



MICHR Clinical & Translational Science Pilot Award

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 12, 2024

Important Information About This New Mechanism

The MICHR Clinical & Translational Science (CTS) Pilot Award is focused on **translational science**. This is distinct from translational *research*, and a marked change in direction from our previous funding opportunities that primarily supported preliminary data collection for individual research projects.

This funding opportunity from MICHR is supported by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Science (NCATS), which has the unique charge of examining the translational research ecosystem at a systems level to determine where common pitfalls exist in the translational process and creating innovative solutions that will benefit research across a range of diseases and conditions.

Translational science is a field of investigation focused on understanding a scientific or operational principle that underlies a step of the translational process, with the goal of developing generalizable principles to accelerate translational research. Some efforts in this field may be akin to the *science of translational science*. A key tenet of translational science is to understand common causes of inefficiency and failure in translational research projects (e.g., incorrect predictions of the toxicity or efficacy of new drugs, lack of data interoperability, lack of incentives for team science, non-optimal strategies for patient/community engagement). NCATS posits that many of these causes are the same across targets, diseases, and therapeutic areas. NCATS translational science resources can be found [here](#).

Translational Science Project Examples

You can learn more about translational science projects MICHR has funded under this mechanism [here](#). In brief, they include:

- Identifying regulatory challenges in behavioral research studies and generating relevant solutions
- Analyzing a network of translational research communities to inform research areas with the greatest potential for real-world impact
- Using artificial intelligence to create accurate key information sections in participant informed consents
- Development of a clinical trial translational medicine concierge service to expedite translational research

Additional examples of responsive topics could include, but are not limited to, the following:

Clinical Research Efficiency: such as participant recruitment, retention and diversity; intervention adoption; clinical outcomes measures; biomarkers of clinical response; education and training; data interoperability

Clinical Trials: such as adaptive clinical trials; trial designs for small patient cohorts; clinical trial operational efficiency

Collaboration & Partnerships: such as strategies to engage across disciplines, research sectors, patients and communities; structures to promote teamwork

Preclinical: such as predictive drug efficacy and toxicology; new assay development; devices that mimic human physiology; drug repurposing



Learn More About Translational Science & the CTS Pilot Award

We encourage you to take advantage of the following opportunities to learn more about the field of translational science and this funding opportunity and to receive tailored input on your potential project.

- **CTS Pilot Award Webinar:** Join us on July 17 from 1-2 pm to learn more about the field of translational science and the mechanics and expectations of this funding opportunity. Please register for this webinar [here](#).
- **CTS Pilot Office Hours:** For personalized feedback on the suitability of your project for this funding opportunity, please sign up for a 20-minute timeslot [here](#).

Eligibility, Funding & Process

Eligibility: Faculty members with primary appointments at U-M and Michigan State U; Michigan Medicine affiliate physicians (i.e., U-M Health West and Sparrow); and U-M staff are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators. Community partners and patient advisors are eligible to serve as Co-PIs.

Not eligible: 1) KL2 scholars whose KL2 funding is active during the pilot project period and 2) those with active MICHR pilot grant funding.

Funding & Award Period: Applicants can request up to \$50,000 (no cost share required) in funding for one year (extensions will not be allowed per NCATS). The earliest anticipated start date is March 1, 2025.

Restrictions: This mechanism does not support *translational research* projects. NIH policy prevents us from funding research conducted outside of the United States.

Process & Timeline:

- A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required (further details below)
 - LOIs that are responsive to this funding opportunity and propose *translational science* will be invited to submit full applications
 - Additional grant development guidelines will be provided upon LOI acceptance
- Full applications will be brief in nature and due in mid-September.

Competitive Letter of Intent: Due August 12, 2024

Your *brief* letter of intent should be submitted via [UMMS Competition Space](#) and must address the following:

1. Proposed project title.
2. Briefly describe the translational science roadblock/challenge being addressed, including why the roadblock/challenge is a significant issue in the field. (~3-4 sentences)
3. How do you propose addressing this challenge (i.e., approach/methodology)? (~3-4 sentences)
4. How will the anticipated solution(s) be generalizable across a range of diseases, conditions, and/or translational processes? (~2-3 sentences)
5. What is the composition of your research team? Include names, titles, and affiliations.