



Boston Children's Hospital
Translational Research Program
Application Instructions for the **Translational Investigator Service**
2026 Junior TIS Award

Applications due May 27, 2026, 11:59 PM ET

Funding begins September 2026

Overview of the Translational Investigator Service (TIS)

The TIS was established to identify and support the development of faculty-scientists who will become national and international leaders in the translational research paradigm. Major highlights of this program include providing individuals with the necessary financial, time, and networking resources to be able to conduct meaningful translational research. Success of this program will 1) facilitate the rapid translation of discovery sciences into human trials; 2) promote the utilization of human patient resources for the purpose of advancing scientific discovery; and 3) position Boston Children's Hospital for successful competition for NIH, disease-specific foundation, pharmaceutical, and philanthropic financial support.

The TIS is intended to be a multidisciplinary cadre of outstanding faculty scientists with strong scientific and/or clinical backgrounds and significant productivity histories. These attributes, combined with strong leadership skills, will help to increase their potential as future leaders in translational research.

Definitions

Translational research is defined as the translation of observations made in the research laboratories and clinical services at BCH and elsewhere into clinical studies involving humans, or the use of clinical observations to define basic research hypotheses or studies. Innovative use of clinical material in basic laboratories is considered translational research. A research study qualifies as translational if it:

1. Uses new approaches or discoveries to address clinical problems.
2. Develops new experimental or diagnostic reagents and procedures to diagnose and treat childhood illnesses and conditions.
3. Develops new models of human diseases and uses them to inform clinical issues involving children.
4. Adapts approaches already in place in other disciplines to address pediatric diseases.

Non-clinical Translational Research: Non-clinical pediatric translational research is laboratory research that leads to a plan or design for new or improved elements of child health care, whether intended for internal use or use by others outside of BCH. It includes the conceptual formulation, design, pre-clinical, and post-clinical testing of a range of diagnostic and therapeutic products and procedures, as well as health services processes. The term "non-clinical" is preferred to "preclinical", because non-clinical also encompasses laboratory testing done after the introduction and testing of an agent, device, or procedure in humans.



Clinical Translational Research: Clinical translational research is confirmation in human clinical testing or observation that the products, procedures and health services processes created to improve child health deliver the expected benefits without unacceptable side effects. This category includes feasibility and safety pilot studies and traditional Phase I clinical trials, with assessments of safety and clinical effectiveness. In addition, clinical translational research encompasses the use of clinical observations or reagents to drive basic laboratory studies. Phase II trials will rarely be considered translational research.

TIS Award Eligibility

Independent investigators who are members of the BCH faculty and have held the rank of Assistant Professor for **no more than five years at the time of application deadline** are eligible. This award is intended for investigators at early stages of their independent research careers. It is acceptable for applicants to carry other career development award (e.g. K01 or K08 or foundation awards).

Individuals must be nominated by their departments. Multiple individuals can be nominated by each department in this application cycle.

At the time of award, applicants and their departments/divisions must acknowledge and accept the **Award terms (see Appendix 1).**

TIS Funding and Time Commitment

1. The TRP will provide \$100,000 direct costs per year for up to 4 years. Indirect costs will be managed by the TRP.
2. Funding for this cycle will commence in September 2026.
3. Applicant and Department/Division Chief must clearly describe how this award will enable the PI to devote a minimum 50% of time to translational research.

Review Criteria

1. Excellence of the applicant. Prior education and training, and letters of recommendation commenting on the predicted future success in completion of translational research and external funding will be a primary focus during review process.
2. Thoughtfulness of career development and research plans, and a clear commitment to translational research. Proposal must clearly describe how the research conforms to the above definitions of Non-clinical or Clinical Translational Research. Projects which include the use patient materials and/or data are encouraged.
 - a. For MDs and MD/PhDs adherence to the spirit of the “handshake rule” is desired where the investigator personally meets with or is otherwise directly involved with the care of each patient involved in the study. Clinical specialties that do not involve direct patient medical or surgical care (e.g. radiology or pathology) would still be considered to have “a handshake” if the proposal included research related to patients in which the investigator is involved in direct evaluations of patients in the study.
 - b. For PhD applicants, detailed articulation of how the research is or will be translational (e.g. collaboration with clinicians) is required.



3. Special attention will be paid to the demonstration of a clear linkage between the basic and clinical research in the proposal. Evidence to support the capability of the applicant to successfully apply basic research to clinically relevant problems or plans to use of patient resources to inform basic research should be highlighted. Emphasis will be placed in the review process on proposals where there is a focus on executing future human trials using BCH-driven science and laboratory discoveries. Collaborations between basic researchers and clinicians and the translational investigator are encouraged and should be clearly described.
4. Support and commitment by the applicant's department and/or division to protecting the applicant's time for research purposes is required. A clear description of the capacity of the department/division to successfully engage in translational research, including the prioritization of this research with respect to department/division, patient, administrative and financial resources must be described.

Review Process

Applications will be reviewed by senior BCH translational researchers. Top-ranked applicants will be asked to participate in panel interviews.



Application— MUST BE SUBMITTED IN PDF FORMAT

Please send all application materials to TRP@childrens.harvard.edu

Please submit files with the following naming convention (Applicant's last name-File#). File number should correspond to the following list:

1. Updated Curriculum Vitae (Harvard format)
2. General Statement of research interests/plans - limit to 3 single-spaced pages (not including references), 12-point type. Please include a discussion of how proposed research will be “translational” in scope, with a focus on the linkage between basic and clinical research.
3. Career development plan and the impact the TIS award would have - limit to 3 single-spaced pages, 12-point type. Additionally, please address how prior training/education contributes to the likelihood of success as an independent translational researcher in the future.
4. Budget (1 year; use PHS 398 form) and Budget justification.
 - a. The proposed budget and justification should reflect thoughtful application of the award funds to enable the PIs translational research efforts. Award allocation may be modified in subsequent years as needed to advance PIs translational research, but carry-over to subsequent years is discouraged.
 - b. Salaries (inclusive of fringe), supplies, and other protocol-specific uses of this funding are allowed but must be clearly outlined in the application.
5. Other sources of funding (current and pending), including any startup funds in new NIH Other Support format.
6. Letter of support from Division/Department head. The letter must confirm:
 - a. Applicant's academic appointment and PI's independence (including recruitment/search details, physical space, etc)
 - b. The division's/department's commitment to the applicant's research and training as a translational scientist, including the guarantee of protected time (minimum 50%) for the applicant to pursue his/her research endeavors.
 - c. The letter should also discuss the priority of translational research within the Department/Division, including translational research infrastructure, specific patient populations, basic science strengths can be leveraged for translational studies and translational research space.
7. Three additional letters of recommendation should be submitted directly to Judy Fleming, Assoc. Director, TRP (Judith.fleming@childrens.harvard.edu) by the application deadline. Of the three letters, one recommender must be from outside BCH. Please include a list of recommenders with contact information with application.



Appendix 1

By accepting the TRP TIS award, the PI and the Department/Division agree to the following:

1. Participate / enable participation of the PI in TRP activities including:
 - a. Mandatory participation at an annual off-site TRP retreat (usually September)
 - b. Regularly scheduled meetings of program participants (including, but not limited to, presentations to the BCH philanthropic group (VPN) supporting the TRP)

2. Submit an Annual Progress Report, to include:
 - a. Summary of research accomplishments. This should be a scientific overview of the project’s goals and progress, not to exceed 3 pages. Please also include a description of work to be done in the upcoming year.
 - b. One paragraph lay summary of research and accomplishments.
 - c. A detailed report of how TRP research funds were used in prior year
 - d. A list of disclosures to BCH TIDO that include the PI as an Inventor
 - e. PDF copies of all publications from the past year (citing of TRP funding is expected).
 - f. List of conferences attended, and talks given in the past year.
 - g. Updated list of current and pending funding.

3. Inform the TRP if the PI intends to eliminate their effort towards translational research, or leave BCH, prior to award end. In this case, PI will provide a Final Report with the items required in the Annual Progress Report, and balance of TIS funds remaining, which will be returned to the TRP

4. Acknowledge and accept that any revenue received by BCH regarding any IP created, invented, further developed, or otherwise supported by, or with funding from the TRP will be distributed in accordance with the revenue sharing table below:

Stakeholder	BCH Distribution for IP developed by TIS investigator	<i>BCH Standard Distribution (for reference)</i>
Institution / Research Endowment	30%	30%
Inventor(s)	27.5%	30%
Department	10%	12.5%
Laboratory	10%	12.5%
Tech Transfer Office/Other	15%	15%
Funding Source (TRP)	7.5%	



Translational Investigator Service Awards 2026 Application Face Page

Please include the contact information and signatures of the Principal Investigator and their Chair or Chief.

Principal Investigator	
Last name:	First name:
Degree(s):	
Contact information of the Principal Investigator	
Department/Division	
Office/Lab Address	
Phone	
E-mail	
Department Chair/Division Chief	
Last name:	First name:
Contact information of the Department Chair/Division Chief	
Department/Division	
Office Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

Principal Investigator Signature: _____ **date:** _____

Department Chair/Division Chief's Signature: _____ **date:** _____