

SINAPSE

POOL	<u>SINAPSE – Scottish Imaging Network: A Platform for Scientific Excellence</u>		
Original Partners	Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St Andrews, Stirling		
Funding	£5.6M SFC £0.7M CSO £35.6M Institutions		
Start	2008	End	2014
Original objectives			
Six major Scottish universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, St. Andrews, Stirling) together will create a shared, standardised environment for brain imaging to meet the emerging opportunities and challenges posed by neuroscience research in Scotland.			
Inclusivity policy	Membership of SINAPSE focussed on those departments and academics with the highest national (and international) profile, including outstanding established clinical and non-clinical scientists, people of intermediary grade with the clear potential to be academic leaders, and imaging providers who are crucial to functioning of the imaging technologies (though may not be world leaders in their own right)		

Funding breakdown (From original proposal)

	SFC (£000s)	CSO (£'000s)	Institution (£000s)	Total (£000s)
Salaries 4 Chairs Six mid-level research associates 2 RAs 3 Radiochemists Technicians	2,849	700	7,000	10,549
Studentships (12) plus costs	690			690
Other costs (travel, marketing, PE,	220		3,000	3,220
Directorate	285			285
Equipment	1,141		27,000	28,141
Total	5,185	700	37,000	42,885

Governance / structure

Original Governance	Governing Body: Principals (3 in rotation) International Advisory Board (independent advisors from outside Scotland) 1pa Management Committee Chair , Director, Project Co-ordinator, SFC, CSO 4pa
Research themes	Only pool with a PE strand of activity Themes around MRI, fMRI, EEG,
Directorate	Director 0.5FTE

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	Project co-ordinator 1FTE Communication & Marketing post 0.25FTE
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End of award

Final report	January 2015
Highlights	<p>Research income: £46M overall to 13/14, steeply increasing over the last two years (£22M in 13/14)</p> <p>Research papers: SINAPSE researchers published 151 papers in 2013-14 and more than 500 over the period of the grant.</p> <p>Graduate school: 24 studentships. Plus another 21 they won from SFC through the SPIRIT scheme. Activities included JSCMAIL on-line technical help systems, students poster events, an annual scientific meeting where student presentations sat alongside keynote presentations from world-leading researchers, and an annual induction event for new students.</p> <p>Industry: Good links with the limited relevant industry in Scotland from SMEs to large companies. Joint studentships and in kind contributions</p> <p>Public sector: Work closely with NHS partners</p>
Major changes/challenges	<p>Granted no cost extension – mainly to allow ongoing support for continuing students</p> <p>One Chair post was difficult to fill. Appointment was made but that was short-lived and unable to re-appoint. Following discussion with SFC this funding was vired to support additional part-funded studentships.</p> <p><i>'Initially we envisaged setting up SINAPSE as a single point of contact for commercial interaction with multiple Universities. We certainly succeeded in generating many commercial partnerships, but the legal issues had to be handled by the lead University in each case as SINAPSE is not a legal entity.'</i></p>

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SINAPSE Continuation Funding

Partners	Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Dundee, St Andrews and Stirling.		
Funding	£325k SFC		
Start	January 2015	End	December 19

Funding breakdown

	Total (£000s)
Staff costs (Directorate)	450
Seed fund	100
Other costs (travel, events; public engagement activities; networking both inside and outside Scotland)	75
Total	625

Governance	The Director chairs an Executive Committee comprising a lead from each participating University, an NHS representative, and others as required to sustain a balance of expertise, geography, gender and age. 3 Sub-committees in PET, image analysis and MRI.
Directorate	Director – 0.2FTE Programme scientific manager – 1FTE IT expert – 0.3FTE Administrator – 0.3FTE

Highlights from most recent annual report	
Membership:	Expanded to include Strathclyde
CDT bids:	SINAPSE co-ordinated an unsuccessful bid but are also supporting three further bids to EPSRC. Two were successful
Cross-pool initiative	involving SINAPSE, SUPA and SULSA to develop and expand local academic-industrial collaborations around optical imaging received £80k from SFC.
	Announced in November 18 - £10M has been awarded from Innovate UK to a SINAPSE-supported bid for a Scottish centre of excellence in medical imaging and digital pathology with artificial intelligence.
	Announced in April 2019 £4.4M award from MRC for PICTURES project