

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: INNOVATIVE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH PILOT AWARD

### INTRODUCTION

[The Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research \(Irving Institute\)](#), home to Columbia University's [Clinical and Translational Science Award \(CTSA\)](#) Program hub, is one of over 60 medical research institutions across the nation that work together to speed the translation of research discovery into improved patient care. The Irving Institute's [Pilot and Collaborative Studies Resource \(PCSR\)](#) oversees dynamic and innovative pilot award programs that fund novel, high-impact work and empower junior investigators and new multidisciplinary teams in translational and clinical research.

The Irving Institute's **Strategic Priorities Pilot Award Program** allows for deployment of institutional funds to address emerging strategic priorities. The program is designed to flexibly respond to pressing institutional, local, and national needs and jump-start timely research collaborations.

This Strategic Priorities Pilot Award is focused on ***Innovative Translational Research***. The application process will be multi-stage, starting with the submission of a brief pre-proposal **by December 19, 2024**. Selected pre-proposal applications will be invited for consultations to further develop their project, including the potential generalizability of their approach to solve problems in other domains, and then invited to submit a full proposal for funding consideration.

### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

We invite Columbia faculty to submit pre-proposals for innovative translational research projects across the translational research spectrum from *basic science* to *clinical implementation* to *public health delivery and scale-up*. We are looking for innovative and disruptive ideas that address barriers to research.

- Is there a roadblock in your field that prevents you from doing the type of research you want to do?
- Is your field in need of innovation to solve a persistent problem?

**Problems that could be broadly generalizable across domains will be prioritized.** Projects with an interdisciplinary and team science approach will be especially competitive.

Selected pre-proposal teams will be invited for consultations to develop a generalizability hypothesis and/or specific aim that describes how the project's approach could be applied to other contexts, settings, or disease domains, thereby broadening its potential impact. The full proposal submission must include this generalizability hypothesis and related activities.

**This is a one-year award for up to \$80,000.**

### Pre-Proposals should:

- Propose an innovation and/or identify a barrier or problem they seek to address
- Propose a plan to test the innovation and/or mitigate the barrier
- Describe how they will evaluate the effectiveness of the project
- Briefly explain if and how their innovation may be broadly generalizable beyond the specific project and domain

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Pre-Proposal Instructions**

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

Short Pre-Proposal Submission: The application process is multi-stage, starting with the submission of a brief pre-proposal. Applicants should submit pre-proposals via Survey Monkey Apply, as described below.

Full Proposal Submission: Selected pre-proposal applications will be provided with consultations to further develop a generalizability hypothesis and/or specific aim and invited to submit a full proposal for funding consideration. The full proposal will include a complete Research Strategy section and budget. Successful applicants are expected to implement plans to publish findings and to acquire future funding based on award findings.

**PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

1. All applications must be submitted through the web-based [Survey Monkey Apply](https://irvinginstitute.smapply.io) portal. (<https://irvinginstitute.smapply.io>) Log in with your Columbia UNI. Under Programs, navigate to 'Innovative Translational Research Pilot Award' and create an application.
2. Fill out all parts of the web-based application form:
  - A. Project Team
    - i. List all team members with their roles, academic titles, and contact information.
  - B. Project Title
  - C. Project Overview – *Upload a PDF with a 1-page Project Overview that lists your Project Title in the header. References can be included in subsequent pages. Provide at least one-half inch margins (½"); 11- or 12-point font required; Arial typeface preferred. **Required format:***
    - i. Specific Aims: List your specific aims.
    - ii. Opportunity/Barrier: What opportunity for innovation or barrier in your domain does this project address?
    - iii. Approach: What interventions, methods, or tools will you use? Describe any multidisciplinary and team science collaborations that will bolster your efforts.
    - iv. Evaluation: How will you evaluate the effectiveness of your project?
    - v. Generalizability: Is this innovation or gap generalizable to other domains? If so, how? (Projects that are potentially generalizable beyond the project's domain will be prioritized.)
  - D. Budget
    - i. List the requested amount and provide a high-level budget for up to \$80,000. Budget guidelines - **Faculty salary cannot not be funded by this pilot award.** Expenses may include: technologist/staff salary and fringe, supplies, participant remuneration, or research related services. Major equipment (>\$5,000), publication fees, travel, and subawards are not permitted.
  - E. Biosketches
    - i. Upload an NIH-style biosketch for the PI. Biosketches for other team members are encouraged, and should be combined as a single PDF, if included.
3. Submit the pre-proposal application by selecting the "Submit Your Application" button in the web-based system, <https://irvinginstitute.smapply.io>. **All applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM EST on December 19, 2024.**

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Principal investigator(s) must have a faculty appointment at Columbia University of assistant professor or higher.
- Postdoctoral fellows and residents are not eligible to apply as Principal Investigator.

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- Teams may include outside consultants/collaborators (e.g., community stakeholders) with unique experience or expertise in innovative approaches not currently available at Columbia. However, subawards are not permitted.
- Only one submission is permitted per principal investigator (PI). However, PIs may be listed as co-investigators or consultants on other applications.
- Senior leadership of the Irving Institute may be consulted during the preparation of the application, but they should not be included as co-investigators or consultants on the application.

We encourage applications from Principal Investigators and/or teams from [underrepresented groups](#).

Special consideration will be given to projects that include research plans reflecting alignment with the [Irving Institute commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#).

**FUNDING**

This is a one-year, one-time award of up to \$80,000.

**PRE-PROPOSAL DEADLINE**

December 19, 2024

**FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE**

March 2025 (By invitation only)

**AWARD START**

June 1, 2025

Awardees will be notified in Spring 2025.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

Pre-Proposals will be reviewed for eligibility, innovation, and the strength of the interdisciplinary and team science approach. Projects that are potentially generalizable beyond the specific domain in the pre-proposal will be prioritized. Full proposals reviewers will be reviewed on the basis of strength of the applicants and multidisciplinary team; generalizability; scientific merit; innovation; and feasibility of submitting pilot findings for external funding or publication, as well as alignment with goals, priorities and directions of the Irving Institute/CTSA.

**PROGRAM CONTACTS**

***Area***

Questions about the application, budget, or eligibility

***Contact***

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Questions about the scientific content

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**INSTITUTIONAL AND FUNDER APPROVALS**

Awarded Principal Investigators must submit their protocol to the CU/CUIMC IRB for review and use exclusively CU/CUIMC resources to implement their project.

This pilot award is federally funded through the Irving Institute's CTSA award from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). All projects involving human subjects and/or vertebrate animal research that are chosen for potential Irving Institute pilot funding, are conditionally selected until appropriate approvals are received. These include **IRB and/or IACUC approval** and in many cases **NIH-NCATS prior approval**. IRB/IACUC is required in order to receive NIH-NCATS prior approval. Full Proposal applicants are expected to submit their protocol for IRB/IACUC review at the time of their application. In addition, for conditionally selected projects that require NIH-NCATS prior approval, documentation must be submitted to Irving Institute administration immediately after IRB/IACUC approval is received and within seventy-five (75) days of notification of potential funding. Only complete prior approval packets will be sent to NIH-NCATS. **Dispersal of funds cannot occur until all required approvals are obtained.**

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

If awarded, the home department will create an unrestricted chartstring designated for this pilot award. The home department of the awardee must make purchases on behalf of the awardee and charge them to the designated pilot chartstring. The Irving Institute will then reimburse the home department on a quarterly basis after detailed financial reports for the pilot chartstring have been submitted.

**AWARDEES PROGRESS REPORTING**

As part of our ongoing evaluation of our CTSA Programs mandated by the NIH, we will periodically request information from awardees about the progress of your research. Awardees will submit progress reports and may meet with program leadership to review progress toward meeting study milestones. After the funding period ends, we will continue to ask at least once a year for a brief update about the ongoing progress of the pilot research and associated products.