

Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Application Guidelines

Grant Cycle 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Tuesday, June 1

	Catalyst Award	Transformational Award
Award Duration:	12 - 24 months	24 - 36 months
Maximum Award Amount:	Up to \$350,000 (inclusive of 10% indirect costs)	Up to \$1,000,000 (inclusive of 10% indirect costs)
Award Start Date:	November 30, 2024	November 30, 2024
Eligible candidates:	Invited institutions (please see page 4) may internally select and nominate up to two projects.	Prior Catalyst awardees who meet eligibility criteria

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The Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust was created by Marian Falk in 1979 and was fully funded upon her death in 1991. Mrs. Falk created the Trust to support “**medical research to improve treatments of the past and eventually find cures for diseases for which no definite cure is known.**”

In 2014, the Falk Medical Research Trust launched a new program to fund transformational research focused on increasing the impact of its funding. This program provides support to move insights gained from basic science into clinical practice. In keeping with the intention to fund breakthrough research designed to overcome roadblocks in scientific progress, there are two separate linked awards:

- The ***Catalyst Research Award*** provides seed funding over one to two years, to help investigators lay the foundation for the Transformational Award. Select institutions are invited to submit up to two applications per grant cycle.
The ***Transformational Research Award*** provides two to three years of additional research funding to support successful projects funded by a Catalyst Award and help them move a healthcare innovation toward the next step in commercial development. Applications will be accepted only from prior Catalyst awardees who have successfully achieved the proposed benchmarks and milestones outlined in their Catalyst Award proposals. Catalyst Awardees may only apply for a Transformational Award once.

The Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust Awards Programs are administered by Health Resources in Action (the Administrator), on behalf of the Trustee, Bank of America, N.A. (the Funder). Health Resources in Action (HRiA) is a non-profit organization that partners with individuals, organizations, and communities to transform the practices, policies, and systems that improve health and advance equity.

This program is designed to support high-



Investigator-initiated trials: In addition to pre-clinical research studies as described above, proposals for investigator-initiated trials (human clinical studies that are initiated, managed, and sponsored by the investigator or investigator's institution) may be considered if the following criteria are met:

- The study is original, hypothesis driven, sufficiently powered to produce a result that could change clinical practice or support the implementation of a larger confirmatory trial, rigorously conducted, and supported by strong preliminary data.
- Investigators have





the lead applicant's research will be



Translational Potential

Project moves a basic science insight toward a solution, technique, or tool that can be transferred to clinical practice in the near term. *Catalyst Award* projects must be poised to successfully transition into a *Transformational Award*. *Transformational Award* projects must have achieved their *Catalyst Award* benchmarks and milestones and should move an exciting healthcare innovation toward the next step in commercial development. High translational potential is an essential prerequisite for a





Final notification to applicants will occur in mid-October for the November 30th funding start date. Applicant ranking and scores will not be provided. Key points from reviewer feedback will be provided.

Historical Statistics	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Catalyst Submissions	53	47	45	44	43	35	40	40
Catalyst Award Recipients	17	18	16	11	12	11	10	10
Funding Rate:	32%	38%	36%	25%	28%	31%	25%	25%



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In order for Bank of America, Private Bank, as Trustee of the Falk Trust (the "Funder"), and Health Resources in Action (the "Administrator") to carry out our legal responsibilities, we must ask the award recipient (the "Recipient") and the Recipient's institution (the "Institution") as identified in the Application to read and acknowledge this award agreement (the "Agreement") for Recipient's proposed project submitted to the Administrator (the "Project"). The Agreement specifies the Recipient's and Institution's obligations for the duration of this award as identified above.

Award Amount and Funding Period: Awards are made according to the stated schedule. Recipients may postpone the start date for up to three (3) months without an approval, but the revised date must be noted either on the signature page of this Agreement or by an email notification to the Administrator. Longer delays must be approved by the Administrator. A delayed start date will not reduce the total award period but will adjust the schedule out to include the entire period.

Awards are made to non-profit academic, medical, non-governmental, or research institutions within the United States on behalf of the Recipients. The Institution is responsible for the administrative and financial management of the Project, including any subcontracts, and maintaining adequate supporting records and receipts of expenditures.

Research Disturbances: Upon award funding recommendation notification, the Recipient or recommended principal investigator ("PI") and the Institution shall confirm that the Recipient's laboratory (and any laboratories/facilities/staff included in the proposed Project) will be operational, and able to start the work described in the Project's research proposal by funding start date or within the standard three (3) month delayed start timeframe. Start dates beyond the three (3) month timeframe will be considered with assurances from the Institution.

Institutional Assurances: The Institution and Recipients must adhere to all federal, state, and local regulations regarding the use of human subjects, animals, radioactive or hazardous materials, and recombinant DNA in this Project. It is the responsibility of the Recipient's Institution to ensure that all approvals (IRB, IACUC, other) are in place prior to releasing any award funds. The confirmation of the representative of the Institution on the application forms confirms this oversight.

Liability: Each party shall be responsible for its negligent acts or omissions and the negligent acts or omissions of its employees, officers, agents, or directors, to the extent allowed by law.

Funding Provider and Not Sponsor: The Recipient and Institution acknowledges that the Administrator and Funder are solely a provider of cer orr (of)9.01 (r or)8.r or (r or)8.r or (r)8.4 ((-13.9 (6 (r



Award funds may only be used for salaries in proportion to the percent effort on the Project. However, percent effort may exceed the percent of total remuneration requested.

Funds may not be used for new construction, the renovation of existing facilities, fundraising projects, or endowments. Funds may not be used for any political activity, accumulated deficits, or for any other purpose prohibited by the Internal Revenue Service Code. Funds awarded for the direct costs of the Project may not be used for general operating costs. Research-related expenses not directly related to the Project, general office supplies, individual institutional administrative charges in addition to indirect costs (e.g. telephone, other electronic communication, IT network), professional membership dues, and pre-award charges are **not** allowable expenses.

Indirect Costs (institutional overhead): Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of direct costs. In instances where there is a subcontract, the combined dollar amount for indirects taken by both the Recipient Institution and the contracting institution may not exceed total allowed indirects of the accepted budget.

Re-Budgeting: Expenditures are expected to be within reasonable range of the Project budget as accepted by the Administrator. All requests for re-budgeting or reallocation of grant funds over \$20,000 must be clearly justified in the annual financial report or conveyed in an update to the report to the Administrator a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the requested effective date of change. The request must include the current allocation of resources along with specific detail and justification for the reallocation. If the Institution makes a request for re-budgeting or



Changes in Award Status: Any changes in the Project's research design including changes



The Administrator and the Funder reserve the right to public acknowledgement of Project information (Recipient Name, Institution, Project title and research summary). This information will be made available through the website of the Administrator (www.tmfgrants.org/Falk) and may be posted on other affiliated organization websites, publicly accessible databases of privately funded awards, or published in print form or other media. As noted in the application guidelines, the Project summary submitted with the application will be posted on the Administrator's website if the Project is funded.

Scientific Poster Sessions and Events: The Recipient is expected to share research findings in a timely manner through professional meetings and/or publications.

Acknowledgements: Professional publications or presentations resulting from Project work supported by the award must acknowledge, the **Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust, Bank of America, Private Bank**. The Award Recipient and Institution are encouraged to announce receipt of this Award entitled the Falk Medical Research Trust Catalyst Award and credit financial support to the **Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust, Bank of America, Private Bank**.

Post Award: Recipient shall make good faith efforts to respond to the Administrator's



Research Proposal Format: Arial 11 font and size must be used in the text of the research proposal section. Use single spacing within paragraphs, double spacing between paragraphs and 1-inch margins on all four sides. Research Proposal sections include both word count AND page limit maximums. Figure legends do not count towards word limits, however any figures, graphs, tables or pictures, including their legends must fit within the indicated page limits for each section. For these visuals, the minimum is an 8 point-font size. Supplementary material





- a) **Budget, Summary, and Justification:** Complete each tab in the Excel spreadsheet template as indicated in the instructions on tab 1. Indirect costs (institutional overhead) may not exceed 10% of direct costs. In instances where there is a subcontract, the subcontract budget must be included and combined dollar amount for indirects taken by both the Award Recipient Institution and the contracting institution may not exceed total allowed indirects per award. Budgets should reflect only the amount needed to conduct the proposed research. The maximum budget should not be requested unless it is genuinely needed. The justification for all budget items must be explained. The compensation for personnel funded by Falk awards cannot exceed the NIH salary cap. For personn

