



Translating Science into Solutions for Better Health

SC CTSI Translational Science Accelerator Grant Program

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**Information
Session**



Translational Science Accelerator Funding Opportunity

Translational Science Accelerator (Trax)
[Application Information](#)

12-month pilot grants for projects
focused on **translational science
initiatives**



Timeline for Spring 2026 Cycle

- RFA Released: April 30, 2026
- LOI Submission Deadline: June 12, 2026
- Notification of Invitation to participate in Pitch Sessions: July 8, 2026
- Pitch Sessions: July 20, 2026 – July 31, 2026
- Notification of Invitation to participate in Development Meetings: August 10, 2026
- Development Meetings: August 17, 2026 – September 4, 2026
- Full Proposal Deadline: October 9, 2026
- Review Period: October 12, 2026 – November 2026
- Final Selections Made: December 2026
- Submission of Regulatory Approvals to NIH: December 2026 – April 2027
- Funding Period: April 1, 2027 – March 31, 2028



Purpose and Scope

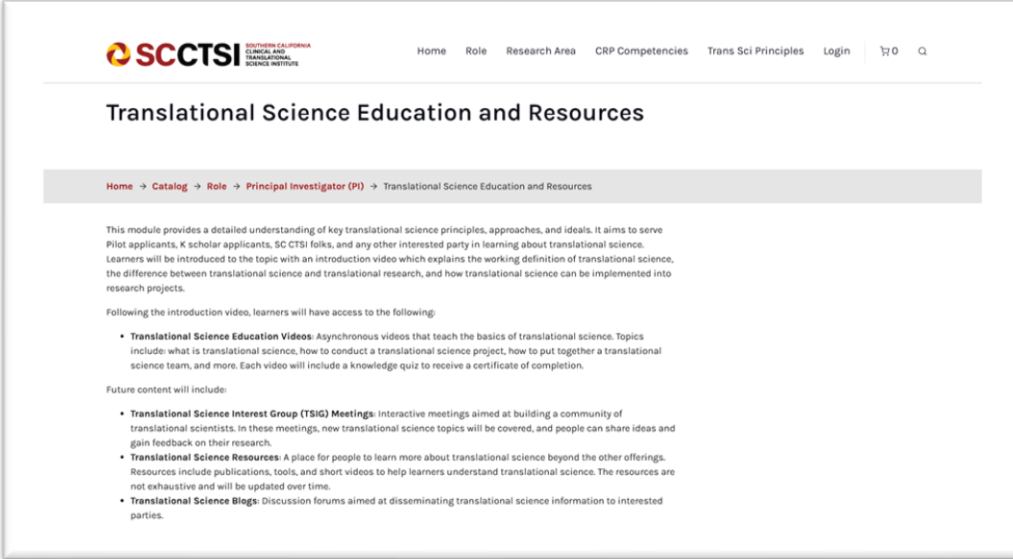
- Translational Science in practice is defined as identifying a general challenge in the research process **and**:
 - Understanding and characterizing the challenge **and/or**
 - Developing and testing new strategies that are designed to improve the research process applicable to multiple projects/studies **and/or**
 - Implementing and disseminating strategies already found to be effective in improving the research process in a novel way
- Strategies should improve the speed, efficiency, quality, and/or impact of the research process. This may be demonstrated within a single stage or study.



Translational Science Education and Resources Introduction Video

- Introduction to Translational Science Video is available on the SC CTSI Brightspace page

[Translational Science Introduction](#)



The screenshot shows the SCCTSI website interface. At the top left is the SCCTSI logo with the text 'SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE'. To the right are navigation links: Home, Role, Research Area, CRP Competencies, Trans Sci Principles, and Login. Below the navigation is the page title 'Translational Science Education and Resources'. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home → Catalog → Role → Principal Investigator (PI) → Translational Science Education and Resources. The main content area contains an introductory paragraph about the module's purpose, followed by a list of topics covered in the introduction video. Below that, it lists future content including Translational Science Interest Group (TSIG) Meetings, Translational Science Resources, and Translational Science Blogs.

SCCTSI SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE

Home Role Research Area CRP Competencies Trans Sci Principles Login

Translational Science Education and Resources

Home → Catalog → Role → Principal Investigator (PI) → Translational Science Education and Resources

This module provides a detailed understanding of key translational science principles, approaches, and ideals. It aims to serve Pilot applicants, K scholar applicants, SC CTSI folks, and any other interested party in learning about translational science. Learners will be introduced to the topic with an introduction video which explains the working definition of translational science, the difference between translational science and translational research, and how translational science can be implemented into research projects.

Following the introduction video, learners will have access to the following:

- **Translational Science Education Videos:** Asynchronous videos that teach the basics of translational science. Topics include: what is translational science, how to conduct a translational science project, how to put together a translational science team, and more. Each video will include a knowledge quiz to receive a certificate of completion.

Future content will include:

- **Translational Science Interest Group (TSIG) Meetings:** Interactive meetings aimed at building a community of translational scientists. In these meetings, new translational science topics will be covered, and people can share ideas and gain feedback on their research.
- **Translational Science Resources:** A place for people to learn more about translational science beyond the other offerings. Resources include publications, tools, and short videos to help learners understand translational science. The resources are not exhaustive and will be updated over time.
- **Translational Science Blogs:** Discussion forums aimed at disseminating translational science information to interested parties.



Translational Science vs. Translational Research

Challenge:

Daily physical activity (PA) routines impacting chronic diseases such as heart disease progression are not well understood.

Strategy:

Analyze and characterize PA patterns from wearable data to help inform chronic disease treatment plans related to healthy sleep, eating and activity.

PI: Genevieve Dunton

Translational Research

Challenge:

- Wearable data is not generally available and usable to researchers.
- Researchers are forced to build custom pipelines to access and analyze their study's wearable data

Strategy

Creation and testing of the W4H (Wearable for Health) Toolkit - a platform for the acquisition, storage, access and analysis of a variety of wearable devices' data.

PIs: Cyrus Shahabi and Luciano Nocera

Translational Science



Translational Science vs. Translational Research

TrSci Project:

- Addresses an analytical barrier faced by all wearable studies
- Creates an analytical toolkit solution generalizable to all wearable data

TrRes Project:

- Addresses a physical activity (PA) analysis barrier faced by chronic diseases such as heart disease
- Creates an analytical solution for PA wearable data



Expanding the Emergency Medicine Collegiate Program for Research (EM-CPR) to Enhance Clinical Trial Capacity and Workforce Development



Dr. Elizabeth Burner

Translational Science Phase

2. Development and testing of new approaches
3. Implementation and dissemination of proven approaches

*Emergency Medicine Collegiate Program for Research

Challenge:

Under recruitment in acute care clinical trials due to limited staff bandwidth

Evaluation

- Randomized evaluation comparing EM-CPR* screening to staff only screening
- Student surveys

Strategy:

- Implementation of an EM-CPR* Clinical Research Accelerator to train undergraduate student research associates as on-site screeners.
- Creation of a dissemination toolkit to allow for adoption by other institutions

Benefits (Scope of Impact):

- Clinical trialists, CTSA's and institutional research offices.
- TSBM: Clinical, Community and Economic



Multi-Stage Submission Process



LOI Submission

June 12, 2026

Pitch Sessions

July 20, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Development Meetings

August 17, 2026 – September 4, 2026

Final Proposal Submission

October 9, 2026

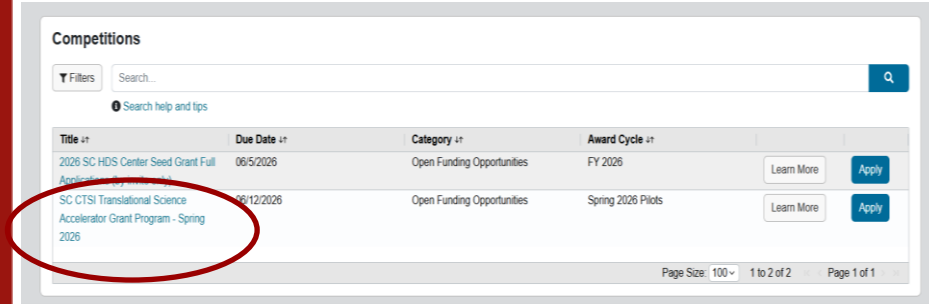
INTERNAL

LOI Submission

Due: June 12, 2026

Submission Outline

- One-page, single spaced summary briefly describing the proposed project



Title	Due Date	Category	Award Cycle	
2026 SC HDS Center Seed Grant Full Application	06/5/2026	Open Funding Opportunities	FY 2026	Learn More Apply
SC CTSI Translational Science Accelerator Grant Program - Spring 2026	06/12/2026	Open Funding Opportunities	Spring 2026 Pilots	Learn More Apply

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Submit LOI via InfoReady Portal

- Option to submit Introduction to Translational Science Video Certificate of Completion with LOI

Next Steps

- Up to 16 LOIs will be selected to move forward to Pitch Sessions



Pitch Sessions

July 20, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Session Outline

- Three 90-minute sessions
 - Each session will have six 15-minute time slots available for sign-up.

Pitch Outline

- 5-minute PowerPoint Presentation outlining the six LOI points and overall project design plan.
- 10-minute feedback from Trax Management Committee

Next Steps

- Up to 10 pitches will move forward to development meetings
 - Pitches moving forward will be connected with SC CTSI resources to help address Trax Management Committee suggestions.



Development Meetings

August 17, 2026 – September 4, 2026

Meeting Outline

- 1-hour interactive meeting with the Trax Management Committee



Next Steps

- All applicants invited to participate in development sessions will be invited to submit a full proposal
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Full Proposal

Due: October 9, 2026

Submission Outline

Research Proposal (maximum 5 pages, including figures/tables, excluding literature cited)

- a) Specific Aims
- b) Overall Impact and Significance
- c) Innovation
- d) Approach
- e) Dissemination Plan

Submit Full Proposal via InfoReady portal

- Video lay summaries can be sent to Kaelyn.Moses@med.usc.edu

Next Steps

- Proposals Reviewed by Trax Management Committee, external reviewers and community members
 - 6-8 proposals will be selected for funding
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Submission Summary

Application Phase

	LOI	Pitch Session	Development Meeting	Full Proposal
Number of submissions moving forward after each phase	16	10	10	6-8

Maximum proposals funded: 6-8



Priority

- Preference and highest priority will be given to projects that support the understanding of translational challenges, development of tools and approaches that will increase the speed, efficiency, and impact of translational research, and/or the novel implementation of effective approaches.



Eligibility and Resubmissions

- Full-time faculty members at USC and CHLA as of the date of the LOI submission are eligible to apply as a PI. Additionally, PIs must devote at least 30% of their professional effort to research.
- Resubmissions of previous SC CTSI Pilot applications will be accepted.



Budget

Applicants may request up to \$50,000 for a 12-month period



Quality by Design

All Trax grant awardees will be required to participate in the Quality by Design (QbD) program

What is QbD?

A workshop that aims to identify potential INTERNAL errors at the study design stage with input from a wide range of experts and stakeholders. Risks are closely monitored and addressed throughout the conduct of the study.

QbD Outline

- Introduction Meeting
 - Discuss project summary
 - Decide SC CTSI resources
- Launch Studio
 - Meeting with selected SC CTSI experts to go over project risks and discuss potential solutions



Questions?

- For more information, please contact
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