



MICHR Clinical & Translational Science Pilot Award

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 26, 2026

Important Information About This 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 (prior to 2023), which primarily supported preliminary data collection for individual research projects.

This funding opportunity from MICHR is supported by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (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 create innovative solutions that will benefit research across a range of diseases and conditions.

Translational science is a field of investigation focused on understanding the scientific or operational principles underlying 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

To better understand the types of translational science projects supported through this mechanism, applicants can review these project summary documents featuring previously funded MICHR projects: [Funded Project Summaries 1](#) and [Funded Project Summaries 2](#). Examples of prior CTS Pilot Awards 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 informed consent documents
- Development of a clinical trial translational medicine concierge service to expedite translational research
- Generating new screening tools to test for mucus-drug interactions to improve dose selection in the clinic

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

Clinical Research Efficiency: such as participant recruitment & retention; 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:** View a recording of the CTS Pilot Award informational 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 Zoom timeslot [here](#).

***Please note that viewing the CTS Pilot Webinar is required before attending office hours.**

Eligibility, Funding & Process

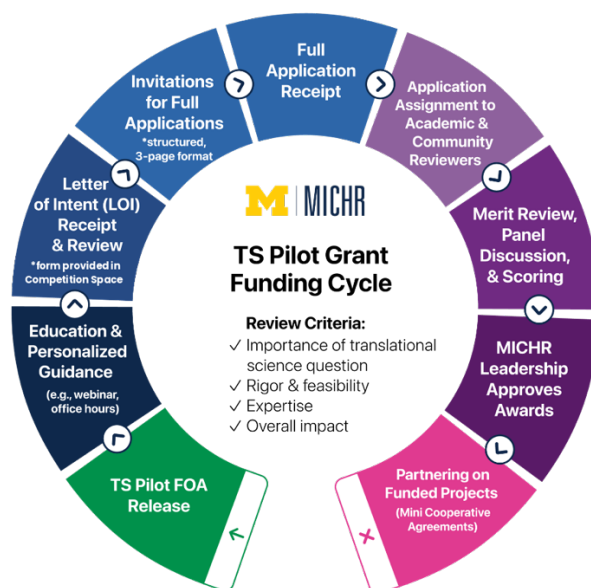
Eligibility: Faculty members with primary appointments at U-M; Michigan Medicine affiliate physicians (i.e., U-M Health West and Sparrow); and U-M staff are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators. Community partners and patient advisors are eligible to serve as Co-PIs. Preference may be given to applicants who have not previously received a MICHR CTS Pilot Award.

Not eligible to serve as PI: 1) K12 scholars whose K12 funding is active during the pilot project period; 2) those with active MICHR pilot grant funding; 3) students and trainees, including undergraduate through postdoctoral levels.

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, 2027. All projects must be completed by February 28, 2028.

Process & Timeline:

- A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required (further details on next page)
 - 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 and due in late September.





Funding Restrictions

1. This mechanism does not support *translational research* projects.
2. NIH funds may not be used to support activities that are outside the scope of the project and/or NIH priorities, including *diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)* research programs or related research training activities or programs. Any funds used to support activities outside the scope will result in a disallowance of costs, and funds will be recovered. If recipients are unclear on whether a specific activity constitutes DEI research programs or have questions regarding other activities that could be considered outside the scope of the pilot grant program and/or NIH priorities, consult with MICHR, particularly where the activity may impact the specific aims, goals, and objectives of the project.
3. NIH policy prevents us from supporting the conduct of any activities that could meet the definition of a *foreign component*, which is the performance of any significant scientific element or segment of a project outside of the United States, either by the recipient or by a researcher employed by a foreign organization, whether or not grant funds are expended. Activities that would meet this definition include, but are not limited to:
 - the involvement of human subjects or animals at a foreign site,
 - extensive foreign travel by recipient project staff for the purpose of data collection, surveying, sampling, and similar activities, or
 - any activity of the recipient that may have an impact on U.S. foreign policy through involvement in the affairs or environment of a foreign country.

Examples of other grant-related activities that may be significant are:

- collaborations with investigators at a foreign site anticipated to result in co-authorship
- use of facilities or instrumentation at a foreign site
- receipt of financial support or resources from a foreign entity

Competitive Letter of Intent (LOI): Due August 26, 2026

Letters of Intent (LOI) are required and due on August 26, 2026. Applicants must use the [structured LOI PDF form](#) available on [Competition Space](#).

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.