

## **Translational Therapeutics (TRx) Accelerator Request for Proposal COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS**

Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center

Department of Biomedical Engineering

**2020**

The global coronavirus outbreak has created an increasing number of challenges to researchers, communities and companies. It is a unique situation we find ourselves in, as most of us have never experienced a health crisis of this scale. The Irving Institute Translational Therapeutics (TRx) Accelerator, HICCC Accelerating Cancer Therapeutics (ACT) and Biomedical Engineering's BiomedX are announcing a special RFP to support COVID related research at Columbia.

***Accelerating Discoveries Toward Better Health***

[irvinginstitute.columbia.edu](http://irvinginstitute.columbia.edu)

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**Irving Institute TRx-COVID-19 RFP**

Recognizing Columbia's rapid response to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (IICTR), through the Translational Therapeutics (TRx) mechanism, and in collaboration with Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center and Department of Biomedical Engineering, is committed to supporting efforts to develop solutions to this unprecedented crisis and producing therapeutics to treat COVID-19. Translational Therapeutics Accelerator is a therapeutic development accelerator program that plays a central role in translating the outstanding basic science discoveries at Columbia University into commercial therapeutics. It focuses on providing funding, education, partnership, and mentorship opportunities to Columbia Investigators, with a goal of advancing novel therapies from the lab towards the clinic and market. Advice and project guidance will be provided by a steering committee of academic and industry experts in the field of drug development. TRx works closely with Columbia Technology Ventures (CTV), Accelerating Cancer Therapeutics (ACT), and the Columbia Biomedical Accelerator (BiomedX) to provide early stage funding and project development resources to investigators with promising scientific ideas looking to advance their discoveries through the translational spectrum to a stage where outside funding would be available for further commercialization.

**The TRx Accelerator is inviting Columbia investigators that are developing therapeutics for COVID-19 with existing or potential Columbia Intellectual Property to apply for this pilot award.** Applicants are strongly encouraged to present a complementary team comprised of at least a basic scientist and a clinical scientist as part of the application.

Proposals selected to receive funding will work closely with the TRx/ACT leadership team, their CTV licensing officer and may receive support from industry mentors to guide project progression.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

Applicants must have a full-time Columbia University faculty appointment. Graduate students and post doctorate trainees can act as project leads with permission from the principal investigators (PIs). Projects must focus on translating a therapeutic for treatment of COVID-19 toward commercialization. Projects that focus on new drugs for known targets and pathways, and new activities for currently known and/or approved drugs (repurposing) are eligible.

**AREAS OF INTEREST:**

All therapeutic projects with a valid target in any stage of development with translational/commercialization trajectory are encouraged to apply. Therapeutic strategies including small molecules, biologics, novel delivery approaches, gene therapy, and cell therapeutics will be considered.

**FUNDING:**

TRx/ACT will provide up to \$50,000 in funding per project and expects to fund two projects. Funding should be directed to a specific experimental milestone that will make selected project(s) eligible for follow-on funding through Government or Foundation grants and/ or industry partnerships. We encourage that the majority of funds be utilized for project-specific study experiments; while a smaller portion of the funds may be used towards Post-doctorate researcher, graduate student, technician salary. Funding may not be used towards PI salary. Award start date is expected to be late May 2020.

**PROPOSAL DIRECTIONS:**

*Proposals are due by 5:00 PM EST on Thursday, April 30, 2020. Proposals should be saved in a PDF format and emailed to [TRxResource@columbia.edu](mailto:TRxResource@columbia.edu)*

**The document should include the following information:**

- Project Title
- PI Name(s)
- Brief Non-Confidential Abstract

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- Project Team  
*A brief description of the clinical and basic scientists and their area of expertise. Please do not include full biosketches.*
- Project Description and Clinical Need (3 page maximum)  
*A summary of the project, the current stage of development and plan to reach the next stage.*
- Competitive Landscape (< 1 page)  
*A brief description of the current standard of care and how this therapy, if developed, is an improvement over currently available treatment.*
- Project Needs (<1 page)  
*Describe the resources and expertise needed to progress the project and the amount of funding required to support this next stage of development (max \$50,000). Please indicate if a Columbia Core Lab is needed for the project.*
- Intellectual Property (<1 page)  
*List if there are patents covering this idea or invention reports with Columbia Technology Ventures.*

**REVIEW PROCESS:**

Proposals will be reviewed for eligibility and feasibility. Each application will be judged based on translational and commercialization potential, scientific and medical merit, and feasibility.

**NOTE:**

All projects involving human subjects and/or vertebrate animal research that are chosen for funding, are conditionally selected until **IRB and/or IACUC approval**. IRB/IACUC approval is not required at the time of application but is required in order to receive funding. Submission to the IRB/IACUC must be completed within thirty (30) days of notification of potential pilot funding.

**NOTE:**

Proposals will be confidential; however, we suggest you discuss the application and project with your Columbia Technology Ventures licensing officer prior to applying. If you do not have a licensing officer, please reach out to [techventures@columbia.edu](mailto:techventures@columbia.edu).