



**Translational Research at Einstein And Montefiore (TEAM) Pilot Project Program**  
**Program Announcement Year 1**  
**Funding Period: May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027**  
**Funding amount: \$50,000 to \$125,000**

## OVERVIEW

**Goal.** Support innovative bedside-to-bench and bench-to-bedside projects that generate insights with clear relevance to improving clinical care.

### Objectives

1. Catalyze collaboration among basic scientists, clinical investigators, and clinicians.
2. Build team-based infrastructure for clinically relevant translational research.
3. Launch collaborative pilot studies that may represent a new direction for participating investigators.
4. Generate preliminary data for external grant applications.

### Key Dates (all due by 11:59 PM ET)

- **LOI due:** December 1, 2025
- **Invitation to submit full application:** December 15, 2025
- **Full applications due** (invited only): February 13, 2026
- **Notice of Award:** March 31, 2026
- **Start date:** May 1, 2026

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Institutions:** Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center (defined as Moses, Weiler, Wakefield, and CHAM).
- **Investigators:** Faculty at  $\geq 80\%$  FTE (MD, PhD, MD-PhD, or equivalent). Multidisciplinary teams are strongly encouraged.
- **Not eligible:** PIs/Co-PIs who held an ICTR, Cancer Center, or other NIH-center pilot in the year prior to submission.
- **One application per cycle** as PI/MPI (Co-I on another application is acceptable).

## APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) – 1 page (PDF)

- Background/significance/innovation
- Hypothesis and specific aims
- How the project fosters **basic-clinical collaboration**
- How data will support an **extramural submission** (mechanism + target date)

**Submit LOI here:** <https://redcap.einsteinmed.org/surveys/?s=YR3J9AMK7DNM8W8R>



## Phase 2: Full Application (by invitation; single PDF)

1. **Cover letter (one sentence each):**
  - How data will lead to extramural funding (source + target date)
  - If applicable, commitment to obtain **IRB/IACUC/IBC** approvals prior to funding start
  - Acknowledge award is **non-transferable**; notify administrator if leaving during project year
2. **Abstract** (≤150 words)
3. **Detailed budget** (PHS 398) + justification: \$50,000 to \$125,000 may be requested
4. **Biosketches** (PI/MPI/Co-Is; PHS 398)
5. **Other Support** (PI/MPI; PHS 398)
6. **Specific Aims** (1 page maximum)
7. **Research Plan** (2 pages maximum)
8. **Literature Cited**
9. **Human Subjects/Vertebrate Animals** (if applicable; ≤1 page)
10. **Clinician letter of support** (if applicable) from chair or Division Director describing departmental financial and other support and need for salary support from the pilot award to reduce clinical time during the funding period.

**Submission:** instructions will be sent upon acceptance of LOI

## APPLICATION REVIEW AND AWARD INFORMATION

- **Process:** LOI review by committee → invited full application review by committee → administrative review.
- **Feedback:** Brief summary of critiques provided after awards are announced.
- **Criteria:** See **FAQ** for detailed criteria and common pitfalls.

## AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Notices:** Email confirmations at key milestones (LOI receipt, invitation, submission, decision).
- **Reporting:** *Interim* progress report, invention statement, and expenditure statement due **by February 1, 2027** and *final* versions of these due by **February 1, 2028**.
- **Prior approvals:** IRB/IACUC/IBC must be in place **before** funds are released (lack of approvals may delay start).
- **Carryover:** Awards are for one year; carryover of up to **one year** may be requested but must be justified.
- **Non-transferable:** Awards **cannot** be transferred if the PI leaves; notify **Rabia Hamid-Qazi** (rabia.hamidqazi@einsteinmed.edu).

## CONTACTS

**Submission Questions:** Samuel Pugo – [samuel.pugomarte@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:samuel.pugomarte@einsteinmed.edu)

**Program Questions:** Britta Will – [britta.will@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:britta.will@einsteinmed.edu) or Jessica Kahn - [jessica.kahn@einsteinmed.edu](mailto:jessica.kahn@einsteinmed.edu)

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## TEAM Pilot Project Program – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1) What types of projects fit this mechanism?

Projects should advance **translation** between lab and clinic (either direction) and produce **insights** relevant to patient care. Translational research refers to the process of turning scientific discoveries made in the laboratory, in the clinic, or in the community into practical applications that improve individual and public health. It emphasizes moving bench discoveries to bedside applications (e.g., diagnostics, therapies, interventions) and translating clinical observations back to the laboratory to refine understanding of disease mechanisms. Examples include:

- Testing mechanistic hypotheses arising from clinical observations
- Applying lab discoveries to early human studies or protocol development
- Innovative use of **human specimens or data** in the lab
- Integrating **computational** and **clinical** datasets
- Developing **diagnostic reagents/procedures** or novel **preclinical models** (animal, cell, organoid) and validating their relevance to human disease

**Out of scope:** purely basic or purely clinical research without translational integration; **phase III/IV** clinical trials.

### 2) Are there priority topic areas?

**Yes**—illustrative (not exhaustive) themes include: cell proliferation/differentiation; stress responses; niche/systemic interactions; aging; gene regulation; signaling/metabolomics/proteostasis; population/data sciences; and conditions with disproportionate impact in the Bronx (e.g., diabetes, obesity, asthma, substance use disorder, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, cancer predisposition).

### 3) Is basic-clinical collaboration required?

**Yes.** Each study must include meaningful participation from **both** clinicians/clinical researchers and basic scientists. Proposals with **interdisciplinary** teams receive priority.

### 4) Do you prioritize cross-unit collaborations or community partnerships?

Yes. Priority is given to proposals that strengthen collaboration across **Divisions/Departments/Centers/Institutes**. Where appropriate, engagement with **community partners** (e.g., patient groups) is encouraged.

### 5) How important is a downstream funding plan?

Very important. Competitive applications clearly describe how results will be used as **preliminary data** for **extramural funding** (e.g., NIH/NCATS, FDA, AHRQ, PCORI, DoD, foundations), including a **target mechanism** and **submission date**.

## 6) What are the detailed review criteria?

Reviewers assess:

- **Responsiveness** to the RFP and translational scope
- **Overall impact** and clinical importance (**significance/innovation**)
- **Rigor and feasibility** of the approach (including any **community engagement** where relevant)
- **Investigators and environment** (team expertise, resources, collaboration plan)

## 7) What are common reasons for non-funding?

- Lack of **basic-clinical** collaboration or insufficient evidence of meaningful team integration
- Low scientific priority or unclear clinical relevance/translation
- Weak plan for **future grant** or IP; unclear that data will support a competitive submission
- **Overlap** with existing funded work
- Scope **outside** this announcement or non-responsive aims
- Unlikely to **spend funds within the project period**
- Missing required elements (biosketches, letters, approvals)
- Limited or absent discussion of **community impact/engagement** when appropriate

## 8) May salary support be requested?

Salary support for research personnel (e.g. research coordinators, assistants) may be requested. Faculty support up to 10% effort (+ fringe) may be requested, during the one-year funding period. Clinicians must coordinate with department leadership **before** submission if clinical effort will decrease.

## 9) Are equipment purchases allowed?

No. Equipment is **not** an allowable cost. (Fringe on personnel is allowable; indirects are **not**.)

## 10) Can I submit multiple applications?

No. An investigator may apply **once per cycle** as PI/MPI.

## 11) Am I eligible if I held a center pilot grant last year?

No. PIs/Co-PIs on ICTR, Cancer Center, or other NIH-center pilots **awarded in the prior year** are not eligible this cycle.