



2025-2026 Translational Fellows Program RFA

Administrator(s): Anna Thornton Matos, MPH & Tessianna Misko, PhD

Category: Pilot Funding

Participating Organization(s):

- Case Western Reserve University
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center
- MetroHealth Medical Center
- Northeast Ohio Medical University
- University Hospitals Health System
- The University of Toledo

Cycle: 2025-2026

Discipline/Subject Area: Translational Research

Internal Application Submission Deadline: Friday, July 11, 2025

Description

The CWRU Translational Fellows Program (TFP) seeks to train individuals in entrepreneurship and the translation of innovation into commercial ventures by connecting them to programs and workshops around campus while protecting time for their entrepreneurial activities.

We are seeking applications from individuals who are employed or are students at CTSC organizations who are interested in entrepreneurship and technology commercialization. Applications are especially encouraged from later-stage doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows. Applicants will commit to work through the process of evaluating and preparing a technology for commercialization. This fellowship will run from 9/1/2025 through 5/31/2025, with an option to continue to 8/31/2026 with an entrepreneurial experiential learning opportunity.

Benefits

- 20% effort protected for 9-12 months (with salary coverage when needed)
- Training and support for commercialization skill development
- Entrepreneurship/commercialization mentoring team
- Travel funds for those traveling from outside of local region to CWRU campus: >100 miles from CWRU's campus (University of Toledo) - \$2500 budget for day/overnight travel
- 25-99 miles from CWRU's campus (NEOMED) - \$500 budget for day travel

Requirements

- Support from your PI to participate in the program



- Ability to commit one day/week (20%) for participating in the fellowship, which includes the following major components:
 - Cleveland I-Corps@NCATS Program (including the PI of the technology)
 - Three Minute Thesis competition
 - Business plan competition
 - Skills development sessions
 - CWRU Venture Mentor Program
 - Participation in I-Corps@NCATS program with your team,
 - Monthly group meetings
 - Several external networking events
 - Final presentation
- Ability to attend the following components in person: I-Corps Launch, I-Corps Finale, Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Final Competition, Morgenthaler-Pavey Startup Competition, TFP Finale, and at least one networking event.
- The following activities can be fully remote for participants traveling from off the CWRU campus, but require your attendance: Orientation & IEP, Mentor meetings CVMP, Other I-Corps meetings (interviews could be done locally), 3MT Practice Sessions, Skills Development Sessions, Monthly Check-ins, Internship (not really remote but could be done locally), and Checkpoint Meetings.

Eligibility

- Must have a salary or stipend paid through a CTSC affiliate and/or be supported by a training grant.
- Currently working with a PI on a CTSC affiliate-based technology that can be explored for commercialization potential.
- If an applicant does not have a project, but wants to be involved, they need to schedule a meeting with Drs. Steve Fening and Umut Gurkan at cwrutftp@case.edu before submitting the application.

Selection criteria

- Interest in entrepreneurship
- Technology proposed to evaluate during the fellowship
- Support letter from PI, or alternative plan
- Applications are encouraged from all backgrounds

To apply

- Navigate to <https://cwruiinfoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1979569> and submit an application including the following items:



- Statement of career interests and how this program fits in with your career path, and, if relevant, brief description of technology that the fellow proposes to work toward commercializing (1 page maximum)
- Letter of support from PI/supervisor demonstrating willingness to allow for 20% buy out of time, support of entrepreneurial activities (including participation in I-Corps if the PI) and attesting to the strength of candidate (1 page maximum)
- Individuals selected for participation will be notified around mid-August 2025

Questions may be directed to cwrutfp@case.edu. We anticipate supporting 6 or more fellows in this cohort.