



Request for Proposals: Shankar Fellowship 2025 Cycle

The [Diabetes Translational Accelerator \(DTA\)](#) aims to catalyze the advancement of research and technologies to tackle the toughest problems in diabetes and related complications through start-ups and commercialization. Through the **Lakshmi and Subramonian Shankar Fellowship**, the DTA supports Emory PhD students (\$45,000 per year for up to 5 years; *for stipend/tuition/insurance support*) with the goal of commercializing their dissertation. The Shankar Fellows are also eligible for assistance from the **Shankar Innovation Fund** (\$75,000; *upon demonstration of the minimum viable product*) to translate their research for the market.

The fellowship is open to prospective applicants to Laney Graduate School's PhD programs or current PhD students (first or second year) enrolled at Emory University. Student-Advisor teams are **strongly encouraged** to **directly** address one or more of the priority problems in diabetes identified by stakeholders in [India](#) and [Rural Georgia](#). Teams can also propose other problems to tackle, provided they have a strong justification. We will prioritize biotechnology and pharmaceutical products (Technology Readiness Level [TRL] 2) or biomedical engineering products (TRL 3), which need laboratory (TRL 4) or clinical validation (TRL 5). All students should have a technical and clinical co-advisor team with at least one advisor from a Woodruff Health Sciences Center school (Medicine, Public Health, Nursing). Students can be from any discipline, including but not limited to STEM. Email us at egdrc.dta@emory.edu if you need help in identifying co-advisors or have other questions.

Required Documents:

- 1 page proposal that answers the following Heilmeyer questions about the proposed solution submitted by an Advisor
 1. What are you trying to do? What health problem are you trying to solve? Articulate your objectives using absolutely no jargon.
 2. How is it done today? What are the limitations of present approaches?
 3. What is new about your approach? Why do you think you can be successful at this time?
- CV of the student applicant
- CV of technical advisor
- CV of clinical co-advisor at one of the three WHSC schools

Student Journey (Shankar Fellows 2026 Cohort)	Due
Submit application for fellowship (1 pg proposal with CVs)	Dec 15, 2025
Screening of applications and announcement of shortlist	Jan 15, 2026
Interview of top 5 applicants	Feb 1, 2026
Notice of award	Feb 15, 2026
Start of funding	Sep 1, 2026
Renewal of funding for Y4 and Y5 of fellowship	May 1, 2029
Approval of Shankar Innovation Fund upon demonstration of minimum viable product	TBD