program are to:

- Recruit and train scholars and link them to novel projects with existing, mature neuroscience research networks.
- Create a community of practice by bringing together the scholars, neuroscience researchers, people with lived experience, and industry partners.
- Build a roadmap to inform priority data linkages and best practices across the Canadian open neuroscience data ecosystem.

## Recruitment and Training

Each CNS Program Cohort will consist of up to 10 scholars on a two-year term, for a total of up to 20 scholars over four years. These scholars will have intermediate-to-advanced backgrounds in data analytics and/or AI/ML and may come from academia or industry. The Program will work with Training Partners to grow and nurture the skillsets of these scholars. Research Partners will provide further training and support to ensure the scholars have a fluent understanding of the datasets, methods used for collection and curation, and the clinical context.

The CNS Program leverages existing programs offered by Training Partners, to ensure scholars have formal affiliation and access to training, high-quality resources, infrastructure, and mentorship to grow their skillset. There will be core and elective modules, technical and non-technical, for scholars to mix and match to best suit their experience, skills, and needs. Modules will be a combination of lectures, tutorials, and workshops. Core modules will provide scholars with general competencies required to

apply AI/ML techniques to neuroscience datasets, while electives will cover a wide range of topics and skills for scholars to choose from. Additional training and support will be provided by the Research Partners and a “Help Desk” function will be available for scholars to call on a data scientist for help addressing data integration, analysis tools, and federation challenges.

## Creating a Community of Practice

An annual meeting will be held to bring the scholars together, along with all project partners and organizations, neuroscience research experts, people with lived experience, and industry partners to share lessons learned, to collaboratively solve problems, and to build strong relationships between all groups. The CNS Program aims to create a more tightly-knit pan-Canadian neuroscience community, building transdisciplinary bridges between data science and neuroscience. Additionally, a regular virtual “Methods Club” will be organized where scholars can gather to discuss the latest tools and techniques for data analysis and its applications, and explore topics that researchers and industry are thinking about or working on.

## Building a Roadmap

The CNS Program scholars will inform the development of a strategic plan to prioritize linking open neuroscience data assets across Canada, with an emphasis on supporting projects in dementia and neurodegenerative disease. This will inform project-level support for the scholars to ensure they have access to all of the data they need. It will also inform plans toward a Canadian shared open neuroscience data ecosystem.



## Partners

### Generously funded by:



HILARY & GALEN  
WESTON FOUNDATION

The goal of The Hilary & Galen Weston Foundation is to contribute to charities whose bold ideas shape a better future for everyone. For more information, please visit [hgwf.org](http://hgwf.org)

### This program is made possible through the support of our partners:



Campus Alberta  
Neuroscience

Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN), established in 2012 with support from the Government of Alberta, is a province-wide neuroscience network connecting the Universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge to increase the impact of neuroscience and mental health research, education and translation, developing the province as an epicenter for neuroscience excellence. For more information, please visit [albertaneuro.ca](http://albertaneuro.ca).



HOTCHKISS  
BRAIN INSTITUTE

The HBI's vision is "Healthy brains for better lives". Their mission is to inspire discovery and apply knowledge towards innovative solutions for neurological and mental health disorders. This mission is guided by six core values: Excellence, collaboration, integrity, impact, creativity, and relevance. For more information, please visit [hbi.ucalgary.ca](http://hbi.ucalgary.ca)



neuro  
Montreal Neurological  
Institute-Hospital

The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital) is a bilingual academic healthcare institution. We are a McGill research and teaching institute; delivering high-quality patient care, as part of the Neuroscience Mission of the McGill University Health Centre. They are proud to be a Killam Institution, supported by the Killam Trusts. For more information, please visit [mcgill.ca/neuro](http://mcgill.ca/neuro)



ONTARIO BRAIN  
INSTITUTE INSTITUT  
ONTARIEN DU CERVEAU

The Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) is a provincially funded, not-for-profit organization that accelerates discovery and innovation, benefiting both patients and the economy. OBI works to establish Ontario as a world leader in brain research, commercialization and care. For more information, please visit [braininstitute.ca](http://braininstitute.ca)

### The CNS program is pleased to collaborate with the following Canadian centres of excellence in AI/ML as training partners:

- [Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute \(Amii\)](#)
- [Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence](#)
- [Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute \(Mila\)](#)

## Appendix A: NOI Questions Overview

Applicants intending to submit a Full Application to this funding opportunity **must** submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) electronically through the Online Notice of Intent Submission by **12:00 PM MST (noon) on March 27, 2024**. CAN will not accept late submissions or NOIs submitted via mail or email.

Below is a list of questions to be addressed by the NOI. Please note that this list is meant for informational purposes only and to facilitate the preparation of the NOI for submission.

- **Applicant Contact Information**
  - Full name
  - Preferred pronouns (optional)
  - Email address (institution domain preferred)
  - Phone number
  - Mailing address
- **Applicant Academic Information**
  - Academic institution where CNS position will be held
  - Current academic institution (if different)
  - Current position/degree in progress
  - Date PhD received/expected
  - Faculty, discipline, and department, as applicable
- **Applicant Canadian Common CV**
- **Potential/Tentative Supervisor Information**
  - Identification of individual to be potential supervisor during CNS position
  - Full name
  - Preferred pronouns (optional)
  - Contact information (email, phone, address)
  - Academic institution
  - Current position/title
  - Faculty, discipline, and department, as applicable
- **Proposed Research Project**
  - Project title (can be tentative)
  - Brief, non-confidential description of the project that includes objectives, research approach, and expected significance of the work (can be tentative)
- **Self-Assessment of Fit for Program**
  - What is your interest and/or experience in advanced neuroanalytics and/or open neuroscience databases, as it applies to neurodegeneration?
  - What other relevant experience do you have? Use this space either to highlight important items on your CCV or items that may not be present on your CCV.
  - What are some top examples of your achievements or contributions to the research community?
  - If you have any gaps in your career progress, please use this space to address them.
  - Why do you think you are a good fit for the CNS Program?
  - What are your goals for participating in the CNS Program?
- **Suggested reviewers (optional) and reviewer exclusions (if applicable)**

Provide a list of suggested reviewers who may be contacted to review the proposal at the Full Application stage. We encourage you to suggest a diverse cross-section of potential reviewers

with appropriate expertise (Canadian and international, established and Early Career Researchers (ECR), members of underrepresented groups, from academic and non-academic institutions) to review and comment on the proposal. Proposed reviewers should not be in a Conflict of Interest with the Applicant, as defined by:

- Extensive and direct involvement in the development of the funding opportunity
- Involvement in the proposed research project
- Interests and intent towards an area of research intersects with any personal, commercial, or financial interest or benefit pertaining to the individual, their employment, or partnerships and former or prospective professional associations
- Having Funding-decision Authority for the funding opportunity

Indicate any individuals who should not be considered to review the full proposal, including instances where:

- The Applicant trained with/or by the individual
- The Applicant published with the individual in the last four (4) years, excluding workshops or large consortia
- The individual has been a co-investigator on a grant application or award with the Applicant in the last four (4) years
- The individual has a conceptual difference of opinion with the Applicant that will prevent a fair review
- The individual will receive financial benefit from the Applicant receiving an award

## Appendix B: Full Application Questions Overview (for invited applicants)

*Full Applications will be opened on January 17, 2024 to invited applicants.*

Full Applications must be submitted electronically via the personal link provided by **12:00 PM MST (noon) on May 15, 2024**. CAN will not accept late submissions or applications submitted via mail or email.

Below is a list of questions to be addressed by the Full Application. Please note that this list is meant for informational purposes only and to facilitate the preparation of the Full Application for submission.

- **Applicant Contact Information**
  - Full name
  - Preferred pronouns (optional)
  - Email address (institution domain preferred)
  - Phone number
  - Mailing address
- **Applicant Academic Information**
  - Academic institution where CNS position will be held
  - Current academic institution (if different)
  - Current position/degree in progress
  - Date PhD received/expected
  - Faculty, discipline, and department, as applicable
- **Applicant Curriculum Vitae**
  - Upload CCV as PDF in Biosketch format
- **Supervisor Information**
  - Identification of individual to be supervisor during CNS position
  - Full name
  - Preferred pronouns (optional)
  - Contact information (email, phone, address)
  - Academic institution
  - Current position/title
  - Faculty, discipline, and department, as applicable
  - Upload CCV as PDF in Biosketch format
- **Supervisor Support Letter**
  - Uploaded as PDF
  - Must include:
    - a description of the research environment
    - a list of the supervisor's currently funded grants (if not in CCV)
    - confirmation of commitment by the supervisor to support applicant with all necessary elements for conducting the research project
    - an outline of professional development and growth opportunities available for the applicant at the host institution
    - a brief outline of how the research environment (tools and facilities, available expertise, supervisor's own investigations) will contribute to and synchronize

- with the applicant's proposed research project
  - a description of why the supervisor recommends the applicant for the CNS program
- **Self-Assessment of Fit for Program**
  - What is your interest and/or experience in advanced neuroanalytics and/or open neuroscience databases, as it applies to neurodegeneration?
  - What other relevant experience do you have? Use this space either to highlight important items on your CCV or items that may not be present on your CCV.
  - What are some top examples of your achievements or contributions to the research community?
  - If you have any gaps in your career progress, please use this space to address them.
  - Why do you think you are a good fit for the CNS Program?
  - What are your goals for participating in the CNS Program?
- **Proposed Research Project**
  - Project title
  - Clear, concise, non-confidential lay summary explaining the necessary background information, project description and goals, and potential outcomes in language that can be understood by non-expert audiences (half page)
  - One-page scientific summary including research question/objectives, general estimated timeline, approach and methodology, potential risks/barriers and how they will be addressed, and potential outcomes; citations and bibliography should be included as appropriate (bibliography will not count towards the page limit)
  - How is the project novel or how will it contribute to new collaborations?
    - If the project is a continuation of an existing project, describe why it should be considered for the CNS Program.
  - How is the project related to the field of neuroscience?
    - Does the project have the potential to improve quality of life and care for those living with a brain disorder? If yes, explain.
    - Is the project conducted in neurodegeneration and/or aging? If yes, explain.
  - How does the project intend to incorporate application of advanced analytics methods to open neuroscience datasets?
    - How does the project intend to prioritize the development of linkages among the datasets?
    - What dataset(s) will be used by the project?
      - If any of the indicated datasets are not from OBI, MNI, or HBI, explain why these datasets are integral to the project.
  - If applicable, explain how the project is multidisciplinary, has meaningful involvement of knowledge users, or is otherwise committed to a collaborative approach to research?
  - If applicable, explain how the project ethically and sensitively integrates consideration for diversity and traditionally underrepresented groups, including principles of SGBA+ (sex- and gender-based analysis plus, EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion), and/or framework for respectful involvement of Indigenous Peoples.
  - If applicable, explain how the project is committed to knowledge translation of research results and findings, via education, publication, clinical or policy implementation, commercialization, etc.
- **Identification of Referees**

- Identify two individuals who can provide letters of recommendation. It is suggested that the applicant choose referees who can speak directly to their academic and research strengths, abilities, and achievements (current and past supervisors are recommended). Letters should focus on these areas, but may additionally address the quality and potential of the proposed research project and the applicant's potential for professional development and career growth. The applicant's identified supervisor **cannot** be used as a referee.
- Will require the following information for each referee:
  - Full name
  - Contact information (email, phone, address)
  - Academic institution
  - Current position/title
  - Faculty, discipline, and department, as applicable
  - Relationship to applicant
- **Suggested reviewers (optional) and reviewer exclusions (if applicable)**  
Provide a list of suggested reviewers who may be contacted to review the proposal at the Full Application stage. We encourage you to suggest a diverse cross-section of potential reviewers with appropriate expertise (Canadian and international, established and Early Career Researchers (ECR), members of underrepresented groups, from academic and non-academic institutions) to review and comment on the proposal. Proposed reviewers should not be in a Conflict of Interest with the Applicant, as defined by:
  - Extensive and direct involvement in the development of the funding opportunity
  - Involvement in the proposed research project
  - Interests and intent towards an area of research intersects with any personal, commercial, or financial interest or benefit pertaining to the individual, their employment, or partnerships and former or prospective professional associations
  - Having Funding-decision Authority for the funding opportunity

Indicate any individuals who should not be considered to review the full proposal, including instances where:

- The Applicant trained with/or by the individual
- The Applicant published with the individual in the last four (4) years, excluding workshops or large consortia
- The individual has been a co-investigator on a grant application or award with the Applicant in the last four (4) years
- The individual has a conceptual difference of opinion with the Applicant that will prevent a fair review
- The individual will receive financial benefit from the Applicant receiving an award