Advance RI-CTR
2024 Mentored Research Awards
Request for Applications (RFA)

Submission Deadlines:

Preliminary Applications: October 30, 2023
Invited Full Proposals: January 18, 2024

Performance Period:
August 1, 2024 – July 31, 2026 (anticipated)

Contact: AdvanceRI@brown.edu

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preliminary Application

Interested applicants are **required to submit a Preliminary Application** through the InfoReady portal no later than **Monday, October 30, 2023 at 5pm ET**. The Preliminary Application should include the following:

1. Contact and academic information as requested via the application page.
2. Structured one-page overview of research aims, significance, and approach.
3. References, as cited in the one-page overview.
4. NIH-formatted biosketch for the investigator and each mentor.

Resources and guidance for preparing a successful Preliminary Application are available on the Advance RI-CTR website. The most Frequently Asked Questions can be found here and additional questions can be sent to AdvanceRI@brown.edu. If your question is not answered in the FAQ section and you would like to schedule a call with the Professional Development Core Leadership, please email AdvanceRI@brown.edu to schedule a call no later than **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**.

Invitations to submit a final proposal will be announced on or around **Monday, November 20, 2023.**

Final Proposal

Final proposals must be submitted no later than **Monday, January 18, 2024 at 5pm ET** through the InfoReady portal.

Mentored Research Award announcements are anticipated to be communicated by email to applicants on or around **Monday, March 11, 2024**.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for a Mentored Research Award, applicants must:

1. Possess a health-professional or research doctoral degree.
2. Hold a **faculty** appointment of *Instructor or Assistant Professor* or equivalent with Brown University or the University of Rhode Island at the time of submission.
3. Have academic research experience.
4. Commit at least 50% of full-time professional effort to research activities associated with the Mentored Research Award.
5. Have a letter of support from their Department Chair stating approval of protected research time and, if applicable, offering other material support.
6. Have a letter of support accompanied by a mentorship plan from a primary research mentor.
7. Not be a prior recipient of a K-award or R01-award as a Principal Investigator. If you are concerned that an award you have may disqualify you, please contact us at Advanceri@brown.edu immediately.
8. Not have held a Project Leader position on a COBRE project or other IDeA mechanism of support.
9. Not have funding from a COBRE project or another IDeA mechanism of support that would overlap with Mentored Research Award funding.

Questions regarding applicant eligibility should be emailed to AdvanceRI@brown.edu.

OVERVIEW

Advance RI-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 aim of the CTR is to support both the infrastructure development and resources required to conduct clinical and translational research in order to enhance collaboration and coordination of state-wide clinical and translational research activities. Advance RI-CTR aims to connect researchers and support institutions across Rhode Island with the common goal of advancing translational research in the state. Through its interdisciplinary model, Advance RI-CTR supports bench side, bedside, and community-based health research to improve the health of Rhode Island residents.

Advance RI-CTR's Mentored Research Awards program aims to recruit and train an outstanding group of health scientists, diverse in discipline and background, who are at an early career stage. Through this award, highly-qualified junior researchers will have 50% protected time to conduct a defined translationally-oriented research project. This is intended to be a two-year award, but the second year of funding is contingent on adequate progress during the first year.

Scholars of the Mentored Research Awards program will be provided mentoring and specialized training that will prepare them to make significant advances in interdisciplinary strategies devoted to clinical and translational research. The award also includes a portion of funding that can be used for research related expenses, coursework or training opportunities.

For the purpose of this Program, clinical and translational research are defined below:

Clinical research comprises research with human subjects that involves:

- Patient-oriented research. Research conducted with human subjects (or on material of human origin such as tissues, specimens, and cognitive phenomena) for which an investigator directly interacts with human subjects. Excluded from this definition are *in vitro* studies that utilize human tissues that cannot be linked to a living individual.
- Epidemiological and behavioral studies.
- Outcomes research and health services research.

Translational research aims to convert basic research advances to practical applications in humans and/or research aimed at the adoption of best practices in community health care.

Award Objectives

The Mentored Research Awards aim to:

1. Identify junior faculty who show strong promise to become leading clinical and/or translational researchers.
2. Offer a strong, structured mentoring program to cultivate research skills of selected scholars.
3. Provide the research infrastructure support to research projects that will lead to future funding from external sources.

By the end of the program, scholars are expected to submit for extramural research funding (NIH, AHRQ, PCORI, or foundation/industry awards) for additional career development or independent research grants.

Funding Available

A minimum of two scholars will be funded through the 2024 Mentored Research Awards. The total amount of the award will be no more than $115,000 in direct costs each year. No more than $90,000 of the total budget may be used to cover PI salary (not including fringe). Advance RI-CTR will also cover fringe benefits related to PI effort which will be separate from the $115,000 maximum.

The award will cover a minimum of 50% of the salary of each scholar up to a maximum of $90,000. If there is a gap between 50% of the faculty member's salary and $90,000, the scholar's Department will be expected to cover (cost-share) the difference. If 50% of the PI's yearly salary is equal to **less than** $90,000, leftover funds can be used to increase the percent effort and/or put those funds towards other award related expenses as described below.

The final $25,000 of the full $115,000 yearly budget will be earmarked for the scholar to use for additional award related expenses such as for expenses required to conduct the funded research or for coursework/training related to your professional development. All applicants are encouraged to complete coursework or attend trainings to enhance their professional development. We recommend setting aside a small portion of your budget for these initiatives

Please note: the award will cover direct costs only. Indirect costs will not be provided.

Performance Period

The anticipated performance period is 8/1/2024 to 7/31/2026.

Available Services for Applicants

All applicants are **strongly encouraged** to schedule a consultation with the appropriate **Advance RI-CTR Service Core(s) (Biostatistics and Research Design, Biomedical Informatics, and Community Engagement and Outreach**) to enhance their responsiveness to this RFA. Applicants are encouraged to review the available services on the Advance RI-CTR website and submit service a request.

****NEW in 2023****

In addition to providing consultation services, **Advance RI-CTR's** Community Engagement and Outreach Core **has created a** Community Engaged Practice Based Research Network (CEPBRN). The CEPBRN is available for researchers to engage with for their pilot projects. This opportunity is dependent on availability of the CEPBRN and its clinical practices. Researchers interested in engaging with or learning more about the PBRN should contact us at advanceri@brown.edu to be put in touch with the Community Engagement and Outreach Core.

Mentoring

Mentoring will be a highly structured component of this grant, though the structure will vary by project in order to best complement the proposed research. Applicants must identify at least one Principal Mentor in their proposal. Additional mentors may be identified during the review process to ensure scholars have support from experts in areas relevant to the proposed project, including study design methods, analysis/statistics, and other relevant subject matters. Thus, each scholar will have a Mentoring Team comprised of at least one, but preferably two or three members who will be responsible for ensuring project success as well as academic and scholarly development of the awardee. Mentees are encouraged to identify inter-disciplinary mentoring opportunities. Defined mentorship plans are required with proposal submissions and should be included within the mentor's letter of support.

Special Considerations

While the best science will be prioritized, special consideration will be given to projects that incorporate community engagement into the proposed research. For the purpose of the Mentored Research Award Program, Advance RI-CTR utilizes the CDC-supported definition of community engagement:

> **Community engagement** is the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the well-being of those people.

Coaching for such applicants will be available from Advance RI-CTR's Community Engagement and Outreach Core.

In addition, special consideration, in no particular order, will be given to investigators who:

1. Pursue research that addresses the health goals and priorities set forth by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Strategic Framework. Priority areas (in no particular order) include, but are not limited to:

   - Access to healthcare services especially among underserved populations including Latinx
   - Mental health in adults and youth - including prevention, services, programs, community resources and related stigma
   - Food access and nutrition
   - General community well-being, health awareness and improvement of community health resources
   - Chronic illnesses (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, asthma, cancer)
   - Substance use disorder
   - Obesity
   - Health of mothers and their children

2. Employ robust use of Advance RI-CTR Service Cores.

3. **Clinician-scientists** defined as scientists with professional degrees who have training in clinical care and who are engaged in independent biomedical research

AWARDEE AND MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Awarded scholars and Principal Mentors will be required to submit to Advance RI-CTR quarterly progress reports, which will be short, structured reports that detail educational progress, research progress, and the quality of mentor-mentee interactions.

Mentors and scholars will be expected to meet on a set basis to review progress. A mentorship plan must be established and submitted within the mentor(s)' letter of support at the time of full application. The entire Mentoring Team is required to have a face-to-face meeting within the first two months of the award, and again at the six-month and twelve-month time points, if not more frequently.

Additionally, scholars selected for a Mentored Research Award will be required to:

1. Obtain IRB and IACUC approval before funding can be awarded, no later than May 1, 2024 (preferred to be submitted with JIT materials)
2. Complete a course on the responsible conduct of research.
3. Complete FCOI assurance and training as detailed under your respective organization's policy.
4. Acquire an ORCID.
5. Maintain an updated VIVO profile if Brown University-affiliated.
6. Take relevant coursework or training as outlined in their application
7. Complete the elected academic program, as indicated in the application.
8. Attend all required program-related seminars and conferences (to be specified).
9. Present at a research-in-progress seminar once per year at a minimum as well as, if invited, at the Advance RI-CTR Annual Meeting.
10. Present a poster or talk at the RI NIH IDeA Symposium, if invited.
11. Complete quarterly progress reports.
12. Complete an annual report and present it to the Professional Development Steering Committee.
13. Acknowledge sponsorship from Advance RI-CTR supported by the IDeA-CTR grant (U54GM115677) in all research publications during the performance period. Future publications related to the research must also acknowledge Advance RI-CTR sponsorship.
14. Report all presentations, publications, and extramural funding that arise from this award to Advance RI-CTR.
15. Submit for extramural research funding for additional career development or independent research grants.
16. Respond to Advance RI-CTR queries for information after the grant ends.

Mentors of selected scholars will be required to:

1. Provide the awarded scholar with research guidance toward an independent research career through a planned series of meetings and activities as well as frequent discussion and guidance as needed.
2. Meet annually with Mentored Research Awards program leadership to review overall career and training goals and activities.
3. Participate in mentor training provided by Advance RI-CTR (details to be announced).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for a Mentored Research Award, investigators must first submit a preliminary application to Advance RI-CTR. Select applicants will then be invited to submit complete applications.

Preliminary Application Submission Instructions

Prospective applicants must submit a preliminary application through the InfoReady portal no later than **Monday, October 30, 2023 at 5pm ET**. Refer to page 1 of this RFA for submission requirements.

Preliminary applications will be reviewed according to criteria outlined in the Review Process and Selection Criteria section below. Applicants will be notified on or around **Monday, November 20, 2023** if they are invited to submit a full proposal.

Final Proposal Submission Instructions

Final proposals are due no later than **Monday, January 18, 2024 at 5pm ET**. Complete applications must include the following sections:

Proposal Content

Face Page: (PHS 398 Form Page 1)

Please complete PHS 398 Form Page 1 to provide academic and institutional information. The form should be signed by an official signatory (e.g., Office of Research Administration Director).

Project Summary, NIH Page 2: (PHS 398 Form Page 2)
The Project Summary should be a succinct and accurate description of the proposed work. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, making reference to the health relatedness of the project. Concisely describe the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. The summary should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and, insofar as possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid describing accomplishments and the use of first person.

Additionally, the following sections of the Project Summary form should be completed:

- *Relevance:* Describe the relevance of this research to public health. Be succinct (using no more than two or three sentences) and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.
- *Project/Performance Site Primary Location:* Include the information pertinent to the contact PI's home institution.
- *Additional Project/Performance Site Location:* Include the information pertaining to any additional performance sites. If more than two performance sites will be used, list additional sites on the PHS 398 Project/Performance Site Format Page.
- *Senior Key Personnel:* Include all key personnel on the project. Anyone listed in Senior Key Personnel must include a biosketch in the application. Please note: mentors should be listed as Other Significant Contributors, and their biosketches should be included.

Research Plan (6-page maximum): (PHS 398 Continuation Format Page)
Proposal structure: NIH-type proposal structure with research plan (including specific aims) that does not exceed **six pages**. The page guideline recommendations are intended to be approximate, not exact. Begin each section of the research plan with a section header (e.g., Specific Aims, Significance and Innovation).

- *Specific Aims:* describe the goals and objectives of the research project (1 page).
- *Significance and Innovation:* provide information relevant to the proposed project's scientific premise as well as how the research will address health care needs in Rhode Island. Provide a statement on the significance of this award to the scholar's career trajectory. Detail both technical and conceptual innovations of the proposed research (1 page).
- *Approach:* describe the experimental design and methods, including an appropriate analysis plan. Present preliminary data if available (3.5 pages).
- *Timeline:* include approximate completion dates for the defined specific aims and above outlined awardee responsibilities (0.5 page).

If the proposed research utilizes data from a mentor's research project (e.g., R01), a one-page (maximum) document must be provided that addresses any overlap and clarifies the differences between the mentor's project and the proposed research. This can be uploaded as an "Additional Document" in the InfoReady portal and will not count towards the 6-page maximum.

Future Funding Statement (1-page maximum): (PHS 398 Continuation Format Page)
Describe how receiving the Mentored Research Award will enhance chances for outside funding. Please use the PHS 398 Continuation Format Page.

References
Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Research Strategy.

Budget: (PHS 398 Form Page 4, PHS 398 Form Page 5)
The anticipated budget period is 08/1/2022-07/31/2024. Mentored Research Awardees will be funded at for at least 50% of their salary, up to $90,000, for two years. An additional $25,000 per year can be used for

tuition or legitimate research expenses. (Please see the Funding Available Section for more detailed information). As noted previously, the second year of funding is contingent upon acceptable progress during the first year. Please note, awards are for direct costs only. Indirects will not be provided for this award.

Submit the proposed budget using the PHS 398 form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period and Page 5: Budget for Entire Proposed Project Period. A copy of PHS 398 form Page 4 should be submitted for each grant year (8/1/2024-7/31/2025 and 8/1/2025-7/31/2026).

The following guidelines should be used to complete the PHS 398 budget forms:

- *Personnel:* Indicate the scholar's name on the "PD/PI" line, number of calendar months dedicated to the proposed research (a minimum of nine calendar months is required), institutional base salary, requested salary (up to $90,000 at 50% effort), and associated fringe benefits.
    - Please note: Funds cannot be used for graduate student or postdoctoral stipends; however, salary is allowable. Fringe related to personnel *other than the PI* will count toward the $115,000 budget maximum.
- *Consultant Costs:* If consultant costs are budgeted, include the consultant's hourly rate and total costs.
- *Equipment:* Equipment (defined as durable items valued at $5,000+) required for the proposed research is allowable.
- *Supplies:* Allowable supply costs include computer software necessary for the project, laboratory supplies and services, animal and per diem housing expenses, publication costs, and participant stipends.
- *Travel:* Applicants can budget up to $2,500 for travel related to research or research dissemination.
- *Inpatient Care Costs:* Indicate costs related to proposed research, if any.
- *Outpatient Care Costs:* Indicate costs related to proposed research, if any.
- *Other Expenses:* List any other costs itemized by category (include coursework), if any.
- *Consortium/Contractual Costs:* Include any consortium or contractual costs required to accomplish the proposed research.

Note that total costs in the budget (minus PI fringe) must not exceed $115,000 per award year.

Support costs will be covered by Advance RI-CTR as resources are available. Submit a service request for inquiries regarding available services

Budget Justification: (PHS 398 Continuation Format Page)
Provide concise, detailed justifications for all items requested in the budget. Explanations should be separated by each category detailed in the above "Budget" section.

Resources: (PHS 398 Continuation Format Page)
Describe space, equipment, and other facilities available for the scholar to accomplish the proposed research. A copy should be submitted for each performance site, if applicable.

Checklist: (PHS 398 Checklist Form Page)
Complete **Section 3 only**, "Facilities and Administrative Costs."

Biographical Sketch (5-page maximum): (Biographical Sketch Format Page, Instructions and Sample)
Provide NIH-formatted biosketches for all proposed key personnel, including mentors. Biosketches must specify any current or pending support, including percent of effort, grant number, grant title, project beginning and ending dates, and a description of any overlap relative to the Mentored Research Award application. If you do not have an eRA Commons user name, you must obtain one to include in the biosketch. Biosketches should not exceed 5 pages. We also encourage you to use the personal statement section to include information about experiences you have had that may make you uniquely qualified to conduct the proposed research.

The below table summarizes the required "Proposal Content" sections for the final application. Note that the page limits are suggested maximums; however, t**he total Research Strategy cannot exceed 6 pages and biosketches cannot exceed 5 pages each**.

Section	Description	Limits
Face Page	Provide the requested administrative information.	None
Abstract	Describe the proposed research in 500 words or less.	500 words
Research Plan		6 pages
Specific Aims	Project specific aims.	1 page
Significance & Innovation	Overall significance of the project, including pertinent background information, scientific premise, and relevance to health care needs in Rhode Island. Include a statement on the overall significance of the award on the scholar's career trajectory. Outline both conceptual and technical innovation.	1 page
Approach	Preliminary data* and research plan, including expected results, alternative approaches, and analysis plan. Include discussion of scientific rigor and biological variables.	3.5 pages
Timeline	Indicate dates for completion of Specific Aims, manuscript submission, and extramural grant applications submission.	0.5 page
Future Funding Statement	Statement of how the awarding of the developmental grant will enhance chances for outside funding.	1 page
References	Provide citations for any references used in the Research Strategy.	None
Budget	Complete pages 4 and 5 of the NIH 398 form.	None
Budget Justification	Provide clear, succinct justification for each requested budget item.	None
Resources	Detail space, equipment, and other resources available for research.	None
Letters of Support	Required from Department Chair and identified mentors.	None
Biosketches	Include for all proposed key personnel, including mentors.	5 pages (each)
Service Core Usage Response	Please see below for more details and if this is applicable for your application	500 words

*Preliminary data are encouraged, but not required.

Regulatory Information

Be sure to address the Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, and Biosafety/Safety Agents sections as described below. Be sure to indicate status and submit all IRB and IACUC approvals as applicable to your proposed research. Human Subjects education certification(s) must be up-to-date and available upon request for all personnel involved in the conduct of human subjects research.

Regulatory Applications and Approvals

Please submit a PDF upload detailing the current status of all regulatory approvals that will be needed for this project and/or upload documents. This includes, all initial IRB or IACUC approval(s), as well as if any IAAs will need to be implemented and their status. NIGMS prefers that regulatory titles match project application titles. If your project application and regulatory title are different, a letter from the PI of the regulatory protocol will be required stating that the regulatory protocol covers the project proposed in the MRA application.

This upload should include:

- For IRB
    - The title of the IRB protocol(s), the PI(s) of the protocols, the institution approving the protocol, and the approval status (approved, pending review, date submitted, etc.), and information on if this project will require an IAA with any institution for research

purposes. Please include what institution(s), and submission status(es) and/or approval letters.

- For IACUC
    - The title of the IACUC protocol(s), the PI(s) of the protocols, the initiation approving the protocol, and the approval status (approved, pending review, date submitted, etc.).
    - Information on if this project will require any congruency agreements with any institution for research purposes. Please include what institution(s), and submission status(es) and/or approval letters.

Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Information
Refer to Supplemental Instructions, Part II Sections 2-5 to complete a Human Subjects Section if human subjects are involved in the proposed research. To determine whether human subjects are involved, complete the "Am I doing Human Subjects Research?" Questionnaire. To help identify whether research that involves the use of human data or biological specimens is human subjects research, refer to this flowchart. If human subjects are not involved but your proposed research involves human specimens and/or data from subjects, you must provide a justification in this section for your claim that no human subjects are involved. Do not use the protection of human subjects section to circumvent the page limits of the Research Strategy.

All human subjects studies must include:

- The Advance RI-CTR Human Subjects and Clinical Trial Information Form, which can be downloaded from the Advance RI-CTR website. Complete the form using the built-in instructions.
- The Advance RI-CTR Inclusion Enrollment Report form following NIH instructions.

Vertebrate Animals Section
Refer to Vertebrate Animals NIH Instructions and the Worksheet for Applications Involving Animals. If vertebrate animals are involved, address each point below. Provide a concise, complete description of the animals and proposed procedures. While additional details may be included in the Research Plan, the responses to the four required points must be cohesive and include sufficient detail.

If all or part of the proposed research involving vertebrate animals will take place at alternate sites (such as project/performance or collaborating site(s)), identify those sites and describe the activities at those locations.

Although no specific page limitation applies to this section, be succinct. Failure to address the following four points will result in the application being designated as incomplete and will be grounds for NIGMS to defer approval of the application. The three points are as follows:

1. Description of Procedures: Provide a concise description of the proposed procedures to be used that involve vertebrate animals in the work outlined in the "Research Plan" attachment. Identify the species, strains, ages, sex, and total numbers of animals by species, to be used in the proposed work. If dogs or cats are proposed, provide the source of the animals.
2. Justifications: Provide justification that the species are appropriate for the proposed research. Explain why the research goals cannot be accomplished using an alternative model (e.g. computational, human, invertebrate, in vitro).
3. Minimization of Pain and Distress: Describe the interventions including analgesia, anesthesia, sedation, palliative care and humane endpoints that will be used to minimize discomfort, distress, pain, and injury.

Do not use the vertebrate animal section to circumvent the page limits of the Research Plan.

Biosafety/Select Agents
Refer to Section 5.5.11 PHS 398 Instructions. Indicate Institutional Safety Committee approvals.

Letters of Support

1. Research Administration:
    a. If the Scholar is **not employed by Brown University**, a signed Letter of Intent from the PI's office of research administration must be included.
2. Department Chair(s): Letter(s) from the Department Chair(s) and/or supervisor(s) must include a statement on the availability of institutional resources for the proposed study, assurance of protected time for the Principal Investigator, and a statement of institutional commitment to the development of the Principal Investigator's career. Investigator name and title must be included.
3. Mentor(s): Letter(s) from the mentor(s) indicating an understanding of the mentor's required responsibilities as defined above must be provided from each mentor.

Mentorship Plan
Within each mentor(s)' letter of support should be a mentorship agreement that addresses:

- Goals: What you hope to achieve as a result of the mentoring relationship (e.g., gain perspective relative to skills necessary for success in academia, explore new career opportunities, obtain knowledge of organizational culture, networking, etc.).
- Steps to achieving goals (e.g., meeting regularly, manuscripts/grants, collaborating on research projects, steps to achieving independence, etc.).
- Meeting frequency (e.g., frequency, duration, location of meetings, etc.).
- Plan for evaluating relationship effectiveness (e.g., bi-annual review of mentorship, goals, outcomes/accomplishments, etc.).

Service Core Usage Response (if applicable)
Applicants who consulted with any of the Advance RI-CTR Service Cores should include a short statement (500 words or less) detailing their response to CTR Service Provider suggestions. Please include what recommendation(s) you incorporated into your project. Additionally, if applicable, please detail reasons why you chose to not incorporate certain recommendations.

Applications that are missing these components will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn without review.

APPLICATION FORMAT

Applications should follow an NIH format with minor modifications.

Font: Arial, Helvetica, Palatino Linotype, or Georgia typeface and a font size of 11 points or larger must be used. A symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters; the font size requirement still applies. A smaller font may be used for figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends, and footnotes, but this type must follow the font typeface requirements and be readily legible

Margins: Margins should be 0.5 inches wide.

Headers: All sections must be identified with a section header (e.g., Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation).

REVIEW PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Reviews of Preliminary Applications will be conducted by Advance RI-CTR's Professional Development Steering Committee. Reviews of full applications will be done using an NIH review group format, and similar criteria that NIH study sections use to evaluate Career Development awards. Reviewers will rate each of the

following for full proposals: overall impact, significance, investigator, mentor(s), innovation, approach, environment, relevance to Advance RI-CTR's mission, and likelihood of future funding.

Reviewers of the full applications will include the Professional Development Steering Committee and select others who have content area or methods expertise. All reviewers will be highly qualified faculty from Brown University, University of Rhode Island, and affiliated hospitals. Final selections will be made by a Council comprised of Advance RI-CTR leadership with approval from the Advance RI-CTR Steering Committee and External Advisory Committee.

Primary selection criteria include:

- Strength of the potential scholar to become a leading clinical translational researcher, judged by scholarly record, research plan, training plan, resources, letters of support, and career potential.
- Overall strength and feasibility of the research proposal, and the probability that the proposal will lead to NIH or other funding.

Secondary selection criteria include:

- Degree to which the project is interdisciplinary.
- Whether the project addresses health problems that have been prioritized by the Rhode Island Department of Health, including sudden cardiac death, tobacco use and smoking cessation, obesity prevention, substance abuse and addiction, the elimination of new HIV infections, reproductive health, prisoner health, neuroscience related to mental disorders, and pediatric/perinatal care.
- Distribution of scholars' areas of interest along the translational spectrum.
- Racial, ethnic, and gender diversity.

Since NIGMS requires IACUC and IRB approval PRIOR to funding, applicants are strongly urged to have commenced the regulatory approval process(es) at the time of submission of the preliminary application. IRB and IACUC approvals must be obtained by May 1, 2024 or applicants risk loss of funding. We strongly encourage applicants to submit for IRB/IACUC approval at the time of submitting a full application (or earlier) to avoid delays.

Please be aware that all awards require approval by NIGMS before funding can begin. As such, while the funding period is anticipated to start August 1, 2024, the exact start date is contingent upon institutional, regulatory, External Advisory Committee and NIGMS approval. Projects will start no earlier than August 1, 2024, but may begin later depending on how quickly approvals are processed and obtained. The project and funding may not begin until a Notice of Award has been issued once all approvals have been received. Pre-award spending is not allowable on this award and no expenditures incurred prior to receipt of the Notice of Award will be covered.

Please Note: The final step in the approval process is for projects to receive NIGMS approval. Currently, this approval process is taking approximately 2-4 months from submission to NIGMS to receiving approval. The NIGMS approval timeline begins once the project package has been submitted to NIGMS; it does not include time for gathering Just in Time materials, making any necessary revisions, or for institutional and regulatory approval processes. Advance RI-CTR does its best to expedite the process. However, please note that funding cannot be issued until NIGMS approval has been obtained.

DATES AND DEADLINES

October 30, 2023:	Preliminary Application due
November 20, 2023:	Selected applicants invited to submit Final Proposal
January 18, 2024:	Final Proposal due
March 11, 2024:	Notification of projects recommended for funding
March 28, 2024:	JIT Materials due
May 1, 2024:	Regulatory Approvals must be obtained

August 1, 2024: Mentored Research Awards funding begins

QUESTIONS

Address any inquiries regarding the 2024 Mentored Research Awards to AdvanceRI@brown.edu. Responses to all questions will be posted on the FAQ page of the Advance RI-CTR website.