



Research Forum Program Overview

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Research Forum (RF) program provides investigators with efficient, structured processes and guidance to improve and accelerate project and biotechnology development activities for clinical and translational research. The RF provides two free services to assist investigators

- Consultation with the Research Forum Director to discuss project, identify issues and potential next step, and prepare for project review by the RF Team of experts (if invited).
- A forum for presenting research plans to a multidisciplinary team of experts comprised of senior faculty, technical experts, ICTS Core personnel, and other ICTS support/resources.

Ideally, research projects considered for this program should address (but are not limited to) one or more of the following cross-cutting research themes:

Theme 1: Translate the findings of genetic/genomic research into clinical research and practice

Theme 2: Accelerate the development and evaluation of new therapeutics

Theme 3: Conduct comparative effectiveness and dissemination and implementation research to improve the transfer of clinical research discoveries into practice

The RF program is designed to guide and support many project development activities. The RF functions by assembling a team of multidisciplinary researchers and support personnel to assist investigators in transforming their ideas into well-designed translational projects, subsequent grant applications, and/or new biotechnology platforms.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Research projects accepted into the program can receive support in a variety of areas, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Development and refinement of research protocol
- Current proposal feedback
- Milestone and budget development
- Biostatistical and research design support
- Subject recruitment
- New collaboration opportunities/network development
- Nurse coordinator assistance
- IRB and regulatory assistance
- Guidance on intellectual property
- Agent acquisition (eg. therapeutic or contrast agent)

Application Process: A brief pre-application to the program, including an investigator CV and a ½ page abstract, is required through the [RF- Pre Application](#) on-line submission survey. Pre-applications are received on a rolling call. The RF program manager will respond within 2-3 business days to discuss additional project details and, if invited forward, a link and directions for the full [RF- Application](#) (3-page limit). See the Application Process on the ICTS website.

RF Presentation: Investigators should plan on a minimum of one month to complete the application process and receive scheduling notice regarding the presentation to the team. A presentation template is provided to assist the investigator in describing the project target issues [15 minute investigator presentation]. The remainder of the hour-long session will be an interactive dialogue with the team members.

RF Review Process: The full project application and oral presentation will be reviewed by the RF team. A report summarizing the discussion and recommendations will be prepared and distributed to all participants within two weeks following the RF presentation. All projects will be monitored and periodically reviewed by the RF/ICTS as needed to determine program value, assess delivery of milestones and to receive additional input/guidance.

RF TEAM and AD HOC REVIEWERS

Each RF team has a dedicated set of members who regularly serve and review projects on a monthly basis. Additional subject level expertise is provided by ad hoc reviewers.

AVAILABLE FUNDING

The RF program is not an official funding program. However, supplemental funds can be made available depending on project needs and the specific Research Forum guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be a registered member of the ICTS. Member eligibility and registration is available at www.icts.wustl.edu. Registration takes less than 5 minutes. For assistance with registration, contact the ICTS office through email (icts@dom.wustl.edu) or by calling 314-362-9829.
- Applicants from WU or its ICTS partner academic institutions must hold a **faculty** level appointment.
- For research fellows or trainees, the mentor (faculty member) must submit the application as PI. (Describe within the application the trainee-mentor circumstance.)
- Employees of BJH, Goldfarb School of Nursing or SLCH (MD, PhD, nurse, or allied healthcare professional) may apply with the permission of their department director.

CONSIDERATIONS

In developing applications to the RF, investigators should generally strive to show a DIRECT or CLEAR LINK to human health or disease for proposals that deal with animal models or *in vitro* culture systems.