



# HARVARD CATALYST

Harvard Clinical & Translational Science Center

## Translational Innovator Program Pilot Funding Opportunity

**Request for Applications (RFA): Frequently Asked Questions**

**Sight & Science: Vision Research from Diverse Fields**

**Application Due: January 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm EDT**

**Q: I am submitting an application on behalf of the Principal Investigator (PI). Will he/she be notified?**

A: Email notifications regarding the application will be sent to the submitter and the PI. However, the submitter will need to work with the PI applicant to keep him/her apprised of the status.

**Q: Who is eligible to be a PI?**

A: Any faculty member who holds a Harvard University appointment as assistant professor, associate professor, or professor, irrespective of degree or institutional affiliation, is eligible to serve as the PI. Investigators who hold appointments such as lecturer, instructor, or research scientist/associate are eligible to apply as PI if approved by and with the support of their department chair. Investigators at these ranks must provide a letter from their department/division chief as appropriate, verifying their appointment title, status at Harvard, and departmental/divisional support of their application.

A Co-I is a substantial contributor who helps conceive of the experimental idea, contributes to the intellectual development of the project, and/or designs the study or part thereof (e.g., scientific or technical details), and will be involved in the study throughout the funding year. Co-Is can be from any institution; however, if you are working with a Co-I from a non-Harvard affiliated institution, please justify how their external expertise adds to the project. Although trainees (e.g., students, clinical trainees, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows), visiting and adjunct faculty, and those with pending faculty appointments at the time of submission cannot serve as the PI on an application, they may serve as Co-Is if they make a substantial contribution to the project. If you have questions about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact us at [reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu](mailto:reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu).

**Q: Do I need a Co-I for my project?**

A: A Co-I is not required, nor is there a limit to the number of Co-Is that may be listed on an application. While researchers may submit only one application as PI, they may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

**Q: Can I submit more than one application?**

A: Researchers may submit only one application as PI. Researchers may be listed as a Co-I on multiple applications.

**Q: The Vision pilot grant program has 2 funding opportunities? Are these programs related?**

A: The Vision pilot grant program consists of two separate and complementary pilot grant opportunities. Pilot Program 1 – Harvard Catalyst Opportunity - is broad in scope and covers all fields of research related to vision. Pilot Program 2 – an External Funding Opportunity - is narrower in scope and covers only four specific areas of ophthalmological investigation.

- Pilot Program 1 - Harvard Catalyst Opportunity (Multiple Awards Anticipated):  
Vision-related translational science ranges from investigations of the way in which humans synthesize spatial and descriptive information about our external environment to how these mechanical and signal transduction processes give rise to sight to attempts to improve visual performance under limiting conditions. By its nature, the realm of vision science spans a variety of fields such as physics, neuroscience, physiology, psychology, computer science, engineering, architecture, communication, education and medicine.
- Pilot Program 2 - External Funding Opportunity (Multiple Awards Anticipated):

The objective of this program is to sponsor innovative projects that will advance treatment solutions limited to the following areas of immediate medical need: (1) light modulation and its impact on neurological disorders such as migraines; (2) progression of myopia in a pediatric population; (3) phacoemulsification and cataract lens extraction; and (4) post-surgical refractive intraocular lens (IOL) enhancement.

Due to the nature of this funding opportunity, **all applicants must contact Harvard Catalyst** at [reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu](mailto:reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu) to learn specific details and options related to the external funding application and review.

**Q: I plan to submit an application to the External Funding Opportunity. Will the Harvard Catalyst Funded Opportunity also consider this application?**

A: Yes, applications submitted to the External Funding Opportunity will be considered for both funding opportunities.

**Q: What is the review process?**

A: Completed applications, with all supporting documents, will undergo an administrative review. Those deemed administratively responsive to this RFA will be forwarded for review to a Scientific Review Committee. Reviewers may consider questions such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Is the proposal translational and innovative?
- Does the proposed project address an important clinical need?
- Is the project technically feasible and achievable in the funding period?
- Do the investigators have the requisite skills and model systems to execute the project successfully?
- Does a successful project have the potential to benefit human healthcare?

Applicants will be notified of the results of the initial scientific review by late February 2020. Reviewer comments will not be provided to applicants.

**Q: Will there be an interview by the review committee?**

A: Yes. After initial scientific review, applicants whose proposals have high impact potential will be selected to present to the Translational Innovator Management Team. PIs and other team members will be invited to provide a 15-minute presentation about their proposal. Awards will be announced after all invited teams have made their presentations. Applicants ultimately selected for funding will also benefit from project management expertise provided by the Translational Innovator Program. Where appropriate, awardees will also be afforded an opportunity to present to the Harvard Catalyst Community Advisory Board for input on the proposed work.

**Q: Will feedback be provided on my application?**

A: No. Reviewers will not provide feedback on any applications.

**Contact Information**

Inquiries related to the goals of the program, the application process, or eligibility should be directed to: [reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu](mailto:reactor@catalyst.harvard.edu).

Inquiries related to financial or grants management areas should be directed to: Emanuel Amaral, Manager of Research and Grants Administration, Harvard Catalyst at: [Emanuel\\_Amaral@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:Emanuel_Amaral@hms.harvard.edu).