

Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Bench to Bedside Translational Science Grant

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

The Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation has generously provided funds to support pilot studies in translational clinical research at the University of Chicago through a new **Bench to Bedside Translational Science Grant** program. Up to \$30,000 per year will be available to fund a one-year project that tests hypotheses generated in preclinical disease models in human subjects with the corresponding authentic disease (i.e., bench to bedside translation). Preference will be given to studies that:

- Promote the early career development of translational and clinical researchers or advance new avenues of translational and clinical research by established investigators;
- Allow researchers to generate preliminary data for subsequent funding from other sources; and,
- Encourage the development of new treatments and technologies with the potential for improved patient care and commercialization.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Proposed studies must have the following characteristics:

- Must directly involve human subjects and require IRB approval.
- Must develop new knowledge about authentic human diseases by testing hypotheses based on previous preclinical studies. (Preclinical studies need not have been done by the applicants.)
- Preference will be given to early career investigators pursuing translational science or to investigators redirecting their careers into translational science.
- Performance in or use of services from the University of Chicago Clinical Research Center is encouraged but not required.
- Studies that encourage the development of new treatments and technologies with commercialization potential are especially invited.
- **Studies can be directed at any disease, and are not limited to addressing COVID19** (though applications addressing COVID19 are also welcome).

Up to \$30,000 will be awarded for one 1-year project each year.

Award recipients must disseminate their findings periodically to the campus community and beyond through conferences and publications, and must provide annual reports to the Foundation on all aspects of the funded project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Requirements for Applicant Eligibility:

Any faculty member of University of Chicago, at any rank and in any faculty track, is eligible to apply for project support.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their projects with Clinical Research Center staff, the Research Subject Advocate, and biostatisticians early in the writing process.

Submission Process:

Applications are submitted through an online application system at <https://redcap.uchicago.edu/surveys/?s=8XR494W3FC>. Applications must be submitted by October 15, 2020 at 11:59:59 pm. The application system will not accept submissions after that date.

Applications consist of the following sections:

1. Lay Summary/Abstract (limited to 250 words).

2. A paragraph (limited to 250 words) explaining the significance and novelty of the project.
3. A paragraph describing how the proposed research could immediately or eventually influence the health and well-being of patients with the disease under study.
4. A paragraph describing how the proposed research will improve the likelihood of future extramural funding or lead to commercialization of a new technology or treatment
5. A 7-page NIH-style research proposal including Specific Aims (1 page), and Research Plan (6 pages, including Significance, Innovation, and Approach).
6. Please include the following (outside of 7-page limitation):
 - Data Safety Monitoring Plan (summary paragraph)
 - IRB protocol or submission forms if not already IRB approved
 - IACUC approval if needed
7. NIH biosketch for all investigators involved in the project
8. Other Support, including active and pending applications, and explanation of any overlap with current proposal submitted for all investigators involved in the project
9. Detailed budget and justification for all items requested. Direct costs are limited to \$30,000 for a one-year study. Allowable costs include technologist or research staff salary, supplies, use of resources that require a fee for services, costs for patient recruitment, and travel. No salary support for faculty or trainees is allowed. No indirect costs are allowed. Access to the Office of Clinical Research will be without cost for awardees.

Application Format:

Format requirements will be enforced and any non-compliant application will be returned without review. Font size and margin requirements are Arial 11 with ½" margins on all sides. Figures must be legible and within the 7-page limit.

SELECTION, REVIEW, AND EVALUATION AND TRACKING

Selection Criteria:

- Novelty, innovation, and significance of project
- Scientific merit for breakthroughs in bench to bedside translational research
- Priority will be given to studies with important therapeutic endpoints
- Likelihood that the proposal will result in subsequent independent extramural funding or technology commercialization
- The absence of other sources for funding the project
- Demonstration that the proposed research should have an eventual impact on the health and well-being of a community

Review Process: A Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) convened by the Dean's Office will evaluate applications and assign a priority score. The Scientific Advisory Committee for the CRC will review applications considered competitive including a human subject safety review by the Research Subject Advocate and advise the Panel on human subject safety and feasibility of performance of the pilot study. The study does NOT need to be performed on the CRC. Any application considered not to meet RFA eligibility and submission criteria will not be scored.

Evaluation of Progress and Tracking: Evaluation of progress of a Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Bench to Bedside Translational Science Grant is crucial for ongoing improvement of this program. As such, 6-month progress reports are required. Reports should include, but are not limited to:

- Review of Specific Aims originally proposed and discussion if there are proposed changes
- Status of patients enrolled and progress towards accrual goals, if applicable
- Publications and grant applications/awards

Recipients of the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Bench to Bedside Translational Science Development Award will be required to present at an annual Scientific Seminar summarizing the research, at a venue organized by the Dean's Office.

Awardees must provide contact information for up to 10 years following awards, as the funding and publication success of recipients must be followed during this period. Application of women, individuals with disabilities, and

members of underrepresented groups is encouraged.

2020 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submission Deadline	SAP Review	Awardee Notification	Funding Start
October 15, 2020	December 1, 2020*	December 15, 2020*	January 1, 2021*

*These dates are approximate

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For questions, contact:

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