

Research Funding Opportunities Bulletin

A Monthly Digest of Funding Opportunities to Fuel your Research

Welcome to the latest funding bulletin, featuring funding opportunities, resources, and announcements to support your pursuit of funding. We've reflected the most relevant and easier to navigate, new sharing funding opportunities by focus: **Multidiscipline Science & Engineering, and Social Sciences & Humanities**. You'll also find helpful icons that indicate the funding vehicle, whether it's from a private foundation, a corporate source, or a federal/state agency.

Rice University's Master Research Agreements

Master Research Agreements (MRAs) are an effective tool for establishing long-term collaborations between a university and an organization. At Rice University, we are fortunate to have five MRAs in place with **Airbus, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Meta, and Shell**. These agreements create a master set of terms and conditions that apply to multiple research projects, significantly accelerating the process of setting up new research initiatives. If you are a PI working with an industry colleague at one of these companies, a new project requires a specific scope of work and a budget to be set up under an existing MRA. If you are interested in submitting a project under Rice's MRAs, please contact **Matthew Patterson** from the Office of technology transfer.

Upcoming Events

RSVP for the Welch Foundation Q&A Session - September 30
Interested in learning more about **The Welch Foundation** research grants? Join President Adam Krupa and Director of Grant Programs Carla Altmaer for an overview and Q&A session.
The Welch Foundation is one of the nation's largest private funders of **fundamental chemical research in Texas**. They offer both a long-established research grants program and a newer catalyst grants program.
The session will take place on **Tuesday, September 30 at noon** in Room 510 of the Ralph S. O'Connor Building for Engineering Science. Box lunches will be provided.
RSVP to Dalia.Villalobos@rice.edu by September 27. Kindly include any dietary restrictions in your response.

2nd Annual Rice Thru the Open House - September 29
The Office of Research invites you to the **2nd Annual Research Open House**, a great opportunity to network and connect with research support offices and colleagues from across all divisions.
Join us to learn about institution-wide resources, meet department representatives, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Participating offices include:

- Office of Sponsored Programs (Office of Pre-Award Administration Services) (OSPI/PAAS)
- Office of Technology Transfer (OTT)
- Office of Research Development (ORD)
- Office of Research Administration & Compliance (ORAC)
- Research Security and Export Controls (RSEC)
- Office of Corporate and Government Relations (OCGR)
- Shared Equipment Authority (SEA)
- Department of Chemistry - Chemistry Stockroom

The open house will be held on **Tuesday, September 29, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Rice Memorial Center (RMC) Grand Hall. Breakfast, tocos, coffee, and tea will be provided.

Please **RSVP by Friday, September 19, 2025**. Breakfast, tocos, coffee, and tea will be provided for attendees to enjoy while they network. For more information, contact OPAS@rice.edu.

Join us at Open House to Discuss Your Funding Needs - September 6
Are you looking to strengthen your research proposal? Curious about corporate, federal, or foundation funding opportunities? Need guidance on safeguarding your innovations and managing collaborations?
Join **OCGR, ORD, and OTT** for our **monthly Open House at Dandelion Cafe**, held on the **first Friday of each month from 9 a to 11 a.m.** This informal drop-in session is a great opportunity to:

- **Explore funding and private funding (ORD) and public funding (ORD) opportunities.**
- **Share your needs and receive personalized advice** on funding strategies.
- **Connect with OTT Experts** who can advise your research commercialization efforts.

And of course, **OCFF is on site** We look forward to seeing you there.

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 patenting, and more. Our advisors:

- **When:** 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month
- **Time:** 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- **Where:** ott@rice.edu or ott@rice.edu
- **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.

Helpful Links

- [Access the archive of bulletins here.](#)
- [Check out the private foundations limited submissions calendar here.](#)
- [Explore the early career webpage for timely resources and support.](#)
- [Check out the Private Foundations Limited Submission Funding Opportunities web page.](#)

Advancing University-Philanthropy Partnerships for Sustainable Research

Explore new strategies for building effective and sustainable partnerships with philanthropic organizations at the **Advancing University-Philanthropy Partnerships for Sustainable Research** event. Hosted by the National Academies' Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable, this half-day session will bring together leaders from universities, foundations, and industry to discuss best practices for strengthening research collaborations.

- **Date:** September 10
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET
- **Register here.**

Ahead of the workshop, panelist Dr. Paige Cooper Byas discusses her experience transitioning from working as a scientific researcher to her current role at the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Read the full Q&A [here](#).

Currently active limited submission opportunities:

- **St. Basil's Foundation - Research Grant** - \$200,000 | Natural Science and Engineering
- **Internal Deadline: September 30**

Coming Soon: Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship
The internal competition for the Mellon Foundation's New Directions Fellowship will launch later this month. The fellowship supports scholars who want to acquire a different set of skills to advance their research in a new and exciting direction. The foundation places a high value on a fundamental change in intellectual trajectory, so a strong application will clearly articulate how the proposed project represents a true shift from your current research focus. This award is for **mid-career faculty within six to twelve years of receiving their doctorate degree**.

If you have any questions about the limited submissions process, please contact **Jalon Martin**, the Research Development Coordinator in the [Office of Research](mailto:office@research.rice.edu).

Multidiscipline Opportunities

National Institutes of Health
Research Experiences and Mentoring Networks through Research Education to Enhance Clinician-Scientists' Participation in NIDCR's Research (R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that help recruit individuals with specific backgrounds and interests to research careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences.
Funding: Up to \$250,000 | Application Deadline: September 29

Perishing Square Foundation
MIND Prize - This prize funds cutting-edge research to predict, prevent, and treat neurodegenerative diseases (NDGs). It specifically supports **early-to-mid-career investigators** pursuing interdisciplinary, high-risk, high-reward projects. Applicants must hold an MD, PhD, or equivalent degree and have between one and eight years of independent research experience in a neuroscience (or equivalent) faculty member. The prize supports a broad range of research domains, including neurobiology, brain imaging, machine learning, and synthetic biology, with a clear application to neurodegenerative NDGs. **Funding: \$750,000 over a three-year term** | LOI Deadline: **September 29**

Tang Prize Foundation
Tang Prize - This prize was established to address global crises like climate change and ethical decline by encouraging revolutionary efforts toward sustainable development. It recognizes significant contributions in four categories: **Sustainable Development, Biopharmaceutical Science, Sociology and Rule of Law**. Laureates are chosen biennially by an independent international jury of global experts and administrative leaders. The prize is open to individuals with a proven track record in an early stage investigator (ESI) and/or for whom no preliminary data exist. Applications submitted to this notice of funding opportunity (NFO) must include preliminary data. The award is for **one year** and includes a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate and a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate's research assistant. **Funding: \$1,530,000 | Nomination Deadline: September 30**

Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA)
Conservation and Scientific Research Fellowship - This fellowship is designed to provide support for **junior and senior conservators and scientists**. The program provides advanced training and supports independent research projects by giving fellows access to The Met's collections, staff, libraries, and advanced research facilities. The fellowship is a great opportunity for researchers alike with their work, including those who have been considered for tenure or an equivalent promotion and have a demonstrated commitment to new conservation techniques. **Funding: Up to \$87,000 | Application Deadline: November 14**

Science & Engineering Funding Opportunities

Simons Foundation
Targeted Grants to Institutes

Funding supports established educational and nonprofit institutes and research centers in the mathematics and physical sciences. The purpose of the program is to help **institutions extend and enhance their missions by strengthening international scientific community contacts**. It is eligible to accept to provide primary support for an institute's core operations or establishment.

The funding amount includes an overhead of up to 20% of direct costs for the institution. The funding is flexible and based on the specific needs outlined in the proposal.

- **Funding:** Up to **\$750K over a three-year term**
- **Deadline:** **October 29**

Takada & Nature
Takada Innovation in Science Award with Nature - This award recognizes science research by **early-career scientists in Gastrointestinal and Inflammatory Diseases, Neuroscience, and Oncology**. It aims to support emerging scientific leaders who are advancing discoveries with the potential to transform lives. To be eligible, applicants must be employed as a researcher at a university or research institution and have obtained their PhD, MD, or equivalent degree after January 1, 2017. **Funding: Category winners receive grants of \$75,000 each; one grand prize winner receives an additional \$175,000 | Application Deadline: September 16**

Corvex
Optimizing water use in cropping systems with water allocation constraints - This opportunity seeks proposals to help farmers in the western Corn Belt manage limited water supplies to maintain or improve crop productivity. The focus is on the states of **Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma, where groundwater aquifers are declining**. The proposals should present novel approaches for managing water in these conditions from irrigation technologies to crop management strategies at the cropping system level. Corvex is open to proposals that include experimental, modeling, or combined approaches. The accepted Technology Readiness Level (TRL) is 1-3. **Funding: Up to \$100,000, inclusive of indirect costs up to 10% | Application Deadline: September 26**

Corvex
Long-term breeding effects on maize adaptation to climate change - This opportunity seeks proposals to address research gaps in the long-term impacts of breeding on maize adaptation to climate change. Proposals should use historical data and/or experimental data to understand how climate change affects them and how their responses can inform future breeding efforts. The goal is to develop novel hypotheses and experimental approaches to predict future product performance and trait evolution in maize. Successful applicants will be provided with seeds from historical Pioneer/Corvex hybrids released from the 1950s to the present. **Funding: Up to \$100,000, inclusive of indirect costs up to 10% | Application Deadline: September 26**

Procter & Gamble (P&G)
Innovative spray technologies - This opportunity seeks innovative spray delivery technologies for personal care products like antiperspirants and deodorants. The goal is to find new solutions that overcome the challenges of traditional aerosols, such as a gassy feel, loud noise, and environmental concerns from propellants. Procter & Gamble is interested in new **chemical, energized, or mechanical systems for both liquid and powder formulations**. Solutions must be able to spray 0.4-0.7 in 2-4 seconds and achieve a specific particle size distribution (DVS0 of 70 microns). **Funding: Up to \$100,000 | Application Deadline: September 26**

NVIDIA
Higher Education Research - This program provides resources to academic researchers to accelerate innovation across various fields. Successful applicants will receive grants of NVIDIA cloud, hardware, and/or software resources for their projects. The program accepts proposals in three main areas:

- **Generative AI, Training and Model Development**
- **Generative AI: Alignment and Inference**
- **Robotics and Edge AI**

To be eligible, applicants must be a full-time faculty member at an accredited academic institution that grants research degrees to PhD students. Click the link for each CFP for additional information regarding eligibility, proposal requirements, and award details. **Funding: Successful applicants receive grants of NVIDIA cloud, hardware, and/or software resources. Award varies for each CFP | Submission Deadline: September 30**

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Material and design innovations in PET bottles for improved product longevity - This opportunity seeks technologies to **enable near-complete evaporation of condensates from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles**, allowing for a 50%+ evaporation rate. This will improve the product's environmental footprint, reduce food waste, and increase value. Solutions of interest include additives, geometric design, or bio-inspired materials. Proposals must be scalable for high-throughput manufacturing, have a clear path to regulatory approval for food contact in major markets, and be compliant with recyclability regulations. **Funding: \$25,000 to \$100,000 for environmental engineering work behavior health**

Department of Energy
Stephen I. Katz Early Stage Investigator Research Project Grant (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - The Stephen I. Katz Early Career Investigator Research Project Grant supports an innovative project that addresses a critical research need in a high-priority area of research (ESI) and/or for whom no preliminary data exist. Applications submitted to this notice of funding opportunity (NFO) must include preliminary data. The award is for **one year** and includes a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate and a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate's research assistant. **Funding: Up to \$100,000 | Application Deadline: September 26**

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Material and design innovations in PET bottles for improved product longevity - This opportunity seeks technologies to **enable near-complete evaporation of condensates from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles**, allowing for a 50%+ evaporation rate. This will improve the product's environmental footprint, reduce food waste, and increase value. Solutions of interest include additives, geometric design, or bio-inspired materials. Proposals must be scalable for high-throughput manufacturing, have a clear path to regulatory approval for food contact in major markets, and be compliant with recyclability regulations. **Funding: \$25,000 to \$100,000 for environmental engineering work behavior health**

Department of Energy
Stephen I. Katz Early Stage Investigator Research Project Grant (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - The Stephen I. Katz Early Career Investigator Research Project Grant supports an innovative project that addresses a critical research need in a high-priority area of research (ESI) and/or for whom no preliminary data exist. Applications submitted to this notice of funding opportunity (NFO) must include preliminary data. The award is for **one year** and includes a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate and a \$100,000 stipend for the laureate's research assistant. **Funding: Up to \$100,000 | Application Deadline: September 26**

National Science Foundation
Security, Privacy, and Trust in Cyberspace (SATC-2.0) - The Security, Privacy, and Trust in Cyberspace (SATC-2.0) program aims to build a solid global research foundation for the study of security, privacy, and trust in cyberspace. The program is defined to include any conference in the security, privacy, and resilience of cyberspace, particularly in the face of malicious intent. Achieving this level of coverage not only requires not only understanding the vulnerabilities in a system but also the ways they are exploited and how they can be addressed, but also understanding the social and technical dimensions of trust in cyber systems, along with the educational efforts needed to increase public awareness of risks in cyberspace, and building a well-trained corps of privacy and security professionals. **Funding: Up to \$1,200,000 | Application Deadline: September 29**

Department of Defense (DOD)
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