Lucina Uddin
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
College of Arts & Sciences
luddin@miami.edu
213-308-6790
Abstract

This SEEDS application requests resources to invite a prominent cognitive neuroscience researcher to give a colloquium at the University of Miami Coral Gables campus. UM has been committed to growing its research presence in the area of neuroscience. A campus-wide “Understanding the Brain” neuroscience initiative has resulted in the creation of neuroimaging facilities on campus (operational as of July 2013) and of several faculty lines within the Department of Psychology, as well as a cluster hire focusing on “Mind, Brain and Evolution” that involves ongoing faculty searches in the departments of psychology, physics, anthropology, and philosophy. Building on this momentum, this SEEDS application seeks to invite a very well-known cognitive neuroscientist to UM to present his or her research and engage the neuroscience community in dialogue. This visit will foster cohesion amongst the growing number of faculty and students on campus with interests in this emerging field. The funds would be used to pay for airfare and accommodations to support the visit of a distinguished scientist for this colloquium.

Activity Goals

The goals of this colloquium would be to attract attention to the fledgling “Understanding the Brain” initiative on campus by inviting a famous cognitive neuroscientist to visit with scholars and students in Psychology and Neuroscience at UM. This visit would increase the visibility of the cognitive neuroscience research on campus and provide a networking opportunity for young faculty, post-docs, and graduate students working in this field. It would also provide the opportunity to advertise our newly constructed Neuroimaging Suite and highlight UM as an up-and-coming institution for cognitive neuroscience research. This colloquium would draw attention from the larger community, essentially putting UM “on the map” as a center for behavioral and brain sciences. Having a prominent visitor on campus will encourage dialogue and create potential avenues for collaboration for neuroscientists on campus, thus improving the academic environment for all researchers with an interest in studying the human brain. The speaker will be invited to stay for three nights to provide ample opportunities for meetings with faculty and students. In addition to a scientific colloquium, the speaker may be asked to give a second lecture catered towards mentoring students who are pursuing degrees in psychology and neuroscience. Ultimately, the goal is to raise awareness of UM in the cognitive neuroscience community and increase excitement and participation in the use of the neuroimaging resources on the Coral Gables campus.
Personal Goals

My personal goals including building my laboratory (the Brain Connectivity and Cognition Laboratory: http://www.psy.miami.edu/bccl/) and continuing to make important contributions to the field of cognitive neuroscience. As I am currently submitting my second R01 application to NIH, it occurs to me that the institution of UM may not be on the radar for researchers studying the human brain. I seek to increase the visibility of UM to this community, to contribute to the intellectual climate on campus and increase the success rate of funding in this discipline. My hope is that this colloquium will draw positive attention to the campus and the “Understanding the Brain” initiative.

Budget and Budget Justification

Flight for invited speaker: $500
Accommodation for invited speaker, 3 nights at Sonesta, Coconut Grove: $500
Speaker dinner including four faculty and three students: $1000
Speaker honorarium: $500

The speaker may be arriving from any part of the United States, thus a budget is requested for covering this airfare. An honorarium of $500 is requested to provide additional incentive for the speaker to participate. Accommodation at a nearby hotel for the duration of the visit is also requested. Finally, a speaker dinner including several cognitive neuroscience faculty and students with research interests aligned with the speaker will provide an opportunity for encouraging dialogue and collaboration.

Below is a partial list of several prominent cognitive neuroscientists who may be contacted and invited to UM if this SEEDS application is funded. Included in the list are several well-known women and minority scientists.

BJ Casey (https://www.sacklerinstitute.org/cornell/people/bj.casey/)
Luiz Pessoa (http://mnc.umd.edu/faculty/pessoa)
Chandan Vaidya (http://explore.georgetown.edu/people/cjv2/?PageTemplateID=366)
Marcus Raichle (http://www.nil.wustl.edu/labs/raichle/)