

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

***APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2024***

**NOTICE: For the application to be considered, the PI MUST have a 1:1 consultation with the Pilot Program Directors or attend the Translational Science Town Hall meeting (December 5th at noon in Price 551) prior to submission.**

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 address a translational roadblock and meet the definition of [translational science research](#).**

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 (e.g., incorrect predictions of the toxicity or efficacy of new drugs, lack of data interoperability, ineffective clinical trial recruitment). 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.

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](#).

### **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>, 2025.

**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.

**For the application to be considered, the PI(s) MUST have a 1:1 consultation with the ICTR Pilot Program Directors or attend the TS Town Hall meeting prior to submission to ensure that the research topic meets the definition of TS.**

- To schedule a consultation with the Pilot Program Directors, please contact Sofiya Milman, MD ([sofiya.milman@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sofiya.milman@einsteinmed.edu)) or Sylvia Suadicani, PhD ([sylvia.suadicani@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:sylvia.suadicani@einsteinmed.edu))
- To attend the Translational Science Town Hall meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, please register through this [link](#). The meeting will be held in person, on the Einstein Campus, Price Center, Room 551. Lunch will be served. Zoom link available upon request.

**Timeline:** Proposals are **due on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 5 pm ET**. Award notifications will be sent by end of February 2024. Earliest anticipated start date March-April 2024 (Note: awards cannot start until all NIH required documentation is provided.)

**Application Information:** Applicants should complete the [online application form](#) and upload the required documents of the application as a single pdf file. **If required, IRB or IACUC approval MUST be obtained or be pending at the time of application.**

**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 CTSA Pilot Project Program leaders, 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. PMCID.PMC8504824.DOI: 10.1111/cts. 13055.

Register to Attend Translational Science  
Town Hall on December 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

Pilot Project Application Portal