

Novel methods and approaches for sensing, evaluating, modulating and regulating mood and emotional states.

## 2018 Joy Academic Grant Call for Proposals

### Introduction

The Annual Joy grant initiative aims to promote and contribute to the emerging field of neuro-wellness. The grant supports research efforts that potentially impact human performance and well-being, improve regulation of emotions in personal and social context and increase mental and physical resilience under challenge – which are all different aspects of neuro-wellness. Neuro-wellness shifts the focus from treating brain diseases to improving the well-being and resilience of the generally healthy individuals and understanding the mechanisms that can help us support such processes.

Each year, a new grant theme will support research efforts that elucidate 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 or procedures to generate new approaches for sensing, monitoring and modulating of the human brain and body.

### 2018 Joy Grant Theme

**This year's grant theme will cover various research aspects relating to characterization and identification of emotional states and mood alterations in humans.** Research proposals that will be considered for the 2018 grant will include research, in various stages, that will eventually provide novel solutions for at least one of the following objectives:

- ✓ Regulation of emotional states: Identify and characterize emotional states; understand the mechanisms underlying emotion regulation; research of positive affect and processes that support and enhance formation of positive habits.
- ✓ Non-invasive methods to manage and improve emotional states and mood- may include, but not limited to sensory/bodily influences on such regulation; neuromodulation techniques, enhancement of brain plasticity.
- ✓ Non-invasive, real-time sensing techniques, continuous monitoring and non-invasive evaluation of emotional states

May include, but not limited to:

- Study of parameters from various anatomic structures (such as skin, face, muscles or eyes);
- Continuous sensing of hormones and neurotransmitters; measurements of surrogate markers of emotional states in humans
- Behavioral and social data as surrogate markers for emotional state

- ✓ Multiparametric big data approaches for understanding, monitoring and predicting vulnerability to dysregulated emotional states or unstable mood –may include, but not limited to setting new physiological parameters, applying machine learning and artificial intelligence: making new sense out of existing data sets (such as heart rate, GSR, EOG, EMG, oximetry, EEG)

## 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 will be considered.

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 academic 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 science, together with researchers from social sciences and humanities are encouraged.

## About Joy & The Joy Annual Grant Program

Joy 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, related fields and technology for improving the everyday human experience and well-being by cultivating mental resilience and reducing mental vulnerability. This will allow people to cope with and better manage stress and negative emotions during their 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 grant initiative is an annual effort to support research in the neuro-wellness field. This is the second year of the program. The program will provide, each year, up to \$1.2 million dollars (in

aggregate) funding, to proposals consistent with the initiative's goals, through a competitive application, review, and selection process.

Selected proposals will be funded with amounts of \$40,000-\$100,000 per annum, for a two-year period, beginning December 15, 2018. Research extensions should be applied for up to 6 months prior to the end of the two-year period.

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](#).

A meeting explaining the grant application and presenting the initiative including Q&A will be held, on January 22, to further elaborate on the annual grant theme and answer questions.

### **JOY Grants - Guidelines**

1. Criteria for selecting proposals:

1.1 Novelty (20%)

1.2 Expected impact in the field (30%)

1.3 High research quality (20%)

1.4 Facility / Feasibility (10%)

1.5 Collaboration among various disciplines and/ or industry or a "high risk, high gain" study (20%)

2. Scientific committee: The Grants' committee consists of leading researchers in the field (see our website). The committee will review and evaluate the proposals, interview the leading proposal researchers, to decide which projects will be supported, subject to approval by Joy Board of Directors.

### **3. Timetable and Deadlines – 2018**

Call Publication Date: 2 January

Q&A Meet-Up (attendance recommended): 22 January

LOI – extended abstract submission: 15 Feb

Answers regarding next phase: by 25 Feb

Proposal Submission Dead-Line: 10 April

Second Phase Proposals Notification: 15 May

Interviews w Leading Proposal Researchers: June

Winners Announcement: 15 August

## Formal Research Initiation & Funding: 15 December

### 4. The letter of Intent (LOI) will include:

An extended abstract of the proposed research. The LOI will not exceed 1 page and should contain the following elements:

The motivation for the research, methodology, expected outcome and expected impact. In addition, the abstract will provide an explanation about the novel aspects of the research, whether it is interdisciplinary in nature and/or "high risk, high gain". The one pager can include a figure but does not include references, which can be submitted on a separate page.

½ a page 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.

### 5. The proposal (**upon approval of LOI**) will include:

a) Completed title page (see Appendix A)

b) Short version (1 page) CV of leading researchers involved in the proposal (NIH format)

c) An abstract summarizing the main proposed objectives.

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

e) Include the following sections in the proposal

- 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 Scientific approach

- o Preliminary relevant data (if exists)

- o Expected results & outcomes

- o Applicative potential

The proposal (narrative & figures, but not bibliography) should not exceed 5 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.

h) Check list (see Appendix B)

i) **Not mandatory:** Video Statement: in addition to the proposal, researchers are encouraged to submit a 2-min video statement presenting the highlights of their project (oral statement or combined with a presentation demonstration). The video statement will serve as part of the review process.

6. Second Phase - Best and Final Proposals: The researchers of highest-ranked proposals will be invited for a presentation + interview. In case the proposed research involves human and/or animal subjects, documentation from the affiliated research institution that, such experimentation has been approved by the appropriate institutional committee[s].

7. 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 20% for institutional overhead or indirect costs.

8. Reporting policy: Annual written reports, both financial and scientific, including progress, achievement, obstacles, etc. JOY Grant representatives reserve the rights to visit the researchers in their facility for unformal pre-arranged periodic review meetings.

9. Payments are subject to an annual review of research progress. The sponsoring institute is responsible for fiscal management. Payment terms: 100% 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); 80% beginning of second research year upon approval of first annual report; 20% after approval of second annual report.

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