



Translational Research Disease Group (TRDG) Request For Applications (TRDG-RFA-2026)

Overview: This initiative is designed to support impactful basic and translational research collaborations between basic scientists and clinicians, facilitating the advancement of innovative ideas from the laboratory to patient care and from clinical observations back to research. **Applications are due at the end of the day on Monday, April 20, 2026.**

Eligible investigators: Legorreta Cancer Center members affiliated with Brown University or its hospital campuses are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators. Co-investigators and collaborators may include Cancer Center members, as well as individuals from other academic institutions or pharmaceutical companies who can contribute to the research or its clinical translation. Non-members interested in applying should contact Ms. Shiyoko Cothren to initiate Cancer Center membership before submitting the proposal.

Available support: A minimum of two projects will receive one-year funding, with at least \$35,000 allocated per project. Applicants must justify the need for funding and describe the anticipated impact. Funding is restricted to direct research costs; indirect costs and Principal Investigator salary are not supported.

Characteristics of competitive projects: Applicants are encouraged to highlight the following aspects in their proposals, if applicable.

1. Demonstrated potential for significant impact within 12 to 24 months, including high-impact publications, National Cancer Institute (NCI) grant submissions, active clinical protocols enrolling patients, or submission of additional grant applications within one year.
2. Collaborative projects that engage Brown University, Brown University Health, Care New England, Providence VA Hospital, Brown School of Public Health, Engineering, Behavioral Health Programs, or industry partners.
3. Interdisciplinary research with potential to lead to multi-investigator grants, such as U54, P01, or Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPORE) awards.
4. Translational research focused on translation, therapeutic development, biomarkers, behavioral, and population studies.
5. Projects addressing cancer etiology, prevention, pathogenesis, or therapeutics for cancers prevalent in Rhode Island, particularly those with the potential to reduce disparities, inequities, and improve outcomes across racial and ethnic groups. Priority will be given to projects addressing high-incidence cancers in Rhode Island (e.g., lung, breast, bladder, cholangiocarcinoma, endometrial cancer, and skin).

Submission guidelines: Proposals must include a title page (proposal title, PI, co-PIs, collaborators), a lay summary (250 words) an abstract (200 words), specific aims (one page), and a research strategy (5 pages) covering background, significance, innovation, preliminary data, experimental plan, and references and a one page budget with justification. Allowable costs include personnel for trainees, supplies, animal research, core facility charges, microarrays, genomics, and clinical research costs not covered by other mechanisms. An NIH Biosketch (new template) and other support information must be provided for all investigators. Use Arial 11-point font and submit the proposal as a single PDF to henri_blouin@brown.edu.

Review process: Proposal reviews will be completed by Monday, May 11th, with funding anticipated to begin on June 1, 2026. The Review Committee will consist of senior scientific, clinical, and programmatic leaders, utilizing an NIH Study Section review format. The committee will be chaired by Sendurai A. Mani, Associate Director for Translational Oncology.

Reporting and expectations: Funded investigators are required to submit progress reports at six months and at the conclusion of the award period. Research groups will be invited to present their work at Cancer Center events, including the annual retreat. All related publications must acknowledge this funding.