

## **Advance-R Internal Study Section Opportunity 2025**

The Advance-CTR's Professional Development Core is dedicated to helping early-career health researchers in Rhode Island with the resources and training needed to build competitive, independent research programs. We are therefore excited to offer faculty submitting their first R-award (and similar) applications the opportunity to have their proposals reviewed by an internal study section consisting of content experts and experienced NIH reviewers prior to external submission. Written NIH-style feedback, as well as additional comments on grantsmanship, from the internal study section will be provided to help researchers improve the quality of their application. Additionally, we will provide training on issues related to the submission process.

We anticipate accepting a total of 4 grant applications. These can be either original submissions or re-submissions. The main criteria for selection will be the quality of the materials noted below under "Requirements for Participation." Didactic sessions will focus on often-overlooked areas of grant applications (such as logistical aspects of the application process) and on specific aims, and approach.

### **Eligibility**

- Investigators with faculty appointments at Brown, URI, Care New England, Brown University Health (formerly Lifespan), & the VA Providence Healthcare System
- The PI may not have previously held an R-series award to be eligible; however, those whose most advanced R-series award is an R03 may apply.
- Multi-PI projects are allowable (all PIs must meet the PI requirements)
- Submission types may include: R01, R21, R34, VA merit awards, or similar.
- Ability to provide a complete original application (or revised application for re-submissions) that is ready for submission to the Internal Study Section Committee no later than the date specified below.
  - Please note: *Drafts submitted to the Study Section should be completed at a level appropriate for submission to a funding agency.*

### **Requirements for Participation**

- Applicants will submit a [Request to Participate Form](#) with an overview of research aims, significance, innovation, and approach (2 page limit, plus references), and a NIH biosketch.
  - For re-submissions, please submit feedback from your previous submission(s)
- Applicants will commit to submitting (or re-submitting) a grant for the next submission cycle available.
- Applicants will commit to attending all three didactic sessions.

- Applicants are strongly encouraged to identify a mentor who will serve as a resource and would be asked to participate in the study section as a tertiary reviewer.
  - Please note: a mentor in this case is someone who is helping the applicant through the process of drafting their first R application, not a mentor for the R-award itself. This is an individual the Advance-R scholar can turn to with additional questions as the application process continues, and will be asked to serve as one of the reviewers of the full application during the internal study section. The amount and type of interaction between the scholar and mentor is at the discretion of those individuals.
- Each participant will complete the “Advance-R Researcher Agreement” (below) stating they agree to the requirements for participation. The form will also need to be signed by their primary mentor (if applicable) and department chair. If this is a multi-PI project, each PI should complete a Researcher Agreement.

### **Important Dates**

- **Request to Participate Form Available:** August 14<sup>th</sup>
- **Request to Participate Due:** September 10<sup>th</sup>
- **Notice of Selection:** on or around September 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Didactic Sessions** (All sessions will be held from 12-1pm):
  - September 25<sup>th</sup>
  - October 9<sup>th</sup>
  - October 23<sup>rd</sup>
- **Application Materials Due:** November 10<sup>th</sup>
  - **Internal Study Sections:** Approximately December 8<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>
  - Reviews returned to participants 1-4 days after the study section
- **External Submission:** Varying dates around February 2026

For more information, or to confirm eligibility, please contact Emily Mercer at [emily\\_mercer@brown.edu](mailto:emily_mercer@brown.edu).

# **Advance-R Researcher Agreement**

## **Requirements for Participation**

- Applicants will submit a Request to Participate form with a 1- to 2-page overview of research aims, significance, and approach and a NIH biosketch.
- Applicants will commit to submitting (or re-submitting) a grant for the next submission cycle available.
- Applicants will commit to attending all three didactic sessions.
- Each participant will complete the “Advance-R Researcher Agreement” stating they agree to the requirements for participation. The form will also need to be signed by their primary mentor and department chair.

By signing this form, I agree to the above stated requirements to participate in the program. I also understand that failure to complete the requirements may preclude me from future internal study section opportunities.

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## **PI Signature and Date**

By signing this form, I agree that I understand the requirements of my mentee as it pertains to this opportunity and am supportive of their participation.

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## **Mentor Signature and Date**

By signing this form, I agree that I understand the requirements of my faculty member as it pertains to this opportunity and am supportive of their participation.

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## **Department Chair Signature and Date**