

Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants 2026 Request for Applications

OVERVIEW

Goal. The Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants will support faculty conducting Learning Health Systems (LHS) projects with pilot project funding and intensive mentorship “studios” to drive innovation, implementation, and impact within the Montefiore Health System.

Objectives. The initiative will promote the adoption, adaptation, integration, scalability, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, tools, policies, and guidelines to improve health and well-being in areas of health system priorities.

Timeline and Deadlines.

- **Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline** August 21, 2026, by 11 p.m.
- **Notification of invitation to submit a grant application:** September 18, 2026
- **Grant application deadline (for those invited):** October 30, 2026, by 11 p.m.
- **Notification of Grant Award:** December 1, 2026
- **Start date** (funds first available): January 1, 2027

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Overview. The Montefiore Einstein Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) invites Montefiore Einstein faculty to apply for pilot funding to support LHS projects. LHS bring together researchers, clinicians, and community members to accelerate, innovate, and implement rigorous quality improvement and implementation science projects to narrow the gap between evidence and practice. Projects should focus on 1) Implementing methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices and interventions into healthcare settings, 2) Identifying barriers and facilitators to adoption of best practices in healthcare settings, or 3) Conducting trials to identify effective strategies for real-world implementation of evidence-based practices into routine clinical care. Projects that address priorities identified by health system leaders will be given preference.

Health System Research Priorities

- **Clinical Growth Initiatives:** Expand access and support growth in priority clinical areas through improved referral pathways, capacity management, and care delivery innovation
- **Population Health:** Improve chronic disease management, care transitions, and preventive care with data-driven initiatives
- **Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Practice:** Integrate tools for diagnostics, decision support, patient engagement, and workflow optimization
- **Patient Experience:** Enhance patient-centeredness of care delivery
- **Workforce Initiatives & Healthy Work Environment:** Address burnout, retention, and team-based care focusing on engagement activities
- **Increasing Participation in Clinical Trials:** Improve diversity, access, and integration of trials into routine care
- **Age-Friendly Health Systems:** Improve comprehensive, coordinated care for people age 65 and older

Grant Program Overview. Two proposals and Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Scholars will be selected each year. The scholars will participate in monthly “studios”—a series of group meetings between the scholars, LHS leaders, and other individuals with subject matter or operational expertise in the specific project (e.g. health informatics). During these meetings, the scholars will receive mentorship and research design expertise, project implementation and dissemination support, support with statistical analysis. Scholars will also participate

in existing monthly LHS working group meetings. Scholars will complete a capstone presentation on progress, outcomes, and next steps at the end of one year.

Funding. Awards are for one year, up to \$10,000 direct cost. For example, funds may be used for informatics, data analysis from the ICTR cores, reimbursement of community members, or non-faculty salary support (research staff, study coordinator, etc.). Funds may not be used for faculty salary support.

Eligibility. Faculty only. One proposal may be submitted per faculty member. Any faculty member who has a current grant with overlapping aims is not eligible to apply. The Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants program strongly encourages proposals that involve collaborations among clinicians, researchers, administrators, community members, and patients/families.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Overview: The application process consists of two main phases: 1) Letter of Intent (LOI) and 2) Grant application. Critiques from the second phase of the review will be provided to the applicants after awards are announced.

Phase 1: Letter of Intent (LOI)

1. Applicant's interest in Learning Health Systems research (250 words)
2. The evidence-based practice or implementation strategy that will be addressed by the project (250 words)
3. If and how the project aligns with health system priorities (100 words)
4. The stakeholders (providers, patients, communities) that will be impacted by the project (250 words)

Phase 2: Grant application (select applicants will be invited to submit the application.)

1. Title of Project
2. Principal Investigator (PI) Name
3. Executive Summary (250 words)
 - a. Project Overview: Briefly describe the project, its goals, and its significance.
 - b. Objectives: Outline the specific objectives of the research.
 - c. Expected Outcomes: Summarize the anticipated results and their impact on the health system.
4. Background and Significance (250 words)
 - a. Problem Statement: Define the problem or gap in the health system that the project aims to address.
 - b. Literature Review: Provide a summary of relevant research and how your project builds on or differs from existing studies.
 - c. Significance: Explain how the project will improve health outcomes and advance LHS research.
5. Research Plan (300 words)
 - a. Specific Aim: List the specific aim of the project.
 - b. Strategy: Explain what is innovative about your approach and how it differs from existing solutions.
 - c. Outcomes: Discuss the potential impact of the project on patient care and/or the health system.
 - d. Timeline: Provide a detailed timeline for the project, including key milestones and deliverables.
6. Team and Collaboration (250 words)
 - a. Team Members: List the key members of the team, their roles, and their qualifications.
 - b. Collaborations: Describe any collaborations with other institutions, organizations, or stakeholders.
7. Budget summary
8. References

The Letter of Intent (LOI) template may be accessed and submitted here:

<https://redcap.einsteinmed.org/surveys/?s=8KJWDFL8RW4HAWRT>

CONTACT

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