RICE

October 2026

# Research Funding Opportunities Bulletin

A Monthly Digest of Funding Opportunities to Fuel your Research

This funding bulletin features funding opportunities, resources, and announcements to support your research endeavors. Funding sources across disciplines include private foundations, companies, and federal and state agencies.

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- Multidisciplinary Opportunities
- Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities
- Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities
- Proposal & Strategy Support
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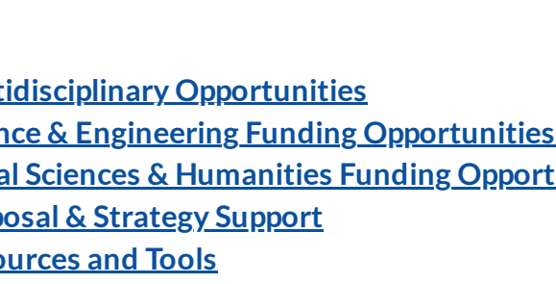
## Research Funding in Action



**The Office of Foundations shares key strategies for elevating faculty research visibility and engaging grant-makers in new article**

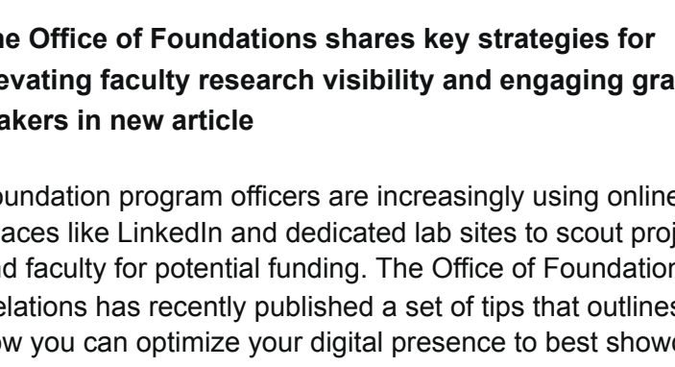
Foundation program officers are increasingly using online spaces like LinkedIn and dedicated lab sites to scout projects and faculty for potential funding. The Office of Foundation Relations has recently published a set of tips that outlines how you can optimize your digital presence to best showcase your work's impact for funder outreach. Read the full article to learn how you can amplify your online visibility and engage grant-makers across the philanthropic landscape.

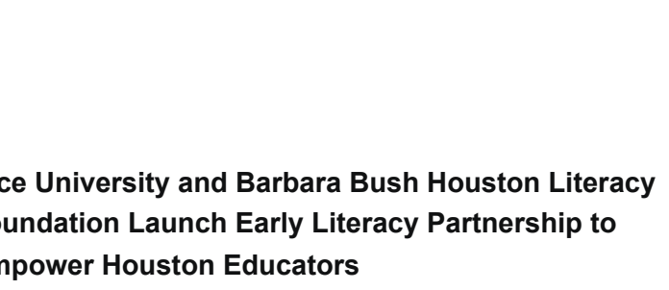
Read the article

**Rice University and Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation Launch Early Literacy Partnership to Empower Houston Educators**

Rice University's School Literacy and Culture (SLC) program has partnered with the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation on a three-year initiative to deliver research-based professional development, mentorship, and sustained classroom support to early childhood educators across Greater Houston. Projected to train 130 teachers across 55 campuses and reach over 11,600 students, the initiative offers two fully funded multiyear pathways—Early Literacy Leadership and Campus Leadership—which equip educators to coach peers and establish interactive Oral Written Language (OWL) Labs. By offering long-term mentorship and evidence-based training at no cost to school budgets, the collaboration aims to build a sustainable network of teacher-leaders and foster lasting early literacy achievements for young learners throughout the region.

Learn more from Rice News here





**Humanity AI coalition releases new RFP for community-led efforts shaping how AI is built, governed, and used | Deadline: October 21**

Humanity AI, a philanthropic coalition of 10 major foundations, has released an RFP for innovative U.S.-based work that supports communities' collective power to shape how AI is built, governed, and used. The group is investing $10M total in this initiative and is seeking community-led efforts in three focus areas: Education, Labor & Economy, and Humanities, Arts, & Culture.

Check out the full RFP here for more information on the above issue areas and eligibility.

## Helpful Links

- *Access the archive of funding bulletins here*
- *View the full private foundations limited submissions calendar here*
- *Explore the early career faculty resources page for opportunities and support*
- *Office of Foundation Relations home page*
- *Office of Corporate Partnerships home page*

## Active Limited Submissions

For certain funding opportunities, Rice can only submit a limited number of proposals. When this occurs, we hold **internal competitions** to determine which application(s) will be submitted to the sponsor. If you're interested in a **limited submission opportunity**, you must complete and submit an internal **Notice of Intent** and/or an internal **Pre-proposal** before the internal deadline(s). An interdisciplinary **Research Awards Committee** will then review all pre-proposals and inform applicants if they've been selected to move forward.

Currently active limited submission opportunities:

- **Ralph E. Powe Junior Facility Enhancements Award | Internal Pre-Proposal Deadline: Oct. 22, 2026**
- **NSF X-Labs Initiative- AI for Physical Systems Topic Announcement | Internal Pre-Proposal Deadline: Oct. 14, 2026**

If you have any questions about the limited submissions process, please contact Jalon Martin, the Research Development Coordinator in the Office of Research.

## Multidisciplinary Opportunities

### Foundation Opportunities

**Humanity AI Coalition | Communities Leading on AI**
Humanity AI is funding U.S.-based work harnessing communities' collective power to shape how AI is built, governed, and used. Projects must focus on community-led efforts in one of the three eligible issue areas: Education, Labor & Economy, and Humanities, Arts, & Culture. **Funding: Up to $1,000,000 | Application Deadline: October 21**

**Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation | Applying to the Transformation of Mental Health Care**
KTGF is seeking research that improves mental health care access or proposes scalable prevention approaches, particularly for children and adolescents. The primary outcomes of the project should include implementation efforts such as reach, acceptability, feasibility, and fidelity and/or service outcomes such as improved access and/or reduced time to service delivery. **Funding: $200,000 | Application Deadline: November 20**

**Klingenstein Third Generation Foundation | KTGF Fellowship**
This fellowship supports two-year research projects from junior faculty who are who are investigating the causes, prevention, and treatment of children and adolescents with ADHD or depression, especially those from low-income families and under-resourced communities. **Funding: $100,000 | Application Deadline: November 20**

**Canadian Institute for Advanced Research | CIFAR Global Scholars**
The CIFAR Global Scholars program supports early-career researchers whose work aligns with one or more of CIFAR's focus areas: 1) Boundaries, Membership & Belonging, 2) Brain, Mind & Consciousness, 3) Fungal Kingdom: Threats & Opportunities, 4) Healthy Microbiomes in a Changing World, 5) Innovation, Equity & the Future of Prosperity. Applicants must have started their first position no earlier than July 1, 2022, and no later than December 31, 2026. **Funding: $100,000 CAD | Application Deadline: November 4**

**Lalor Foundation | Anna Lalor Burdick Program**
This grant supports new programs or innovations in successful programs that offer sexual and reproductive health education to women who are disadvantaged by poverty, discrimination, geographic isolation, lack of comprehensive sex education, hostile public policy, and/or other factors leading to inadequate sexual and reproductive health. **Funding: $10,000 - $35,000 | LOI Deadline: November 1**

### Corporate Opportunities

**Amazon | Amazon Research Awards (ARA) Fall 2026 Call for Proposals (CFP)**
Amazon Research Awards (ARA) invites researchers to submit proposals for the Fall 2026 Call for Proposals (CFP). Submissions will be evaluated on the quality of their scientific content, creativity, and potential for impact at scale. ARA provides grant recipients unrestricted funds and AWS promotional credits. Funded projects are assigned an Amazon research contact, and recipients also receive training resources, including AWS tutorials and hands-on sessions with Amazon scientists and engineers. Before submitting, researchers are encouraged to visit the ARA website and read the frequently asked questions for more specific program information. Proposals are accepted for the following nine high-impact research areas:

- Agentic AI
- AI for Information Security
- Amazon Security
- Automated Reasoning
- AWS Cryptography
- Build on Trainium: Agentic Recursive Improvement of Kernels & Frameworks
- Multilingual and Contextual AI Evaluation
- On-Device Multimodal Perception
- Synthetic Data Generation for Multimodal Perception

**Funding: Varies by CFP | Submission Deadline: November 4, 2026 (11:59 PM Pacific Time)**

**Private Company | Sensing technologies for insect detection and identification**
This company seeks technologies and components that can contribute to an intelligent, consumer-friendly pest detection & monitoring system. Relevant solutions may address sensing, identification, activity tracking, connectivity, analytics, or other capabilities that help identify, quantify, and track pest activity before a visible or widespread infestation occurs. Relevant applications may include household, structural, lawn, and garden insect pests, with solutions not necessarily expected to address all pest types or environments. The ultimate goal is to integrate these capabilities into a system that communicate useful information to the consumer through a connected device or interface. Any future consumer-facing solutions should prioritize affordability and low maintenance, including simple installation and long unattended operation, while maintaining high sensitivity & accuracy with minimal false alarms. Eligible solutions include AI-driven computer vision, acoustic or optical sensors, mmWave radar, and IoT smart traps. Must-have requirements include empirical scientific data backing detection accuracy, standard data integration protocols for consumer apps or devices, a 3-to-5-year path to commercial availability, and an environmentally sustainable design aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals. Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 5-8. **Funding: Up to $50,000 in initial funding (includes max 10% indirect costs), with potential for follow-on funding and extended collaboration | Application Deadline: October 16**

## Social Sciences & Humanities Funding Opportunities

### Foundation Opportunities

**Jerry M Lewis Md Mental Health Research Foundation | Research Grants**
The Jerry M. Lewis Foundation is requesting research on the crucial aspects of interpersonal relationships, connections between interpersonal relationship characteristics and psychological/physical health or dysfunction, and/or evaluations of relevant service or educational programs. Please inquire with ofr@rice.edu if you are interested in this opportunity.
**Funding: Up to $45,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

**Jerry M Lewis Md Mental Health Research Foundation | Educational or Service Programs Grants**
The Jerry M. Lewis Foundation is looking to support educational or service programs focusing on couple, parent-child, or family system psychological health or dysfunction; psychoeducational transmission of interpersonal system concepts; and/or dissemination of interpersonal system information to healthcare systems or the public. Please inquire with ofr@rice.edu if you are interested in this opportunity. **Funding: Up to $45,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

**American Psychological Foundation | Direct Action Visionary Grants**
The APF Direct Action Visionary Grants seek to fund innovative interventions, based on psychological knowledge, that directly address pressing needs of marginalized communities. Refer to the full RFP for examples of eligible projects.
**Funding: Up to $60,000 | LOI Deadline: October 30**

**Russell Sage Foundation | Social, Political, and Economic Inequality**
RSF is seeking innovative research that will expand our understanding of social, political, and economic inequalities and the mechanisms by which they influence the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Projects can explore the relevance of economic, racial, ethnic, age, gender, immigration, residence, or other statuses for the distribution of social, political, and economic outcomes within and across different groups. **Funding: Up to $200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

**Russell Sage Foundation | Future of Work**
The Future of Work program supports innovative research on the causes and consequences of changes in the quality of jobs for low- and moderately paid workers and their families in the U.S. RSF is especially interested in proposals that address questions about the interplay of market and non-market forces in shaping the wellbeing of workers. **Funding: Up to $200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

**Russell Sage Foundation | Implications of the 2023 Supreme Court Decision to Ban Race-Conscious Admissions at Colleges and Universities for Educational Attainment and Economic Mobility**
RSF is soliciting proposals that advance social science research on the social, political, and economic effects of this 2023 Supreme Court decision and the future of race-conscious policies more generally. **Funding: Up to $200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

**Russell Sage Foundation | Sheldon Danziger Pipeline Grants**
This early-career scholar (Assistant Professors, Lecturers, and Adjunct Professors) program supports projects across all RSF research priorities. **Funding: Up to $65,000 | LOI Deadline: October 21**

**Council on Library and Information Resources | Digitizing Hidden Collections: Amplifying Unheard Voices**
This program supports projects digitizing rare and unique content that deepens public understanding of the histories of people of color and/or other underserved/underrepresented communities. **Funding: $50,000 - $300,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

**American Council of Learned Societies | Digital Justice Seed Grants**
ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grants fund early-stage digital projects that critically engage with the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities through the ethical use of digital tools and methods.
**Funding: Up to $200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 28**

**Russell Sage Foundation | Future of Work**
The Future of Work program supports innovative research on the causes and consequences of changes in the quality of jobs for low- and moderately paid workers and their families in the U.S. RSF is especially interested in proposals that address questions about the interplay of market and non-market forces in shaping the wellbeing of workers. **Funding: $10,000 - $25,000| Application Deadline: November 3**

**American Council of Learned Societies | Digital Justice Development Grants**
ACLS Digital Justice Development Grants fund digital projects that have advanced beyond the prototyping phase. Projects should critically engage with the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities through the ethical use of digital tools and methods. **Funding: $50,000 - $100,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

**RRF Foundation for Aging | Advocacy Grants**
RRF funds advocacy projects improving public policy for older persons. Of particular interest are projects that advance policy issues for older people, use clearly focused and strategic efforts to address systemic problems, and/or forge partnerships with organizations to achieve greater impact. Projects must align with one or more of the foundation's priority areas. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: November 1**

**RRF Foundation for Aging | Research Grants**
RRF is seeking research that identifies interventions, policies, and practices to improve the well-being of older adults and/or their caregivers. Of particular interest are interventional trials, translational studies, health services and policy research, projects building on the investigator's past studies, and/or proposals including robust dissemination plans, if appropriate. Proposals must align with one or more of the foundation's priority areas. **Funding: $50,000 - $300,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

**RRF Foundation for Aging | Knowledge Sharing & Awareness Raising Grants**
RRF funds knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising projects that convey meaningful information, shape narratives, and drive positive change for the aging community. Of particular interest are projects that establish/expand focused learning communities educating professionals in the field of aging and aging-related fields, disseminate tools/strategies improving the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers, build awareness campaigns to inform and engage diverse stakeholders in meaningful solutions, and/or educate journalists, the media, and non-traditional partners on aging issues. Proposals must align with one or more of the foundation's priority areas. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: November 1**

**Arnold Ventures | Causal Research on the Impacts of K-12 School Policies**
Arnold Ventures is seeking studies that estimate the causal effects of actionable, politically viable U.S. K-12 education policies that can be influenced at the state level and have the potential to improve outcomes at scale. Eligible topic areas include: 1) Curriculum, Assessments, and Accountability; 2) School Choice and Governance; and 3) Teacher and Leader Policies. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: LOI Deadline: November 13**

## Science and Engineering Funding Opportunities

### Foundation Opportunities

**Simons Foundation | Simons Collaborations in Mathematics and the Physical Sciences**
This program supports multi-disciplinary, often multi-institutional collaborations researching a mathematical or theoretical topic of fundamental scientific importance, where a significant, new development creates a novel area for exploration or provides a new direction for progress in an established field. The project should involve researchers in a range of career stages. **Funding: Up to $8,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 29**

**Simons Foundation | Simons Collaborations in Ecology and Evolution**
This program supports multi-disciplinary, often multi-institutional collaborations that are identifying new, emerging research on the basic principles of ecological and evolutionary dynamics, especially their interface, and that may be too risky for other funding organizations. SImons Foundation will prioritze projects that integrate levels of scale (i.e., from genes to species to communities) and cut across boundaries, whether these boundaries entail fields and subfields, diverse methodological approaches, and/or the geographical regions from which investigators work. **Funding: Up to $8,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 16**

**Simons Foundation | SFARI New Ideas Award**
The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative (SFARI) New Ideas Award provides early-stage support for bold, exploratory research that tests novel hypotheses and opens new conceptual/experimental directions advancing the basic science of autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD). **Funding: Up to $600,000 | Application Deadline: Rolling through December 31**

**American Academy of Sleep Medicine Foundation | Strategic Research Grant**
The AASM Foundation is seeking projects that improve the ability to provide optimal, patient-centered, cost-effective diagnosis and care for people with sleep disorders. Refer to the linked RFP for more details on eligible research topics and AASM funding priorities. **Funding: Category I: Up to $250,000; Category II: Up to $100,000; Category III: Up to $50,000 | LOI Deadline: October 19**

**Blood Cancer United | Translational Research Program**
The TRP Grant program supports projects that offer a clear path to clinical impact for blood cancer patients. Refer to the linked RFP for project criteria regarding small molecule therapies and cellular/immunotherapies. **Funding: Up to $750,000 | LOI Deadline: October 16**

**Blood Cancer United | Career Development Program**
CDP grants support researchers early and at different stages of their career, offering investigators the opportunity to take part in basic, translational, or clinical research to help understand and treat blood cancers and relevant premalignant conditions. Refer to the linked RFP to learn more about the different CDP tracks and eligibility requirements. **Funding: Varies | Eligibility Phase Deadline: October 15; LOI Deadline: November 1**

**McKnight Foundation | Neurobiology of Brain Disorders Award**
This program supports research that addresses the biological mechanisms of neurological and psychiatric disorders as well as the contribution of the environment to brain disorders. McKnight Foundation is particularly interested in new approaches that provide potential paths for therapeutic interventions. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary applications are encouraged. Applicants must have held a tenured or tenure-track faculty position for at least three years at the time of application (no later than September 2023). **Funding: $300,000 | Application Deadline: October 15**

**McKnight Foundation | McKnight Scholar Awards**
The McKnight Scholars Award supports early-career neuroscientists who aim to solve significant problems in neuroscience. Applicants must hold a faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor (or equivalent) and must have served at that rank for less than five years at the time of the application deadline. **Funding: $225,000 | Application Deadline: November 3**

**Parkinson's Foundation | Impact Awards: Foundational Research**
This award supports innovative basic and mechanistic research that advances our understanding of Parkinson's disease biology. Projects should seek to uncover fundamental disease mechanisms, identify new biological pathways, develop novel experimental tools or models, or generate transformative insights that could enable future therapeutic development.
**Funding: $200,000 | LOI Deadline: October 15**

**Parkinson's Foundation | Impact Awards: Translational Research**
This award supports Parkinson's research that advances promising discoveries closer to clinical application. Projects should focus on validating therapeutic targets, developing therapeutic candidates, advancing biomarkers toward clinical utility, or generating evidence needed to support future clinical studies. **Funding: $20,000 | LOI Deadline: October 15**

**CurePSP | New Investigator Award**
CurePSP is supporting projects studying the fundamental neurobiology of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) or corticobasal degeneration (CBD) and translational projects focusing on new therapeutics and biomarkers for PSP and CBD. This grant program is intended for early-career faculty within 10 years of completing their terminal research degree.
**Funding: $100,000 | Application Deadline: October 15**

**Pershing Square Philanthropies | Pershing Square Sohn Cancer Prize**
This program awards radically innovative and scientifically sound cancer research from early-career scientists. Applicants must have at least two years of experience running their own laboratories but no more than six years of experience by the start date of the Prize (July 2027). **Funding: $750,000 | LOI Deadline: October 26**

**Rainwater Charitable Foundation | Learning Research Network**
RCF is seeking projects that advance primary tauopathy research through meaningful uses of artificial intelligence (AI), collaboration, and shared scientific resources. Areas of interest include AI-Ready Data, AI-Enabled Collaboration and Workflows, and Strengthening the Neurodegenerative Research Field. **Funding: Up to $1,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 30**

**Alzheimer's Association | Part the Cloud Translational Research for Alzheimer's Disease: Phase 1 and Phase 2 Clinical Studies**
This PTC program will fund research efforts in early-stage human clinical trials (Phase 1 and 2) evaluating novel or repurposed potential medications directed towards Alzheimer's disease and related dementias internationally. **Funding: Up to $1,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

**Alzheimer's Association | Part the Cloud Translational Research for Alzheimer's Disease: Combination Therapies**
This PTC program supports combination clinical trials in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including drug-drug combinations and drug plus behavioral intervention combinations. **Funding: Up to $3,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

**Alzheimer's Association | Part the Cloud Translational Research for Alzheimer's Disease: Enable the Molecule for Artificial Intelligence-Discovered Programs**
This PTC program is seeking therapeutic programs that specifically emerge from artificial intelligence and machine learning approaches, supporting them at the critical lead-optimization and investigational new drug (IND)-enabling stage. Applications must fall under one of the following tracks: Lead Optimization & Candidate Selection or IND-Enabling Activities. **Funding: Up to $1,000,000 | LOI Deadline: October 20**

**National Ataxia Foundation | Pioneer SCA3 Translational Research Award**
This award supports preclinical, translational, and/or clinical research that aims to make advancements in the development of treatments and/or improvements to patient care for Spinocerebellar Ataxia Type 3. **Funding: $100,000 | LOI Deadline: November 18**

**Burroughs Wellcome Fund | Next Gen Pregnancy Initiative**
The NGP program aims to fund innovative basic reproductive science research across the following priority areas: 1) Mechanisms of healthy pregnancy (e.g., normal physiology and biological underpinnings of healthy pregnancy), 2) Preterm birth, 3) Pregnancy loss after 12 weeks of gestation (including recurrent pregnancy loss), and 4) Pre-eclampsia. Projects should address the prevention of adverse pregnancy outcomes. BWF is particularly interested in applications focused on subtyping adverse pregnancy outcomes, investigating maternal–fetal interactions, and integrating animal models with clinical outcomes. **Funding: Varies | Application Deadline: November 17**

**Additional Ventures | Single Ventricle Research Fund: Independent Investigator Track**
Through the SVRF, Additional Ventures aims to accelerate foundational research that will lead to improved care and new therapeutic opportunities grounded in a mechanistic understanding of single ventricle heart disease. Proposals must address one of the following domains: Add Back a Pump or Address Sequelae. Refer to the linked RFP for more information on eligible research topics within these domains. **Funding: $600,000 | LOI Deadline: November 10**

**Research Corporation for Science Advancement | Team Science Accelerator**
The Team Science Accelerator awards interdisciplinary teams of scientists pursuing high-risk, high-reward basic research across the physical sciences and their adjacent fields and subdisciplines. Teams must consist of an interdisciplinary collection of three to five scientists, where each team member contributes a specific and essential expertise required for project success. **$1,000,000 | LOI Deadline: November 9**

**The Marfan Foundation | Career Development Award**
This grant program is designed to provide financial support for early-career investigators conducting basic, translational, or clinical research in any discipline involving Marfan syndrome, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome, other genetic aortic and vascular conditions, and Stickler syndrome. Special areas of interest include cardiovascular, orthopedic, pulmonary, pain, ophthalmologic, and other pertinent disciplines. Applicants must have less than seven years of experience in a faculty position at the time of application submission and have never received an NIH R01 grant award or similar grant award. **Funding: $100,000 | Application Deadline: October 19**

**The Marfan Foundation | Innovators Award**
This grant program is designed to provide financial support for investigators conducting basic, translational, or clinical research in any discipline involving Marfan syndrome, Vascular Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome, other genetic aortic and vascular conditions, and Stickler syndrome. Special areas of interest include signaling/biomehanics of aneurysm and dissection, bone growth, muscle function, pain, pulmonary and ophthalmologic pathology, and other pertinent areas.. **Funding: $100,000 | Application Deadline: October 19**

**Breakthrough T1D | Project Concepts**
Breakthrough T1D semi-annually accepts LOIs for projects that address the foundation's current Research Strategy to cure T1D and improve the lives of those with T1D. **Funding: Varies | LOI Deadline: November 5**

### Corporate Opportunities

**Cisco Research | Research Gifts**
This opportunity provides research gift funding to support academic research on issues and topics relevant to Cisco Research interests to maximize business, technology and societal impact. The Applicant and Principal Investigator listed on a proposal must each be a full-time faculty or research staff member at a university or other research institution. Students, adjunct faculty, or part-time faculty/staff may participate in the research and be listed on the proposal but may not be a Principal Investigator. Proposals are reviewed on a rolling basis for one-year project terms, with institutional overhead capped at 5%. An impact report will be requested upon completion of the project. If a PI is approved for funding, Cisco Research will only fund a PI one proposal at a time and you will not be eligible to resubmit another proposal request until your funding has ended and your impact report is completed. Do NOT submit any confidential or proprietary information to Cisco unless you have executed the appropriate Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA). Cisco uses information and materials you provide to conduct an internal review and evaluation. Cisco has no obligation with respect to that information and material. Please review the General Requirements for Consideration, Proposal Details, and FAQs at the bottom of the webpage under Research Gifts.The list below is current top of mind items that Cisco Research is currently accepting research proposals on:

- Quantum networks for distributed quantum computing and distributed quantum sensing
- Harnessing Quantum Networking to Enhance Classical Applications
- Semiconductor Reliability
- Conference Sponsorships

**Funding: $100,000–$200,000 in sponsored research funding; project term determined by proposal scope and milestone requirements | Application Deadline: Rolling**

**Kimberly-Clark | Thermal management technologies for skin interfaces**
This opportunity seeks materials, formulations, components, or manufacturing technologies that improve thermal regulation and reduce heat/moisture build-up at the skin interface for disposable absorbent products. Solutions of interest include contact-cooling topsheets, phase-change materials, endothermic dissolution systems, and modified airflow structures. Must-have requirements include a demonstrated capability to lower interface temperature or heat flux under representative wet and humid conditions, full compatibility with high-speed assembly processes, skin-safe toxicological profiles with a clear regulatory pathway, and commercial cost viability, all while preserving essential product performance like softness, absorbency, and leakage control. Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 4-9
**Funding: $100,000–$200,000 in sponsored research funding; project term determined by proposal scope and milestone requirements | Application Deadline: October 16**

**Procter & Gamble | Silicone surface engineering for controlled wetting and fluid transfer**
This opportunity seeks durable surface-engineering approaches for silicone and PDMS that create more skin-like interactions with complex aqueous fluids while maintaining the required coefficient of friction after repeated use, cleaning, and storage. Ideal solutions would include a proposed modification approach and supporting evidence of durability and transferability to consumer-product testing. The goal is to receive candidate surfaces on silicone coupons for comparative testing and evaluation. Eligible approaches include covalent functionalization, micro/nanotexturing, or hybrid chemical-topographical modifications that maintain a coefficient of friction between 0.4 and 0.6 across repeated mechanical wear, cleaning, and storage. Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 2-9. **Funding: Amount and term determined by proposal scope | Application Deadline: October 16**

**Procter & Gamble | Stable no-migration soft silicone materials**
Seeks commercially available and/or developable soft, flexible PDMS/silicone materials that eliminate additive and oil migration without compromising human tissue-like mechanical behavior. Proposed materials must achieve a Young's modulus of 10–100 kPa and maintain structural and surface stability across at least six months of storage and usage. Acceptable technology readiness levels (TRL): Levels 2-9
**Funding: Amount and term determined by proposal scope | Application Deadline: October 16**

**Pfizer | New Mechanisms and Emerging Treatment Options in Metastatic Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer (mCRPC)**
This competitive grant program seeks to support independent medical education addressing the new mechanisms in mCRPC including EZH2 inhibition and its possible role in prostate cancer and the continued unmet need for novel therapies in mCRPC. Individual projects requesting between $75,000 - $250,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $750,000. Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs. Please review the full RFP for complete guidelines and application requirements. Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on increasing healthcare professional awareness and understanding in the following areas:

- Differentiated mechanism of action (MOA) of emerging therapies including EZH2 inhibition and its possible role in prostate cancer
- EZH2 and other novel mechanisms of disease (MOD) and their role in prostate cancer progression
- The investigational thesis of how concomitant EZH2 and AR inhibition may suppress prostate cancer while delaying or overcoming ARPi resistance
- The continued unmet need for novel therapies in mCRPC
- mCRPC therapies beyond chemotherapy
- Ongoing clinical trials that may be an option for patients today

**Funding: $75,000–$250,000 per award ($750,000 total program budget) / 18–24 months | Application Deadline: October 21, 2026 (23:59 EST)**

**Pfizer x Astellas | Guideline Concordant Care and New Data for Patients with MIBC through la/mUC**
This competitive program seeks to bring awareness and knowledge to healthcare professionals regarding the current gaps in the rapidly evolving bladder cancer treatment landscape, focused on new and existing data to optimize treatment for patients with MIBC and la/mUC. Potential applicants are encouraged to identify and address the educational needs for these later stages of bladder cancer, such as addressing gaps in awareness and knowledge in MIBC and/or application of guideline recommended care in first-line la/mUC. Funded initiatives will educate multidisciplinary healthcare teams—including urologists, oncologists, nurses, and advanced practice providers—on novel therapeutic strategies, adverse event management, perioperative care, and shared decision-making. Individual projects requesting between $10,000 - $230,000 will be considered. Multi-support accepted. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $900,000. Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs. Please review the full RFP for complete guidelines and application requirements.
**Funding: $10,000–$230,000 per award ($900,000 total program budget) / 18–24 months | Application Deadline: November 10, 2026 (23:59 EST) | Anticipated Grant Award Notification: November 30, 2026**

**Nature Portfolio x Seegene | MDx Impact Grants**
This funding opportunity invites researchers to propose how Seegene's high-multiplex PCR platform could be applied to the detection and characterization of molecular markers associated with neurodegenerative disease, with a specific focus on Alzheimer's disease and, where feasible, disease staging and progression assessment. All clinical specimens must be from human sources and will be used in clinical studies for syndromic PCR diagnostic tests. For this year, human-derived whole blood is the recommended specimen type, although alternative specimen types may also be proposed. These assays would be qualitative. Refer to the Frequently Asked Questions section for further guidance. Principal applicants must hold a terminal degree (PhD, MD, or PharmD), be affiliated with a university, research institution, or clinical laboratory, and lead a team of two or more qualified researchers with demonstrated PCR expertise. Eligible applicants must have access to BSL-2 or higher containment facilities, possess or have a collection plan for positive and negative human clinical specimens, and be capable of executing clinical studies for regulatory approval. At the time of submission, all applicants are required to state that they have reviewed and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the program.
**Funding: Up to $600,000 USD | Application Deadline: November 19, 2026 (23:59 GMT) | Shortlist announcement: Mid-March 2027 | Successful applicants notified: Mid-August 2027**

**Pfizer | Clinical Research Studies of Atirmociclib in HR+/HER2- and/or HER2+ Breast Cancer**
This competitive program is designed to support interventional Investigator Sponsored Research aimed at generating clinical evidence for atirmociclib in combination approaches in HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer (mBC) and/or HER2+ breast cancer. This RFP has two phases: Phase 1 requires applicants to submit a Concept application. Selected Concepts will then be invited to Phase 2, where applicants submit a full proposal for review. This RFP has a total budget of $8,000,000 for up to 6 selected clinical studies. Project length is 3 years. Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs. The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the internal review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved, and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement. Please review the full RFP for complete guidelines and application requirements. Pfizer is interested in supporting the following types of projects:

- Clinical translational research in post adjuvant CDK4/6i progression to illustrate genomic profiles and relevant treatment strategies
- Clinical studies of atirmociclib in HER2+ disease to explore its potential clinical utility in selected patients. (eBC could be considered if sufficient data support the study in this potentially curative setting)
- Clinical studies of atirmociclib in HR+ mBC in combination with existing or emerging Standard of Care (SoC) (not overlapping with ongoing clinical trials and with commitment of novel drug supply from a third party).

**Funding: Up to $8,000,000 total budget across ~6 awards / 3 years | Concept Submission Deadline: January 12, 2027 (23:59 EST) | Anticipated Concept Notification Date: March 5, 2027**

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*Internal funding opportunities can be found on the* ***Rice University Creative Ventures Fund*** *webpage.*

## Upcoming Events

### Rice OTT Connection Corner | Get Expert Tech Transfer Guidance

Have questions about intellectual property, licensing, or commercializing your research? The new OTT Connection Corner offers virtual drop-in office hours where you can get expert guidance without an appointment.

Whether you're a faculty member with a new discovery, a graduate student exploring entrepreneurship, or staff supporting research commercialization, our experts are ready to help. We can answer questions about the intellectual property lifecycle, research contracts, online forms, and general tech transfer procedures.

- **When:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Where:** Virtual Zoom Meeting
- **Password:** RiceOTT!

Planning to attend? Let us know ahead of time at techtran@rice.edu so we can have the right expert available for your specific questions.

## Proposal & Funding Strategy Support

Navigating the landscape of funding opportunities can be complex, but you're not alone! The Office of Foundation Relations, The Office of Corporate Partnerships, and the **Office of Research Development** (ORD) are here to support faculty in developing compelling proposals and crafting effective funding strategies for the RFPs shared in this bulletin and beyond.

**How we can help:**

- Identifying Strategic Funding Matches: We can help you analyze potential funders to determine alignment with your research or program goals and identify the most promising funding avenues.
- Proposal Development Guidance: We offer guidance throughout the proposal process, from outlining your project and developing a strong narrative to addressing sponsor requirements.
- Corporate and Foundation Engagement: For opportunities involving corporate or private foundations, our offices provide support in understanding funder priorities, tailoring your approach for successful engagement, and cultivating relationships.
- Research Development Resources (ORD): ORD offers a range of resources, including workshops, individual consultations, and proposal review services, to enhance the competitiveness and impact of your applications.

We encourage you to reach out early in the process so we can provide the most impactful support. Let us partner with you to turn your innovative ideas into funded realities!

Contact Us:

- **Office of Foundation Relations:** ofr@rice.edu
- **Office of Corporate Partnerships:** corporate@rice.edu
- **Office of Research Development (ORD):** Proposal assistance request form

## Office of Research Development Primer to AI Research Opps

Federal sponsors continue to expand their interests in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) research. The new calendar year is chock-full of federal research opportunities focused on developing AI & ML tools capable of addressing some of the world's most pressing problems. Click the link below for ORD's library of links and funder resources to help track the sundry AI opportunities that will come out this year.

View AI Opportunities

## Available Resources

When developing your fundraising strategy, it can be advantageous to see what opportunities are posted by sponsors, including private foundations and government agencies. To enable you to do so effectively, Rice subscribes to Pivot-RP, a global database of open research funding opportunities available for faculty and staff.

To learn more about Pivot-RP, how to successfully access the database, or receive technical support from a campus partner visit our **internal website**.

Halo is a platform developed specifically to connect companies to university researchers to work on answers to urgent needs. These projects are specific and range from$25K - $200K generally, but ultimately these projects can lead to broader relationships and continued partnership. Halo releases RFPs monthly. You can sign up for regular updates and access is free and open to anyone who creates an account.

If you have questions about Halo or how to navigate it, please contact us at corporate@rice.edu.

Rice University is a member of the **University-Industry Demonstration Project (UIDP)**, a professional organization fostering connections between universities and industry partners. UIDP focuses on developing innovative approaches to collaborative endeavors, providing a wealth of resources accessible on their comprehensive website.

This resource is available to anyone working at Rice, and we strongly encourage you to make an account to receive updates.

Candid offers a comprehensive understanding of the social sector by providing extensive data and insightful analysis. Their platform integrates information on nonprofits, foundations, and grantmaking activities, alongside current news and in-depth research. Faculty can utilize Candid's robust tools to thoroughly research and verify nonprofit organizations, effectively identify potential funding opportunities that align with their work, and explore a diverse array of valuable datasets and information related to the philanthropic landscape.

Visit Candid's website to discover their free training programs and a wide range of other valuable resources designed to support those working within and alongside the social sector.

Foundation Directory is a comprehensive database providing detailed profiles of grantmaking foundations, corporate giving programs, and federal funders. It serves as a crucial resource for identifying potential funding sources aligned with diverse research areas and scholarly activities. The directory offers insights into funders' priorities, past grant recipients, application guidelines, and contact information, empowering faculty to strategically pursue external funding opportunities to support their work at Rice University.

**Note:** Rice University faculty interested in accessing the Foundation Directory should email us directly at ofr@rice.edu to request login credentials.

### Research Data Management

This presentation equips researchers with the skills to effectively manage their research data. Throughout the session, explore the importance of data management and creating a data management plan, and delve into best practices for organizing, documenting, storing, sharing, and archiving your data. The presentation was curated by the Fondren Library and draws on best practices and resources from the University of Minnesota Libraries, the New England Collaborative Data Management Curriculum, and MIT Libraries.

Access the Research Data Management Presentation here.

*This email was sent by the Office of Corporate Partnerships and the Office of Foundation Relations*

**Our offices work with faculty to develop proposals, navigate the proposal process, coordinate campus visits, research potential funders, and analyze data to inform strategy.**

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