

Internal Competition Proposal Guidelines:

PART 1: Proposals should be prepared with 1/2-inch margins, all around, 11-point font size and type, and are required to contain the following components:

Research Proposal (2-page limit including figures; references may be placed on a 3rd page) that describes succinctly how the proposed research project addresses critical scientific and therapeutic roadblocks that may open new avenues for treating and curing disease. Include the following components:

- **Background and significance:** Provide a rationale for the entire Transformational research program, while providing a context for the proposed Catalyst Research Award.
- **Specific aims:** These should be specific, measurable, and necessary preliminary steps for the overall research effort. These aims will form the basis of the Catalyst Award milestones.
- **Preliminary studies/preliminary data (if available)**
- **Research design, experimental methods and analytical plan:** Include a brief description of the role of each key investigator.
- **Research limitations and contingencies**
- **Catalyst project milestones and research plan table:** Create a summary table that shows each milestone, the associated benchmark measure(s) of success, estimated timeline; it may also include other explanatory material (including key personnel or collaborators). The successful completion of these activities will form the basis of subsequent Transformational Award applications. Please include specific data, methods, and benchmarks that will demonstrate achievement of each milestone.

The Limited Submission Advisory Committee panel will be asked to use the Catalyst review criteria in evaluating the proposals:

- Relevance of the proposal to the Program focus (addresses critical scientific or therapeutic roadblock, near term translational potential, if successful will open a new avenue for treating or curing a disease)
- Hypothesis and Research Aims that are clearly stated, based on sound precedents and supported by relevant literature and preliminary data (if applicable)
- Objectives that are well thought out, realistic, and technically feasible
- Research methodology, data collection, and data analyses that are realistic and appropriate to the proposal's aims
- Quality and originality of the research project
- Qualifications of the applicant and prior experience in conducting innovative research