

## South Carolina Translational Research Improving Musculoskeletal Health Pilot Project RFA

The SC Translational Research Improving Musculoskeletal Health (SC TRIMH) is an established National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence, entering its second phase. The goal of the SC TRIMH is to enhance and expand the Biomedical Research capacity at Clemson University to promote outstanding multidisciplinary, collaborative, and translational research in musculoskeletal diseases. SC TRIMH welcomes Clemson affiliated investigators to participate in the Center and is pleased to announce that it will fund multiple pilot projects in several categories: Fast Forward Awards, Mentored Investigators Awards, and Discovery Awards. A broad range of topics including traditional Bone and Joint Disease Research, Bone and Joint Disease, Artificial Intelligence, Big Data Analysis, Addiction/Pain Management, and Oral Health Research will be considered for funding.

Grant Categories	Brief Description	Award Amount	Award Duration
Fast Forward	Generate critical preliminary data for a planned submission/resubmission of an extramural grant application within 6 months.	Up to \$10,000	1 year
Mentored Investigator	Provide mentored research experiences for junior investigators who will use the cores and may become candidates to replace current COBRE Junior Investigators as they graduate.	Up to \$25,000	1 year
Discovery	Provide strategic support to explore the feasibility of projects that might become collaborative R01s or center grants	Up to \$25,000	1 year

Applicants must be affiliated with Clemson University. Fast Forward, and Discovery Pilot Project programs are open to all faculty. Mentored Investigator Applicants should be full-time tenure track assistant or associate professors early in their career path. Mentored Investigator Applicants may not have served as a PI on NIH (R01 or R35), or comparable awards. The SC TRIMH will provide mentoring support and free access to its Core facilities for the successful applicants. *Successful candidates will need to propose the use of SC TRIMH Core facilities (Multi-scale Computational Modeling (MCM) Core, Advanced Fabrication and Testing (AFT) Core, and Preclinical Assessment Core (PAC)).* Core descriptions as well as a list of funded 2019 SC TRIMH Pilot Projects and 2021 Phase II Developmental Awards can be accessed via the SC- TRIMH webpage: <https://cecas.clemson.edu/SCTRIMH>

## **To Apply:**

***Fast Forward Applications:*** Please provide: 1) Title page (Project Title, PI and Contact Information, Co-Investigators and Award Category), 2) Abstract (1 page), 3) Project Description (1-3 pages), 4) Biographical Sketches of PI and Key Personnel, 5) Budget and Budget Justification (**PI salary support is not allowed**), 6) Literature Cited and 7) Letters of Support from Collaborator(s) or Other Key Personnel or Resource Contributors.

***Mentored Investigator and Discovery Applications:*** Please provide a full proposal in NIH format summarizing aims, background, and planned research. The application should include: 1) Title Page (Project Title, PI and Contact Information, Co-Investigators and Award Category), 2) Abstract (1 page), 3) Proposal (3-5 pages), 4) Biographical Sketches of PI and Key Personnel, 5) Budget and Budget Justification (**PI salary is not allowed**), 6) Literature Cited and 7) Letters of Support from Collaborator(s) or Other Key Personnel or Resource Contributors.

The SC TRIMH will hold a Zoom **informational meeting as part of the monthly team meeting February 27, 2026 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM** to address any questions regarding this solicitation. [CLICK HERE TO JOIN](#)

**Eligibility:** Tenure-track and research faculty are eligible to serve as PI. Other special faculty and postdoctoral scholars are not eligible for this call.

**Due Date: Faculty Submission is due to the PI's respective Clemson OSP office by Friday March 27, 2026, 4:30 PM.**

**OSP offices should** submit assembled PDF applications to CUSHR at [cushr@clemson.edu](mailto:cushr@clemson.edu) with subject line SC TRIMH Pilot Project Proposal – [Award Category] after standard internal review and routing processes.

**Evaluation:** Grants will be reviewed based on relevance to musculoskeletal health, goals of SC TRIMH and use of the SC TRIMH Cores (Click [HERE](#) to access the SC TRIMH Website with information regarding the 3 Research Cores – MCM Core, AFT Core, and the PAC). NIH evaluation criteria will also be used - Overall Impact score based upon review of the following categories: Significance, Investigators, Innovation, Approach, and Environment.

### **Inquiries:**

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### **Zoom Meeting Information:**

<https://clemson.zoom.us/j/94666674491?pwd=Zrx30uZA01yzwTHoa8jbrRPcDEbDx1.1&from=addon>  
Meeting ID: 946 6667 4491  
Passcode: 666216