



Advance-CTR New Discovery Awards (Special Opportunity) *Request for Applications*

Advance-CTR is pleased to offer the clinical and translational research Advance-CTR New Discovery Awards special opportunity, which is open to all investigators with a faculty appointment at Brown University or the University of Rhode Island.

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Status: *Open*

Applications are accepted/awarded on a rolling basis. Regulatory approvals (e.g., IRB, IACUC) must be in effect at the time of submission.

Funding duration:

TBD

Funding:

\$10,000-25,000 direct costs per award; indirects will not be provided.

Contact:

Advance-CTR advanceri@brown.edu

Overview

This special opportunity award is designed to support researchers who have innovative ideas that are in line with the [Mission of Advance-CTR](#). The innovative ideas sought for this opportunity are generally considered new or not well enough proven to be submitted externally to the NIH for funding. The research proposed should be highly innovative, high-impact research that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements in the field. The proposed work may introduce a new paradigm, challenge current paradigms, look at existing problems from new perspectives, or exhibit other uniquely creative qualities. Considering the nature of the work, preliminary data is not required, however, feasibility of the work should be addressed. This award is designed to give researchers the opportunity to gain funding to advance preliminary work with great potential for future external submissions related to these innovative ideas.

Advance-CTR was established by an Institutional Development Award to improve program infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research (IDeA-CTR) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS). The aims of Advance-CTR are to support the development of infrastructure and resources required to conduct clinical and translational research in Rhode Island and to enhance collaboration and coordination of state-wide clinical and translational research activities. Advance-CTR connects researchers across Rhode Island with the common goal of advancing clinical and translational research that is responsive to Rhode Island's health priorities. Through its interdisciplinary model, Advance-CTR supports research across the translational science spectrum, including basic science, clinical, and public health efforts.

Eligibility Requirements

Faculty at the University of Rhode Island or Brown University are eligible to be a PI on this award. This includes those employed by Care New England, VA Providence, or Lifespan with a joint appointment at

Brown or URI. Emeritus, adjunct, and visiting faculty, as well as postdocs, are not eligible to lead projects, but may be included on the research team.

Mentors: Proposals led by investigators who meet the [NIH definition of a new investigator](#) **must** identify a suitable mentor, and include the proposed mentor's Letter of Support demonstrating the mentor's willingness to advise the applicant.

Funding Available

Funding may be used for supplies, research animals, support personnel, and other operating costs. Advance-CTR generally does not provide funds for permanent equipment, equipment maintenance, travel, or printing unless it is part of the research itself. In most cases, this program does not provide funds for salary support of the principal investigator. Due to the limited funds available, Advance-CTR does not cover charges for overhead by the applicant institution.

Performance Period

The project performance period will be from the date of award notice through June 30, 2023. It is anticipated that awards will be released on **a rolling basis**. No expenditures may take place prior to the Notice of Award. No extensions will be given.

Proposal Submission Instructions

Proposals for funding must be submitted electronically via the [UFunds](#) application portal. A Brown University ID is required to access UFunds. Non-Brown faculty should email advanceri@brown.edu to request a sponsored ID for this application.

Proposal Content

1. Administrative information, including PI contact information, titles, departments, proposal title (as requested by the UFunds application page).
2. Specific description of the innovative idea and/or project, potential impact and anticipated outcomes, and how the project aligns with the Advance-CTR mission. Relevant grant opportunities and a clear delineation of how the applicant will benefit from the funds (example – will obtain preliminary data for a grant, allow a new collaboration, begin a new area of research, etc.) should be included. (limit 1000 words).
3. Award Budget & Budget Justification ([PHS 398 Form Page 4](#))
 - a. Itemize categories of expenses for which award funds will be used.
 - b. Use a performance period of up to 6 months with an end date of 06/30/23 when completing this form.
4. Biosketches of PI(s) and Mentor(s)
5. Active/Pending Other Support for all Key Personnel ([PHS 398 Other Support Format Page](#)).
 - a. Example available [here](#) for reference.
6. IRB and/or IACUC approval letters, or institutional letter of exemption if IRB/IACUC approval is not required for the proposed research under the Award.

All application materials will be kept confidential within Advance-CTR.

Application Format

Font: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype or Georgia typeface and a font size of 11 points or larger must be used. A smaller font size may be used for figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends, and footnotes, but this type must follow the font typeface requirement and be readily legible.

Margins: Margins should be 0.5 inch.

Assistance from Advance-CTR

Advance-CTR offers [Service Cores](#) (Biostatistics, Epidemiology, & Research Design; Biomedical Informatics; and Community Engagement & Outreach) that can provide advice and assistance with New Discovery Awards and future external applications. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review available services on the [Advance-CTR website](#) and [submit service requests](#) for any inquiries.

Review Process and Selection

Applications will be reviewed by a Council comprised of Advance-CTR Leadership in consultation with other faculty reviewers, as needed. The final selection will be made based on the following criteria:

- Innovation
- Significance of the research
- Likelihood of applicant successfully pursuing future awards
- Likelihood of the project transitioning to external funding (e.g. NIH RO1 funds)
- Relevance to the [RI health priorities](#), as defined by the Department of Health
- Community Engaged Research

Scientific projects must be meritorious; requests that promote collaboration will receive special consideration. These microgrants are not intended to simply defray the cost of work that is already ongoing in the lab or be an extension of existing work. Compelling requests will address a new collaboration, address a new area of research, help set the applicant up to advance their career and/or lead to additional funding.

Expectations

Investigators selected for an award will be expected to:

1. Provide a written report of activity to Advance-CTR within six months and an oral presentation if requested by Advance-CTR.
2. Complete an Advance-CTR survey at the end of the funding period.
3. Report all presentations, publications, and extramural funding that arise as a result of microgrant funding.
4. Acknowledge Advance-CTR in publications resulting from microgrant support and notify Advance-CTR when such papers have been submitted.
5. Respond to Advance-CTR queries for information after the grant ends.

Questions

Address inquiries regarding the Advance-CTR New Discovery Awards to advanceri@brown.edu.