

Request for Applications

School of Medicine (SOM) Translational Research Scholars Program (TRSP)

Program Description:

The purpose of this program is to foster translational research among outstanding early career faculty in the School of Medicine. Through this program, the School of Medicine will support Scholars to pursue their research and further develop their careers in translational research. The primary goal of this program is to facilitate successful early career faculty in pursuing new lines of exploration and to elevate and expand the scope of their research in translational sciences. This program is intended to help our most successful young faculty who have already demonstrated a high level of achievement to substantially advance their careers in translational research.

Scholars must have a research program focused on translational research. For the purposes of this RFA, we define translational research as a “Bench to Bedside” or “Bedside to Bench” approach to investigation. Translational research includes the application of scientific discoveries made in the laboratory to new treatments and approaches to medical care that improve human health, and the use of biochemistry, immunology, molecular biology, genetics, and genomics-based approaches to understand basic mechanisms that drive human disease. Early career faculty with a primary appointment in all Departments in the School of Medicine with a research program focused on translational research are eligible to apply.

Translational Research Scholars will be expected to commit 75% of their effort to scholarly activities in translational research. The award is not limited to a specific research project or scholarly activity. The Translational Research Scholars Program will provide each Scholar with \$75,000 annually for up to 4 years. These funds may only be used to support the career development, research, or innovative work of the Scholar. These funds cannot be used to support or supplement the Scholar’s salary. Progress will be evaluated yearly.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be within the first 4 years of their Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor appointment at the time of the award (years at the Instructor level do not count against this limitation). For the current cycle of awards with a start date of July 1, 2027, the Assistant Professor appointment date must have been on July 1, 2023, or later. A one-year extension to the eligibility period is granted for childbirth/adoption within the first 4 years of the Assistant Professor or Research Assistant Professor appointment, consistent with the NIH ESI extension policy. Please provide the child’s date of birth when the LOI is submitted.
- Applicants must hold an MD, DO, PhD, or DVM-equivalent degree.

- Applicants must have a primary appointment in a Department within the SOM and must be working at the Anschutz Medical Campus, Rocky Mountain VAMC, Denver Health, or National Jewish Health. Applicants must be engaged in highly creative, hypothesis-driven translational research. The applicant's Department Chair must pledge to protect 75% of the effort/time of the applicant for the duration of their appointment as a Scholar. The Department Chair must agree to provide 25% of the \$75,000/year award (separate from and in addition to any other funds provided to the applicant by the department, including startup packages), with the other 75% to be provided by the SOM through this award mechanism.
- Individuals from traditionally under-represented communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Awardee Obligations:

- Objective accomplishments should include novel high impact papers and new research accomplishments that are expected to result in additional R01 or R01-equivalent grant support.
- Initiation of novel areas of translational research.
- Awardees are expected to attend monthly meetings with other translational research scholars and program leadership.
- Awardees must complete annual progress reports.

Letter of Intent: A one-page letter of intent (LOI) is required so the program leaders can verify that the applicant's research is eligible for this RFA or can provide further advice, and for planning the study section review:

- Name and contact information
- Faculty rank, primary affiliation, date of Assistant Professor appointment
- Proposed title of application
- Brief description of proposed work (no more than ½ page).
- Explain how this work qualifies as translational research.

The letter of intent is due Sunday, November 1, 2026. Applicants will be notified by Friday, November 20, 2026, if they are invited to submit a full proposal.

Application Requirements:

- Title page, including:
 - Name and contact information
 - Faculty rank, primary affiliation, date of Assistant Professor appointment
 - Title of application and 200-word abstract
- No more than three (3) pages of narrative text addressing the areas listed below:
 - Summary of candidate, vision for how TRSP funding will elevate your translational research program, and scientific challenge and importance of the problem (approx. 1 page): describe how the proposed project and ideas will expand your current research efforts in new significant and innovative areas. How does this allow you to tackle a problem you could not otherwise pursue with your current support?
 - Specific Research Proposed for TRSP (approx. 1 page): Provide a brief synopsis of experimental plans and approaches to pursue this unique line of research.
 - How the planned research differs from past and current research (approx. ½ page)
 - Career development plans: (approx. ½ page): Outline your overall career goals and describe how TRSP funding will support your career development. If applicable, describe your pathway to independence and explain how you are/will distinguish your research path from that of your mentors. Collaborations with mentors are acceptable, but you should explain how you will position yourself for an independent research career and funding.
- References, not included in three-page narrative limit (no limit on references)
- Biosketch (NIH format)
- Other support document (NIH format)
- Up to three letters of recommendation (at least one from outside the CU system)
- A nomination letter from the candidate's Department Chair (and Division Head, if applicable), including a commitment to protected time and funding as described above.

Applications will be evaluated by an *ad hoc* committee composed of non-conflicted School of Medicine faculty. Complete applications are due Monday, January 18, 2027, for a July 1, 2027, start date.

Submission Process:

- Submissions will only be accepted from those invited to submit a full proposal based on their LOI.
- A link to submit a full proposal will be sent to those invited based on their LOI.

Selection Criteria:

- Candidate's previous accomplishments, based on but not limited to the following criteria: publication record, prior/current funding record, and letters of recommendation. Successful applicants are typically those deemed to be on the strongest career trajectory in their peer group.
- Candidate's vision for the development of future innovative translational research.
- Candidate's current research environment and mentoring team.
- Competitive applicants will usually have already obtained extramural funding (NIH or equivalent career development or independent grants) and have published original research articles in high impact journals. No limit is imposed on the amount or type of extramural funding an applicant has already obtained.
- An additional goal of this program is to promote diversity of the research and research investigators in the School of Medicine.
- It is anticipated that at least 4 awards will be made in July 2027.

Key Dates:

- **Letter of intent due date:** Sunday, November 1, 2026
- **Invitation to submit full application:** Friday, November 20, 2026
- **Full application due date (submit single, combined PDF):** Monday, January 18, 2027

For questions regarding program: Jennifer Kemp, PhD (Jennifer.T.Kemp@CUAnschutz.edu)

For questions regarding the application process: Sarah Miller (Sarah.h.Miller@CUAnschutz.edu)

For letter of intent submission: LOIs will only be accepted through the following link:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/01a0c4b41af8757fb5398563b042fef0>

Program Co-Directors:

David Schwartz, MD
Sean Colgan, PhD