To stimulate innovation, the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute (https://www.brown.edu/initiatives/child-health/) is pleased to announce the 2018 Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Awards. The awards are made possible through the generous support of the family of Alan Hassenfeld. Brown University faculty or preferably teams of faculty investigators may apply for one-year seed funding awards of up to $50,000 to support innovative research aimed at improving children’s health. We anticipate making one award. In addition to requesting funding support, applicants may request technical assistance and collaboration from the Hassenfeld Child Health Institute’s Core Research and Evaluation Unit. The Institute includes a focus on maternal health and its influence on child health, as well as family influences on children’s health more broadly. Consistent with the AAP definition of pediatrics, projects focusing anywhere from the prenatal period through age 21 are appropriate.

For the 2018 awards, proposals should focus on the issue of healthy weight, nutrition and fitness. Priority will be given to proposals that expand collaborations with the Institute’s Core Research and Evaluation Unit (https://www.brown.edu/initiatives/child-health/research-evaluation). The Institute is in the process of launching two multi-year birth cohort studies. One was launched last spring and aims to enroll between 100 and 200 pregnant women per year for five years at a single obstetric site in Rhode Island. The site primarily serves a low-income population, with a substantial number of Spanish speaking patients. The second will be launched in 2018 and will enroll more than 1,000 families per year during the post-partum period at Women & Infants Hospital. Both the pregnancy enrollment and postpartum enrollment studies will include maternal interviews, biologic samples and annual in person follow up. The Institute also has a strong research methods focus in the area of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), employing spatial analysis to examine neighborhood and environmental factors that impact child health. The Institute also has expertise and active research utilizing data from health information systems and informatics techniques. In addition, the Institute has an active initiative focused on healthy weight, nutrition and fitness that is led by Drs. Elissa Jelalian, Erika Werner and Rena Wing (https://www.brown.edu/initiatives/child-health/current-initiatives/healthy-weight-nutrition-and-physical-fitness).

For more information on the work of the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute, feel free to reach out to Institute Director, Patrick M. Vivier, MD, PhD (Patrick_Vivier@Brown.edu).

Criteria for Selection

Competitive proposals will be those that:

- Help further the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute goals to:
  - Improve the health of children, making the communities we serve among the world’s healthiest places for children and their families
  - Address the issue of poverty and how it impacts child health
  - Serve as a national and international model for what can be achieved in child health
- Have the potential to impact the academic field of study
• Are led by researchers with a strong track record of funded research and/or promise for future funded research success
• Have the potential to lead to future federal or national foundation support
• Expand interdisciplinary collaborations with the Hassenfeld Institute, particularly for future funded collaborative research

Additional selection criteria include the overall quality of the project/proposal, the qualifications of the study team, the feasibility of the project to be successfully completed in one year, appropriateness of the budget, timeline for future funding proposals and other quality/impact issues.

Timeline
Proposals should be emailed to HassenfeldInstitute@Brown.edu no later than 9:00 am on Monday, September 24, 2018.

Eligibility
The Principal Investigator or a Co-Principal Investigator for the proposal must be a Brown faculty member and must be employed by Brown, a Brown teaching hospital (or affiliated foundations), or key Institute partner. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary teams to apply, including the option of co-investigators from other institutions.

Amount and Duration of Awards
We expect to fund one award at up to $50,000 level for a one-year projects. Faculty salaries and indirect costs are not allowed. The expectation is for the project to be completed in a 12-month period beginning January 1, 2019, though requests for a 6 month no-cost extension will be considered. Funds not expended by the completion date will be returned to the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute.

Application Format
Application Process
The proposal should include these items presented in the following order:

1. Title
2. Names, titles, affiliations and contact information for the PI and key co-investigators
3. Abstract (300 word limit) describing the proposed research project.
4. Body of the proposal (sections a – d below) should not exceed 2,500 words or 5 single-spaced pages.
   a. Specific Aims
   b. Background and Significance. A summary of the relevant background literature in the field of research that puts the proposed project into the appropriate context and explains how it will significantly extend or contribute to the field. (500 words maximum)
   c. Research methods and statistical analysis. A description of the proposed research project and analytic plan, in terms that do not require reviewers to be experts in the sub area of the proposed research, a timetable for completing these activities, and an assessment of the potential for subsequent external funding.
   d. The interdisciplinary nature of the research project should be explicitly stated. Describe how the collaboration will work.
5. Supporting documents for the proposal (bibliography/references, figures)
6. Budget with justification. Please submit budget using the NIH budget template, Form page 4. The budget should have general itemized categories of expenses for which award funds will be used and a brief justification for these expenses. Funds cannot be used for indirect costs. Expenditures
for faculty salaries (either summer or academic year) are not permitted. The maximum budget is $50,000.

7. Strategy for seeking subsequent external support. The description should include a statement of intent to submit a proposal as one of the outcomes of the project.

8. Current biosketch for each collaborator named in the project. Each collaborator’s contribution to the project should be clearly outlined. (Please do not send CV)

9. Endorsements from the proposer’s department chair(s), center director or equivalent discussing the proposal’s importance in terms of the selection criteria. This letter of support should include a commitment from the chair for adequate time and resources to complete the project. In the event of multiple proposals from the same department, the chair may be asked to rank the proposals.

10. Names of at least two scholars qualified to review and comment upon the proposal. At least one reviewer should be a faculty member at Brown University familiar with the proposer’s research field.

11. Innovation award applicants must comply with their institution’s internal grant application submission guidelines. Please check with your grants office to be sure you have met submission criteria prior to submitting the application to the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute.

Proposals must be emailed by September 24, 2018 to: HassenfeldInstitute@Brown.edu
Receipt of the proposal will be confirmed with the submitting PI. If you do not receive confirmation within 72 hours of submission, please contact the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute (HassenfeldInstitute@Brown.edu).

Award Conditions

1. Award funds must be used to support reasonable and necessary costs, as outlined in the approved budget. Any deviations in the proposed project or budget must be approved in writing, in advance by the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute Director.

2. Funding will begin on January 1, 2019. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2019. A final report is due March 1, 2020. If a project extension is required, it must be requested by July 1, 2019. If approved the project can be extended until July 1, 2020 with a final report due August 1, 2020. This report should outline the work accomplished as a result of the award, highlight the significant progress made on the project, summarize any publications, and describe any significant deviations from or extensions to the project described in the original proposal. The report should also describe plans to submit proposals to external sponsors based on this award. The final report should be submitted to: HassenfeldInstitute@Brown.edu

3. The PI of the project and/or the co-investigators will present the results of their research from this award at a Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute forum.