

A background image of a female scientist with brown hair, wearing safety glasses and a white lab coat, looking through a microscope. The image is semi-transparent. In the top left corner, there is a large orange arrow pointing right.

# Corporate and Foundation Relations

2025 PHT180 Workshop  
March 31, 2025

# RIT's Corporate and Foundation Relations Team

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# How CFR can help

- Identify and build internal and external partnerships
- Navigate internal processes for support
- Apply ongoing knowledge of organizational partners
- Look for RIT connections that will strengthen



# Identifying External Partners and Funding Sources: Tools

## Foundation and Corporation Gift and Philanthropic Grant Research

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 Access provided by Foundation Relations at RIT.  
 Database of 80,000 private foundations nationwide, to help identify potential sources for funding.  
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# Identifying External Partners and Funding Sources: Tools

## Grant Forward

### Welcome to GrantForward.

You're almost ready to explore the full range of funding opportunities that GrantForward has to offer.

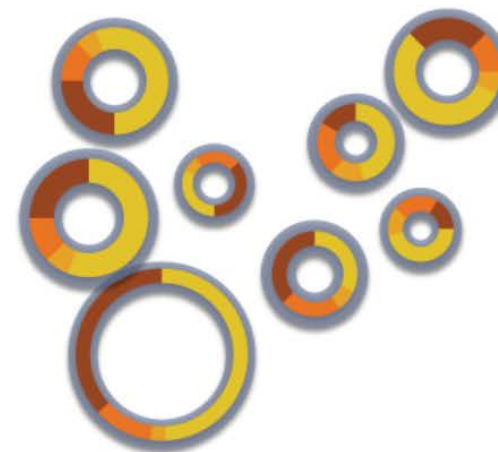
With a [GrantForward Researcher Profile](#), information about your past research experience is used to connect you with opportunities

Building a profile is easy, and will only take a few simple steps.

Alternatively, you can skip this step and begin searching for opportunities. You can always go back and build a profile later.

 [Start Building Your Profile](#)

 [Start Searching For Opportunities](#)



# New York Health Foundation (NYHealth)

The New York Health Foundation seeks to **improve the health of all New Yorkers**, especially people of color and others who have been historically marginalized. The Foundation is committed not only to making grants, but also to making a difference beyond grant dollars: informing health care policy and practice, spreading effective programs that work to improve the health system and make it more equitable, serving as a convener of health leaders across the State, and providing technical assistance to grantees and partners.

NYHealth concentrates most of their activities and grantmaking in a limited number of strategic priority areas. In each area, they have developed a set of specific goals and focused strategies to advance our efforts. To have an impact in these areas, they make grants, convene key stakeholders, and commission and disseminate policy analyses that inform health care policy and practice throughout New York State:

- Special Projects Fund
  - Projects that address important health care or public health issues in the State outside of the targeted priority areas
  - Typically accept LOIs 2x a year



# Gerber Foundation

The **Gerber Foundation's** mission focuses on infants and young children. Priority is given to projects that improve the nutrition, care and development of infants and young children from the first year before birth to three years of age. The Foundation is particularly interested in fresh approaches to solving common, everyday problems or emerging issues within our defined focus area. Projects should focus on issues faced by care providers that, when implemented, will improve the health, nutrition and/or developmental outcomes for infants and young children.

Targeted outcomes include:

- New diagnostic tools that may be more rapid, more specific, more sensitive, less invasive
- New treatment regimens that are improved or novel, less stressful or painful, more targeted, have fewer side effects, provide optimal dosing
- Symptom relief
- Preventative measures
- Assessment of deficiencies or excesses (vitamins, minerals, drugs, etc.)
- Risk assessment tools or measures for environmental hazards, trauma, etc

Concept papers accepted 2x year (May/November); Max budget of \$350k total

# Thrasher Research Fund

The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants for clinical, hypothesis-driven research that offers substantial promise for meaningful advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of children's diseases, particularly research that offers broad-based applications.

- E.W. "Al" Thrasher Awards focus on projects that are **changing pediatric clinical care**. Each award is a novel approach to problems plaguing pediatrics. The award is open to applications focusing on any disease or topic within the umbrella of pediatrics, both in and outside the United States. Ideal applications for the Thrasher Award address significant health problems, offering the potential for practical solutions to these problems. Solutions should be innovative and have the potential for broad applicability with low barriers to implementation. Projects with a shorter distance to clinical applicability are given priority.
  - Median grant amount is \$350k, max \$570k.
  - 2 cycles per year: January and July



# Glenn W. Bailey Foundation

Formed in 2022, the Foundation seeks to give students and educators more resources for developing and participating in STEM-based, hands-on learning.

- Educational opportunities in STEM from early education through postdoctoral learning
- Interdisciplinary research to identify and address critical environmental problems
- Biomedical research to accelerate progress in treatment development for high-mortality, underfunded areas of need.
- Programs that foster economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in underserved communities.

**Rolling Deadline**

# American Heart Association

The AHA is the largest non-profit, non-governmental funder of cardiovascular and cerebrovascular research in the US.

## **Investigator-Initiated Research**

- 10+ opportunities, based largely on PI's career stage

## **Topic-Focused Funding**

- Past topics include: health care by food, novel AI approaches to advance cardiovascular and cerebrovascular/brain health, health inequities in rural America, stroke research, single-ventricle heart disease, pediatric heart transplantation, health benefits of walnut consumption

## **Data Science Grants**

- Topics also change regularly
- Pilot grants to explore use of the AHA Protein Binding Atlas to Discover Novel Protein Interactions

## **AHA Registry Research**

- Investigators can submit proposals to conduct research using AHA/ASA data

# Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation is focused on funding projects grounded in basic laboratory science and the education of scientists working on breakthroughs directed toward a cure for paralysis, secondary health effects and technologies associated with spinal cord injury or disease (SCI/D).

- **Basic Science** - laboratory research in the basic sciences to find a cure for SCI/D
- **Clinical** - clinical and functional studies of the medical, psychosocial and economic effects of SCI/D, and interventions to alleviate these effects
- **Design and Development** - of new or improved rehabilitative and assistive technology/devices for people with SCI/D to improve function, which also includes improving the identification, selection and utilization of these devices.
- **Fellowships** - for postdoctoral scientists, clinicians and engineers to encourage training and specialization in the field of spinal cord research

Application window opens April 1, deadline is July 1 for projects starting on January 1.

# Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation aims to take bold leaps to transform health in our lifetime and pave the way, together, to a future where health is for everyone.

To transform health over the course of a generation, we have set three ambitious goals that we believe we can and must achieve, in collaboration with grantees, partners, and communities.

- Economic Inclusion for Family Wellbeing
- Equitable and Accountable Public Health and Healthcare Systems
- Healthy and Equitable Community Conditions

**Exploring Equitable Futures Program** seeds new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come. They aim to fund projects that:

- Explore the future by researching and experimenting with ideas that are ahead of the curve or at the edge of our collective imagination;
- Shine a light on the emerging trends and forces that are shaping our future for better or worse – and suggest ways to navigate them to mitigate harm and advance health equity;
- Dream big and challenge conventional wisdom to surface possibilities and uncover new paths to dismantle structural racism and build a more equitable future.

# W. M. Keck Foundation

The **WM Keck Foundation** primarily focuses on supporting **scientific, medical, and engineering research** as well as **higher education**. Its key priorities include:

1. **Science and Engineering Research:** prioritizes funding innovative and pioneering research that can lead to major breakthroughs in various scientific fields, with a special emphasis on projects that are high-risk but have the potential for significant impact.
2. **Medical Research:** supports initiatives that aim to advance medical knowledge, improve health outcomes, and foster cutting-edge medical technologies.
3. **Higher Education:** makes grants to institutions of higher education, particularly for initiatives that enhance educational opportunities, facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, and advance knowledge in various fields.
4. **Conservation and the Environment:** funds projects that address critical environmental issues, especially those with innovative, long-term solutions.

*The foundation generally supports programs that are **innovative, high-risk**, and have the potential for **transformative impacts** in their respective fields.*

# Gates Foundation – Grand Challenges

**Grand Challenges** are a set of initiatives aimed at solving critical global health and development issues. These challenges are designed to encourage innovation and promote breakthroughs that could significantly improve the lives of people in poverty or facing health crises around the world.

Main Goals and Areas of Focus include:

1. **Health Innovations:** Focus on discovering new tools and technologies to combat diseases like HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. The foundation also emphasizes maternal and child health, with challenges aimed at improving reproductive health and access to healthcare in low-income countries.
2. **Global Development:** The foundation seeks to reduce poverty and inequality by supporting projects that enhance agricultural productivity, clean water access, and sanitation. It also focuses on improving education, financial inclusion, and economic opportunities for disadvantaged populations.
3. **Climate Change and Sustainability:** Addressing the intersection of climate change, environmental sustainability, and public health by supporting innovations that reduce carbon footprints and improve resource management, especially in developing regions.
4. **Inclusive Innovation:** Encouraging global collaboration, especially between scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs, to come up with breakthrough solutions. The challenges aim to foster a spirit of innovation in tackling some of the world's toughest problems.
5. **Funding and Partnerships:** The Gates Foundation partners with governments, businesses, and other organizations to fund and scale promising solutions. It supports ideas that could have large-scale impacts if implemented effectively.

# Burroughs Wellcome Fund

The **Burroughs Wellcome Fund** (BWF) is a private foundation that focuses on supporting biomedical science and advancing human health.

Priorities include:

- **Scientific Innovation:** BWF funds innovative and high-impact research in biomedical sciences, particularly in areas that promise breakthroughs in human health.
- **Fostering Early Career Scientists:** The Fund emphasizes supporting the development of young scientists, including those at the start of their academic careers, through grants, fellowships, and other resources
- **Promoting Diversity in Science:** BWF is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion in the biomedical research field, ensuring opportunities are available for underrepresented groups.
- **Transformative Approaches to Health Challenges:** The foundation prioritizes funding research that tackles significant global health challenges, with a focus on transformative and interdisciplinary approaches to solve complex medical problems.
- **Advancing Biomedical Research Education:** BWF supports programs that provide education and training to develop the next generation of biomedical researchers and promote lifelong learning.



# Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

The **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI)** focuses on advancing science, education, and social justice.

Key priorities include:

- **Advancing Science:** CZI supports groundbreaking research in biomedical science, aiming to accelerate progress toward understanding and curing diseases. This includes funding scientific initiatives, developing new tools for research, and creating platforms for data sharing.
- **Improving Education:** The Initiative works to improve access to quality education, with a particular focus on personalized learning. It supports initiatives that aim to transform educational systems and help students reach their full potential, especially through technology and innovation.
- **Building Technology Tools:** CZI is focused on creating and using technology to solve complex societal problems, such as improving healthcare outcomes or enhancing the scientific discovery process.

The Initiative integrates these priorities through collaborative projects and partnerships to tackle global challenges and promote positive societal change.

# Eppley Foundation

- The Foundation only rarely funds research into diseases that have considerable financial support available, such as AIDS, diabetes, cancer and heart disease.
- The Foundation does not fund work that can qualify for funding from conventional sources such as the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health, or similar agencies at the state level.
- It is important to the Foundation that the work proposed be novel in its insights and unlikely to be underway elsewhere. The Foundation is prepared to take risks. Particular areas of interest include innovative medical investigations
- Does not fund proposals primarily for equipment.

Past success rate – 33% - 2 of 6 proposals have been funded

Frequently awarded budget amounts: \$15k-\$30k

Biannual application cycle – LOIs Due September 15<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>

Invited Proposals due October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>

# Merck Foundation

- The Merck Foundation is dedicated to advancing health equity by supporting innovative programs and partnerships to improve the health and well-being of people around the world.
- Aim to improve the quality of health care and address barriers to accessing care for people living with cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.
- Collaborative for Equity in Cardiac Care (the “Collaborative”), a five-year national initiative to improve access to high-quality, culturally responsive care for people with heart conditions living in underserved communities across the United States. – Programmatic funding

# Hutchins Family Foundation

- Our foundation supports world-class basic research, translation of discovery into therapy and access to health-care and services for patients in need.
- Current funding priority in Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, but has past
- RIT has received gifts in the past to support student scholarship and research
- Does not accept unsolicited proposals

# Kenneth Rainin Foundation

- The Innovator Awards Program enables researchers worldwide to test ideas and collaborate to advance the understanding of IBD.
- The Kenneth Rainin Foundation believes that early support for innovative ideas can lead to improvements in preventing, predicting, diagnosing and treating Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).
- Innovator Awards support individual research projects with grants of up to \$150,000 and collaborative projects involving multiple investigators with grants of up to \$300,000. Grantees who demonstrate significant progress are eligible for up to two years of additional support.

# Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust – Falk Catalyst Awards

- Seek to fund medical research to improve treatments of the past and eventually find cures for diseases for which no definite cure is known
- The Catalyst Research Award Program provides up to \$350,000 in seed funding over one to two years, to support high-risk, high-reward translational research
- Projects must be responsive to the following areas of research focus:
  - 1. Identification of biological markers of disease activity and progression,
  - 2. Identification of targets for therapeutic interventions, and
  - 3. Development of therapeutic agents that will disrupt, arrest, or prevent the disease process.
- The award supports planning and development of projects, teams, tools, techniques, and management necessary to lay the foundation and apply for a subsequent two to three year \$1,000,000 Transformational Award.

# Student Groups

## Student Groups to Consider:

- **Global Public Health Association**
- **Professional Student Organizations (PASA, SDNA, USA, ACS, etc.)**
- **Health Sciences and Technology Student Association**
- **BioTech Club**
- **Educational Video Club**
- **Scientific Visualization Club**



# Next Steps



## Tell us more about your work!

1. Email us: Corporate and Foundation Relations ([foundationrelations@rit.edu](mailto:foundationrelations@rit.edu))
2. CFR will schedule an introductory meeting
3. Introductory meeting
  - Questions to think about:
    - Why is your research/project necessary?
    - What is the problem and/or opportunity?
    - Who is impacted?
    - Why now?
    - What activities would funding support (personnel, students, travel, supplies, etc.)?
    - Who is involved and why is this the best team to accomplish this work? Are there possible collaborations and partnerships (within RIT or external)?

# Questions?

