



## THE 2023 BIGELOW INSTITUTE FOR CONSCIOUSNESS STUDIES GRANTS PROGRAM: “THE CHALLENGE”

After a massive international response judged by a panel of outstanding experts, the 2021 Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS) essay contest (“The Contest”) established that there is *evidence beyond reasonable doubt* for the survival of consciousness after permanent physical death (“life after death,” or “the afterlife”). Building on that success, the 2023 BICS Challenge will fund research into contact and communication with post-mortem or discarnate consciousness leading to the reception of higher order information of benefit to humankind with the allocation of a grand total of up to **\$1 million in grants**.

Up to \$50,000 will be awarded to 12 projects and up to \$100,000 will be awarded to a further 4 projects, exclusively in the field of the survival of consciousness after death. (BICS reserves the right to determine the value of each project and the final amount awarded.)

As a general guide, historical examples of such contact and communication with “the afterlife” have included: Emanuel Swedenborg; Allan Kardec; William Stainton Moses; Edgar Cayce; and Jane Roberts.

Historically, the methods used have been wide-ranging, including, but not limited to, automatic writing, dreams, visions, veridical hallucination, trance, hypnosis, direct voice, mental mediumship, physical mediumship, so-called spirit boards, etc.

Applicants are free to decide on their approach, but projects must address the hypothesis that valid higher order information, generally classed as “wisdom,” can be received in communication with post-mortem or discarnate consciousness through the use of robust methodologies.

In the first instance, applicants should submit a **preliminary proposal** with professional bio, or bios of all team members, (including photos of all applicants) showing their qualifications and experience in this field (“the survival of human consciousness after death”). Individual applicants may apply. In addition, BICS encourages researchers to form teams or consortia, ideally, but not necessarily, with a host entity.

Preliminary proposals should be precise and succinct, and include an abstract, a thorough budget breakdown showing how payment installments will be tied to research deliverables (“milestones”) over the course of the project, and a clear demonstration that the project design is novel and will stand up to academic scrutiny.

Preliminary proposals are invited from November 1st, 2022, to January 1st, 2023, with selected applicants being invited to submit full proposals from January 1st, 2023, to April 1st, 2023. Grants awarded will run from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 (9 months).

Preference will be given to new and innovative studies. BICS will not enter into discussion or “coaching” of proposed projects. Further terms and conditions can be found at [bigelowinstitute.org](http://bigelowinstitute.org).

**Submit your preliminary proposal from Nov., 1st, 2022, until Feb., 1st, 2023, to Dr Colm Kelleher at [info@bigelowinstitute.org](mailto:info@bigelowinstitute.org).** Submissions will be considered and approved on a rolling basis, therefore applicants should submit *as early as possible*.



## CLARIFICATION ON WISDOM ACQUISITION

During the BICS Challenge presentation at the International Association for Near-Death Studies (IANDS) conference on September 1, 2022, in Salt Lake City, Robert Bigelow and Colm Kelleher outlined the focus of the up to \$1,000,000 BICS grants program.

The main focus of the grants program is contact and communication with the other side and obtaining information from the other side.

The September 1 presentation remains on the IANDS YouTube portal and can still be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tg7qQifmYw>.

We quote directly from Slide 7 of the BICS presentation, which stated:

**Contact and Communication with the “Other Side” is the exclusive focus. However, this does not entail contacting deceased relatives. Rather, BICS is cautiously interested in wisdom acquisition from the Afterlife, both positive and negative. We understand this is difficult to bonify, but necessary.**

BICS has received some questions regarding this slide. It is therefore necessary to explain that the purpose of this “Challenge Program” is not simply to engage in the contacting of deceased relatives in order to learn that they are at peace, etc. We recognize that this process can be a useful tool in vetting the authenticity of mediums, channelers, automatic writers, etc. Therefore, at least, this is a calibration process of measuring accuracy/truthfulness as a byproduct of what the sitter acknowledges is true.

We want to convey a word of caution in that the literature thoroughly acknowledges that just because a medium is able to authentically contact and acquire true information from a deceased relative, it does not mean that that same medium is automatically endowed with abilities to contact other spirits besides the deceased relatives.

To reiterate, the primary purpose of initiating the BICS grants program of communication with the afterlife is wisdom acquisition from the afterlife and secondly, and very importantly, validating that wisdom.

## FURTHER STATEMENT ON WISDOM ACQUISITION

BICS officers and staff have been aware over several decades of a persistent theme in information coming from multiple sources, including from alleged non-human entities and also putative sources from the Afterlife. The consensus from these multiple strands of information is that humanity is, and has been for some years, living on borrowed time and that a catastrophic “extinction level event” may be in our near future.

As a part of the BICS Challenge Grants Program and applicable to the wisdom acquisition process, BICS is interested in exploring and researching information obtained from authenticated senior sources on the “Other Side” pertaining to addressing the future viability or non-viability of mankind over the next twenty to thirty years. An important part of this project is to develop methodologies to authenticate and corroborate the information coming from, ideally, senior, evolved sources on the “Other Side.”



## APPLICATION SUMMARY AND CHECKLIST

### Scope of Research

The Challenge grants program will only fund research that meets these two criteria:

- Contact/communication with post-mortem or discarnate consciousness
- Wisdom acquisition from such verified sources

This means that general parapsychological projects will not be considered.

### Funding Available

Two grant levels are available:

- Up to \$50,000
- Up to \$100,000

BICS reserves the right to determine the value of any submitted project and the amount to be awarded.

### Application Process

Preliminary applications only are requested at this stage. This means:

- A summary or abstract of your project proposal, including projected budget:
  - Your budget projection should be realistic and not simply a division of the total amount being offered;
  - Your budget must be distributed over the course of the project, with installments matched to interim project reports (“milestones”).
- A bio statement with photograph of all project members:
  - Your bio statement should demonstrate that you are qualified to undertake the research suggested;
  - Your bio statement should be brief and easy to read.

Failure to adhere to any of these guidelines may result in your application being rejected.

### Deadline

Preliminary applications must be received before or on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Send to [info@bigelowinstitute.org](mailto:info@bigelowinstitute.org).

*The information contained herein may be updated or replaced by subsequent releases and does not constitute a contract or commitment on the part of the Bigelow Institute for Consciousness Studies (BICS), its officers, or staff. The latest information will be published on the BICS website at <https://www.bigelowinstitute.org> and it is the responsibility of applicants to appraise themselves of this.*