

## Block Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at Einstein and Montefiore Clinical and Translational Science Pilot Project Awards

**LETTER OF INTENT DUE: December 6, 2024**

The [Pilot Project Program](#) of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) of the Einstein Montefiore Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) invites all **Einstein Montefiore faculty** to apply for pilot funding to support **Translational Science** (TS) projects.

**Projects supported by this program must meet the definition of [translational science research](#) and address a [translational roadblock](#) by developing strategies that align with the [TS principles](#).**

Whereas **translational research focuses on a specific target or disease area, translational science is “disease universal” because it focuses on the scientific and operational bottlenecks that are common to translational research for most or all diseases<sup>1</sup>**. A key tenet of TS is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure in translational research projects with the goal of developing generalizable principles to accelerate translational research. Examples of translational science research projects include development of biomarkers/assays that can better predict efficacy or toxicity, new therapeutic modalities, novel clinical trial designs, innovations to improve study recruitment and diversity, methods to improve data interoperability. You can learn more about TS research [here](#). Translational research projects, i.e., projects focused on crossing a particular step of the translational process for a particular target or disease, **do not qualify** for funding under this program.

### **The pilot program will support:**

- a) Generation of preliminary data, refinement of research strategies, demonstration of study feasibility, and establishment of proof of concept to support subsequent extramural grant applications of projects in translational science.
- b) Early-stage development of new research methodology and/or new therapy/technologies/tools/resources with generalizable application to an identified translational roadblock that will advance translational science and thus increase the efficiency and effectiveness of translation.

**Funding:** Awards are for one year, up to **\$40,000** direct cost. Funds may be used for non-faculty salary support (research staff, lab tech, study coordinator, etc.). Funds may **not** be used for faculty salary support. All funds awarded must be expended by the close of the grant year, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Eligibility:** Faculty only. One proposal may be submitted per faculty member. Proposals involving (a) collaborations among clinical, translational and basic scientists; (b) established investigators exploring innovative new leads or directions, and (c) investigators from other areas to lend their expertise in research in TS are encouraged to apply. Any faculty member who has a current grant with overlapping aims is not eligible to apply.

Applicants are encouraged to explore the wide range of [resources and services](#) offered by ICTR Cores to develop their TS projects.

**Application Process:** The application process consists of two steps.

1. **Letter of Intent:** Applicants first **MUST** submit a **Letter of Intent** (LOI) expressing their interest in applying and clearly outlining the translational research roadblock that will be addressed by the research project. After the review of LOIs, select applicants will be invited to submit the application. To access the LOI, [please click here to create a portal account. You will then be directed to the LOI.](#)
2. **Application:** Applications are by invitation only. The program directors will email selected applicants the link to the application by December 16th, 2024. The application will provide a pathway for applicants to submit a single PDF containing all supporting documents. **If required, IRB or IACUC approval MUST be obtained or be pending at the time of application.**

**Timeline:** The LOI is due on **December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, by 5 p.m. (EST)**. Invitations to apply will be emailed to selected applicants by December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Applications will be **due on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 5 p.m. (EST)**. Award notifications will be sent by early March 2025. Earliest anticipated start date March-April 2025. Please note that awards cannot start until all NIH required documentation is provided; click here to [see details](#).

**Review Criteria:** Criteria for review can be found [here](#). Priority will be given to investigators for whom TS represents a new direction. Novelty and risk-taking with potential for major scientific advancement in TS and potential impact on health equity will also be given consideration during the review process.

If you have any programmatic questions, you may contact the CTSA Pilot Project Program Directors, Sofiya Milman, MD ([sofiya.milman@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sofiya.milman@einsteinmed.edu)) and Sylvia Suadicani, PhD ([sylvia.suadicani@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sylvia.suadicani@einsteinmed.edu)) or the ICTR Administrative Director, Ms. Elizabeth Castro ([elizabeth.castro@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:elizabeth.castro@einsteinmed.edu)).

<sup>1</sup>Austin CP. *Opportunities and Challenges in Translational Science*. Clin Transl Sci 2021;14(5):1629-1647. PMID:PMC8504824.DOI: 10.1111/cts. 13055.

**Pilot Project LOI Portal**