

2027-28 PUI Student Training and Research (STAR) Training Awards Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)

Program Goals and Award

The primary goal of the Student Training and Research (STAR) funding mechanism at primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs) is to provide undergraduate students with intensive summer biomedical research opportunities. To meet this goal, the program requests proposals for one year STAR awards for research projects beginning **May 1, 2027**. PUI STAR mentors are required to provide intensive research training to three undergraduate students in their laboratories. This award is intended to provide research training to 3 students during a 10-week summer program. Investigators may propose using funds to train 1-2 students during the academic year provided that the training plan is similarly intensive. Both the mentor and summer students must participate in RI-INBRE SURF Program activities and present their research findings as a poster at the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium. Academic year trainees should present their work at the next Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium or at a comparable conference. Progressive advancement toward conference abstracts and peer-reviewed articles is expected. Applicants may request up to \$35,000 per year in direct costs for one year. This includes support for three students and up to \$10,000 in summer salary for the investigator.

Eligibility

Applicants must be tenure-track professors of any rank at a Rhode Island PUI at the time of application. Applicants cannot receive simultaneous funding from another NIGMS IDeA program, e.g. COBRE or Advance-CTR. **Note:** we regrettably cannot accept human subjects proposals that require IRB approval this funding cycle. We are actively working to build IDeA capacity to support these proposals in future funding cycles.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

Please assemble your proposal in the following order. Number each page consecutively and save your document as a single .pdf document with the signed Face Page as the front page. Upload the file at <https://tinyurl.com/RI-INBRE-Full-2027-28> by 11:59pm **Wednesday December 2, 2026**.

Up-to-date NIH form pages from NIH application form PHS 398 can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>. Fill out the forms in their entirety and according to the NIH application for 398 instructions. At the top of each form please enter **Cho, Bongsup P.** in the space for the Program Director/Principal Investigator. The descriptive title of your project is limited to **81 characters** (including spaces between words and punctuation).

Form Page 1: Face Page. The completed Face Page with signature is required. Only an institutional official with formal designated or delegated authority to sign on behalf of the organization may sign the form. The signature must be dated. In signing the application Face Page, the Authorized Organization Representative of the applicant organization certifies that the applicant organization will comply with all applicable policies, assurances and/or certifications referenced in the application. The Face Page should be the front page of the PDF you submit.

Form Page 2: Project Summary, Relevance, Project/Performance Sites, Senior/Key Personnel, Other Significant Contributors, and Human Embryonic Stem Cells. Do not exceed the space provided. The

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Summary is meant to be a succinct description of the proposed research. State the application's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims, referring to the health relatedness of the project. Describe concisely the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. This section should be informative to other persons working in the same or related fields and insofar as possible understandable to a scientifically or technically literate reader. Avoid describing past accomplishments and the use of the first person.

The **Relevance** section is meant to describe the broad relevance of this research to public health. In this section, be succinct (using no more than two or three sentences) and use plain language that can be understood by a general, lay audience.

The **Project/Performance Sites** must include the information pertinent to the subproject investigator's home institution. Additional Project/Performance Site Location must include the information pertaining to any additional performance sites. Complete a Resources Page for each performance site listed. If more than two performance sites will be used, list additional sites on the PHS 398 Project/Performance Site Format Page.

Senior Key Personnel should include the subproject investigator for the project. Anyone listed in Senior Key Personnel must include a biosketch in the application. **Other Significant Contributors** could include significant collaborators but should generally be left blank. If you do have a significant collaborator listed here, consult the RI-INBRE office regarding the necessity of a letter of support and biosketch.

Form Page 4: Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period. Use the detailed budget form and provide a breakdown of the direct costs of various categories for the period **5/1/27 to 4/30/28**. The total direct cost of the budget may not exceed **\$35,000**. Please note that student participant compensation should be calculated at \$17.00 per hour for up to 40 hours of work per week as per your institution's student hiring rules. The budget will be reviewed for appropriateness by reviewers and the RI-INBRE program administration (see Budget Justification below). Appropriate indirect cost reimbursement will be provided to the applicant's institution at the negotiated rate for federal grants.

Budget Justification (use PHS 398 Continuation Format Page). Provide a brief justification for all line items requested in your budget. making sure that the amount requested reflects the actual costs.

Biographical Sketch for the investigator. This should be prepared using SciENCv (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>). Please include your eRA Commons ID, and make sure that the personal statement in the biosketch describes why your experience and qualifications make you particularly well suited for a STAR award from the RI-INBRE Program.

STAR Proposal (use the 2027-28 PUI STAR proposal form). Applicants should use 11pt Arial font and should not modify the RI-INBRE logo or the margins of the form. References (not required) do not count toward the word limit. A font size of 9pt may be used for figure legends. A detailed description of your proposed project is not necessary, but you should provide enough detail that reviewers can evaluate the importance of your question and how your approach will address the question. In your application, please describe the following:

- **Proposal Overview:** Briefly describe the rationale for the project, the specific aims of the proposed research, and the approach to be used. Briefly describe how this project is appropriate for undergraduate student trainees and highlight the impact (likelihood the project will exert a sustained, powerful influence on the research field) of this study and how funding would develop the biomedical research infrastructure at your institution and in Rhode Island.
- **Student Training Plan:** Describe the goals of student participation in the research project, the anticipated outcomes of student training, plans for presentation of results at scientific meetings with students as coauthors, and potential for publication of student-generated data in peer-reviewed journals. Describe your student mentoring plan. Investigators are required to train three students during the STAR program.

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Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals (if applicable):

To receive a 2027-28 RI-INBRE award, IACUC approvals must be completed by May 1, 2027. Investigators who do not already have relevant approvals are strongly encouraged to initiate the approval process immediately. Plan accordingly and be cognizant of the meeting schedules for the IACUC committee at your institution. Non-compliant applications cannot be submitted to the NIH.

Contact Information:

- Eligibility, Proposal Preparation & Submission, and Questions: Brett Pellock (bpellock@providence.edu)