

MICHR PATHWAY TO FIRST GRANT AWARD

PURPOSE: The goal of the MICHR Pathway to First Grant Award is to support highly promising early career faculty in obtaining the preliminary data they need to be competitive for their first extramural grant (federal or non-federal). This award is intended for faculty in the beginning stages of their careers who want to define their research paths. Applicants should propose a research plan that will help them to generate the data needed to strengthen hypotheses for subsequent extramural applications, thereby gaining a foothold in their field of study. In addition, applicants will need to demonstrate they have established a quality relationship with a mentor(s). Promising research ideas that address any areas of translational research will be accepted.

FUNDING: Each award will provide \$50,000 in funding for one year. MICHR will provide a maximum of \$25,000. A minimum 1:1 match is required and may be secured from a single source or multiple sources, including your U-M department/academic unit. If you are applying from a unit of the Endowment for Basic Sciences, see application guidelines. Applicants from U-M Flint and U-M Dearborn using a Community-Based Participatory Research approach (see below) may write grants with budgets up to \$30,000 that will be fully funded by MICHR (matching is not required).

ELIGIBILITY: All active University of Michigan faculty who have not served as Principal Investigators on an extramural grant are eligible to apply as Principal Investigator. For the Community-Based Participatory Research approach (see below), the research team must include at least one academic investigator and one community investigator.

RESEARCH APPROACH: MICHR encourages and funds three approaches to research, and applicants should use the approach that is best suited to their research program. These approaches exist along a continuum that has varying levels of engagement between partners within and outside of the University of Michigan. The MICHR Pilot Grant Program supports all translational and clinical researchers and encourages applicants to identify collaborations that will most effectively bridge the gap to translation. No preference is given to any approach. The three approaches include:

- **Investigator-Initiated Research:** Research that is planned, conducted, and led by an academic investigator or team of investigators.
- **Collaborative Research:** Research that involves the input and participation of partners (e.g. patients, families, clinicians, community members, community-based organizations) in some aspects of the research process.
- **Community-Based Participatory Research:** Research initiated in full partnership with communities that requires equitable involvement of partners in all aspects of the research process.

For this funding opportunity, “community” refers to groups of people affiliated by similar characteristics, such as identities (e.g. gender, racial), geographic location (e.g. city of Flint), specific interests (e.g. coalition to reduce childhood obesity), and/or situations that affect the well-being of that group. MICHR encourages researchers to consider whether, and to what extent, research could be enhanced through engagement and partnership with communities, especially those historically excluded from health research.

When selecting the research approach, the table below highlights examples of where along the research process engagement with partners can occur. Note that Community-Based Participatory Research is a team-based approach in which community partners are involved in all aspects of the research process.

Pilot Grant Program Research Approaches: Examples of Partner Engagement			
	Investigator-Initiated	Collaborative	Community-Based Participatory
Research objective		•	•
Study design			•
Funding		•	•
Data collection		•	•
Analysis			•
Dissemination	•	•	•

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applications must be submitted using Competition Space. Please see the approach-specific guidelines for information on application requirements and restrictions.
- Identify the appropriate approach for your research project: Investigator-Initiated Research, Collaborative Research or Community-Based Participatory Research. Within each approach, select the translational stage (T-stage) that best describes the proposed research.
 - **T1 (Translation to Humans):** Goal is to identify and analyze the effects of an intervention or relationship on the human condition or environment. Findings from basic research are tested for clinical effect and/or applicability. Examples: first-in-human studies, human physiology
 - **T2 (Translation to Patients/Clients):** Goal is to identify and analyze the optimal effects of an intervention or relationship on the human condition or environment. New interventions are tested under controlled environments to form the basis for clinical application and evidence-based guidelines. Examples: phase 2 clinical trials, development of evidence-based practices
 - **T3 (Translation to Practice):** Goal is to incorporate into practice the optimal intervention or relationship. Research at this stage explores ways of applying recommendations or guidelines in real-world settings such as clinical practice and community settings. Examples: health services research, comparative effectiveness research
 - **T4 (Translation to Population Health):** Goal is to provide communities with the optimal intervention or relationship. Research explores factors and interventions that influence the health of populations. Examples: health policy research, social determinants of health
- Fundable applications that propose human subjects or vertebrate animal research must proceed to a second level of review by NIH; their approval must be obtained before funds are released. From the time MICHHR notifies you of your fundable score, you will have six months to obtain IRB/IACUC approval (protocols must be submitted within four months). If approval is not obtained within this timeframe, the Pilot Grant Program reserves the right to deny funding.