

2023 DIXON TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GRANTS INITIATIVE

Request for Applications:

- Innovation Awards** (\$50,000 maximum over the period 09/01/2023 - 08/31/2025)
- New Investigator Awards** (\$35,000 maximum over the period 09/01/2023 - 08/31/2025)
- Priority Research Initiative** (\$300,000 maximum over the period 09/01/2023 - 08/31/2026)

Submit electronic copies of applications to:
<https://competitions.fsm.northwestern.edu>

RFA Issue Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023
Submission Deadline: Friday, May 26, 2023, by 5 p.m. CT

The **Northwestern Memorial Foundation (NMF)** and the **Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences (NUCATS) Institute** are pleased to announce the Request for Applications for the 2023 Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative.

Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative Objective:

The Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative is seeking proposals for innovative, multi-disciplinary clinical and translational research collaborations at Northwestern Medicine that can make an impact in medical science at a national level.

Applicant Eligibility:

This opportunity is open to all physicians, nurses, and allied healthcare professionals. Priority is given to new investigators and novel projects that enhance clinical and translational research at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and facilitate research that can make a meaningful impact on medical science at a national level. All proposed projects must have IRB or IACUC approval, as appropriate, before they can commence. Please note: Principal investigators submitting "Priority Research Initiative" proposals are required to have a Northwestern University faculty appointment.

Dixon Translational Research Council Review Criteria:

Ideal proposals will clearly demonstrate the following elements:

- An innovative clinical and translational research project
- A strong team and appropriate infrastructure to support the project
- High potential for impact on clinical care — successful proposals will provide a clear description of this impact
- Clear objectives, a detailed timeline, anticipated results, and outcome measures
- Priority is given to projects with near term (1-3 year) clinically relevant results, or results that can be translated to patient care within 1 year of project completion
- A plan to secure future funding from other sources upon completion of the project

Funding Levels:

- New Investigator Award: \$35,000 maximum total, for two years.
 - Stimulates development of extramural funding for fellows, residents, or clinical investigators within the first three years of their career.
 - Residents and fellows who are applying for a Dixon New Investigator Award are required to identify a Feinberg-based faculty mentor to (a) review their full Dixon New Investigator Award application prior to submission and (b) provide a 1-paragraph statement in the full application indicating their support for the proposed project and willingness to mentor the applicant throughout the project period, if funded.
- Innovation Award: \$50,000 maximum total, for two years.
 - Supports research opportunities with the potential to advance Northwestern Medicine strategies.

- Priority Research Initiative: \$300,000 maximum total, for three years.
 - Supports significant, multidisciplinary research with the capability to produce innovative outcomes in a strategic priority clinical area.
 - Please note: Principal investigators submitting “Priority Research Initiative” proposals are required to have a Northwestern University faculty appointment.

Project Description:

These awards provide funding to advance innovative clinical and translational research. Ideal proposals should challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice, explore an innovative hypothesis, and/or address critical barriers to progress.

Clinical Studies:

All clinical studies should address the feasibility of the study (adequate numbers of potential patients and resources to conduct the study) in the narrative. Investigators may use the [Feasibility Query Tool \(I2B2\)](#) to determine if there are adequate numbers of potentially qualified research participants and give a detailed description of their recruitment plan.

Proposal Format:

All applications require:

- 200-word abstract in lay language
- NIH-style budget signed by the project’s executive sponsor, i.e. Vice President or above at NMHC, NMG, or NMH;
- NIH-style detailed budget justification;
- Six-page maximum narrative – up to four pages of text followed by up to two pages of figures with no less than 0.5” margins and 11-point font for narrative and 9-point font for figures – to address the following:
 - What is the clinical need you are addressing, and why is this important? What is innovative about your proposal? How does this project meet the objective of the Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative? Cite specifics.
 - How are you proposing to solve the problem? What is your hypothesis? Include your research design and methods, including how you will evaluate and define success.
 - How long will it take you? Include a timeline and significant milestones.
 - Describe connectivity with previous or existing research projects and programs.
 - What are the next steps if this project is successful? Include potential future steps and sources of funding.
 - Provide a brief feasibility assessment for any proposed clinical study.
 - Note: The bibliography does not count against the 6-page limit.
- NIH-style other support document for all key personnel (enter “none” in the document if none exists)
- NIH-style biosketches or short biographies for all key personnel (co-investigators, other significant contributors)
- Residents and fellows who are applying for a Dixon New Investigator Award are required to identify a Feinberg-based faculty mentor to (a) review their full Dixon New Investigator Award application prior to submission and (b) provide a 1-paragraph statement in the full application indicating their support for the proposed project and willingness to mentor the applicant throughout the project period, if funded.

The submitting/contact PI is required to submit the application using their Northwestern NetID and password. Applications should be submitted via Competitions at: <https://competitions.fsm.northwestern.edu>. In the Competitions submission form, the submitting/contact PI will be asked to attest that their disclosures of outside professional activities and financial interests are up to date.

Budget Restrictions:

- Indirect Costs: No indirect costs will be permitted or funded.
- Travel: Travel will not be funded unless it is a vital component to the project’s success. Total travel expenditures are limited to \$1,500 per trip per person.

- **Salary Support:** Investigator salary support will be allowed only if directly tied to an explicitly stated effort on the proposed project. As applicable, salary from which effort is calculated cannot exceed the NIH salary cap in effect at the time of Dixon application submission.

Questions regarding the application and review process may be directed to NUCATS-Funding@northwestern.edu. Questions regarding NUCATS Competitions may be directed to competitions@northwestern.edu.

Review:

The Dixon Translational Research Council will assign reviewers to all proposals and collect the completed scientific merit reviews. Reviews are modeled on the current NIH format. The top-ranked proposals for each award will be sent to the Dixon Translational Research Council. All proposals will be reviewed for potential conflicts of interest.

Deadline:

The application submission deadline is Friday, May 26, 2023, by 5 p.m. CT. Deadline extensions will not be permitted.

Grant Award:

Notification will be sent to funded applicants no later than August 2023 for an earliest anticipated start date of September 1, 2023. For funded projects, additional documentation or steps may be required prior to the initiation of the project. Following receipt of notification, grant awardees will be asked to obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval if appropriate. No funds will be distributed until all necessary approvals are in place — this may affect project start date. If the project is staged such that IRB/IACUC approval is required only for later stages, funds may be awarded for initial project stages until approvals are obtained for later stages. In addition, should any conflicts of interest be identified, the awardee must work with the Conflict of Interest Committee to address and resolve potential conflicts prior to receipt of funds.

Changes:

All changes in scope, budget, and personnel must be submitted in writing to NUCATS-Funding@northwestern.edu for prior approval.

Reports and Presentations:

Awardees are required to submit a final report one month after the funding period ends, including a one-page report detailing actual project expenditures. Informal progress checks, including invitations to stewardship meetings or presentations, by NMF or NUCATS staff may occur on a quarterly or bi-annual basis. Annual updates are required until the project is completed. NUCATS and NMF should be notified when any related invention disclosures and/or patent applications are filed. Non-confidential information about awarded projects may be shared with NIH, NUCATS Institute, and NMF's donor community.

Publications:

All awardees are required to acknowledge the support of this funding by using the following verbiage in any manuscripts/publications that result from work funded by the Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative:

The authors acknowledge the support of the Dixon Translational Research Grants Initiative at Northwestern Medicine and the Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (UL1TR001422).

Copies of publications should be submitted to NMF and NUCATS with the final or interim reports.