

Clinical Transformation Program 2021 Research Grants

Overview

In 2021 the Clinical Transformation Program will fund projects that focus on the application of clinical research methodology to discover breakthroughs and new treatments, tools, and processes that will improve health care in the future. This program supports the concepts of clinical research with specific attention to emerging and cutting-edge discoveries that align with current movements in healthcare.

The application window opens on **Monday, Feb. 1**, through **11:59 p.m. Friday, March 5**.

[Applications can be submitted here.](#)

This program supports projects that include, but are not limited to:

- Clinicians, physicians, and researchers with radical approaches to exploring innovation within their specialty.
- Clinical programs that further encourage and foster current UPMC focused initiatives, including those with aggressive approaches to cancer, gastrointestinal, and heart disease, as well as neuroscience and other prominent areas.
- Encouraging research that incorporates the concept of comparative effectiveness and/or REMAP (randomized, embedded, multi-factorial, adaptive platform) which allows researchers to rapidly test multiple treatment approaches with a simultaneous result of lowering cost while using fewer patients than traditional clinical trials and quicker results.

Funding Guidelines

- Individual grant requests may range between \$50,000 and \$200,000.
- Applicants must be employed by UPMC. Applicants who are solely employed by University of Pittsburgh may apply, but they must partner with a UPMC employee. The UPMC employee must serve as the project owner and complete and submit the application.

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- Applicants must be endorsed by a direct supervisor, manager, UPMC chair, senior physician, or senior leader. The purpose of this requirement is to insure that, if funded, the applicant has approval to pursue the proposed research project within UPMC. The person's name and email address will be required to complete the application. This person may be contacted by The Beckwith Institute's administration at any point during the application process or grant cycle.
- Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to provide matching funds and/or in-kind support.
 - > **Matching funds** are actual dollars allocated toward the project's budget from an entity other than The Beckwith Institute (example: Money from your UPMC department).
 - > **In-kind support** refers to resources besides money. In-kind resources, or non-cash contributions, might be things that you would otherwise pay for (examples: an employee's donated time, equipment, or supplies).
- Additional funding may be sought from outside sources including, but not limited to, venture capitalists, private investors, nonprofit foundations, and research institutes.
- Grant money may be used to support operating and salary expenses.
- Applicants will be required to provide a general budget at the time of application. If funded, the project owner will be required to submit an itemized budget and specific timeline for spending.
- Finalists will be asked to submit a 5-10-minute video pitch of their project. Finalists will be notified with guidelines for video submission by Wednesday, March 31, 2021.
- If funded, project owners will be required to sign an official funding agreement, stating that the project owner agrees to the terms and conditions that apply to the grant.
- If funded, project owners will be required to submit their project to UPMC's Quality Review Council.

Application and Review Process

- Apply using this form between Monday, Feb. 1, and Friday, March 5.
- The review process will consist of:
 - > **Initial Review** – This review will be conducted by Institute staff to ensure all application requirements are complete, and that the request falls within the Institute's funding guidelines.
 - > **Physician Committee Review** – Applications will be reviewed by a committee of Institute Board members and UPMC physician leaders from various service lines who will take a deeper, more specialized look at the research and requested funding.
 - > **Final Review** – Finalists will be selected from the Physician Review stage and asked to submit a 5- to 10-minute video pitch of their grant request. Directions and details regarding the video will be given at the time of notification.
 - > Funding decisions will be made, and all applicants will be notified by the end of May 2021.