# Funding Opportunity Announcement

## Background

The Duke Transplant Center (DTC) of the Duke University School of Medicine aims to promote cross-disciplinary clinical, translational and basic research with the ultimate goal of optimizing transplant organ longevity and improving quality of life of transplant recipients. This is the second annual call from the DTC for proposals for Pilot and Feasibility studies.

## Objectives

Through the current funding opportunity, we aim to accomplish three specific objectives: (1) to catalyze collaborations between investigators within and outside DTC; (2) to identify and validate novel approaches for personalizing transplantation aiming at risk stratifying, monitoring, and enhancing transplant graft outcome; and (3) to maximize the utility of existing transplant-related biorepositories (e.g., Abdominal Transplant Repository, Lung Transplant CTOT). Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- non-invasive immune monitoring,
- early diagnosis of opportunistic infections,
- personalized pharmacogenetics,
- computational pathology
- psychosocial predictors of transplant outcomes

**Successful pilot and feasibility studies will serve as a basis for subsequent applications for independent research support.** Typical awardees will either be early stage investigators or established investigators who propose to establish new research collaborations to advance the mission of DTC.

## Eligibility and Scope of Applications

Clinical, translational, and basic research investigators with an M.D., Ph.D. or equivalent, and have a faculty position or a faculty sponsor within Duke University are all eligible to apply. Additional eligibility also includes DTC direct report staff and transplant ancillary staff. Investigators need to justify how the proposed studies relate to the broad mission of DTC and the two specific objectives of this announcement. Preliminary data is encouraged but not crucial. Applications that foster new collaborations among DTC investigators or between DTC and non-DTC investigators are particularly encouraged.

## Application Instructions

The proposal section should be in MS Word format, 2 pages maximum. This section should include a project description, specific aims, proposed research, expected outcomes, and connectivity to the mission of this funding opportunity; and should specifically address how the proposal advances one of the three specific objectives. Additional information to accompany the application (but outside the page limit) should include: investigator NIH biosketch, project timeline, and budget. The top three meritorious proposals will be awarded.


## Key Dates

Completed applications are due no later than **May 15, 2021**.

## Budget

Budgets must be well-justified and may not exceed $23,000 in direct costs ($25,000 in total costs inclusive of 8% indirects on internal awards). Budgets should be for one year in duration.

## Requirements of Awardees

Awardees are required to submit a final report of the study’s findings twelve months after receiving funding. Awardees will present their findings at the annual DTC Research Symposium after the conclusion of the pilot study.

## Contact Information

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