

QSI RENU Catalyst Translational Research Awards: *Application Instructions*

Thank you for your interest in the Catalyst Translational Research Awards from the Querrey Simpson Institute for Regenerative Engineering at Northwestern University (QSI RENU). This program supports interdisciplinary projects that advance regenerative engineering approaches with strong potential for clinical translation and patient impact.

Before You Begin

Applicants should carefully review the full Request for Applications (RFA) prior to starting the application. The RFA includes key details on eligibility, evaluation criteria, and program expectations.

The application requires multiple document uploads. Please prepare all materials in advance to ensure a smooth submission process.

Eligibility Summary

Applicants must be full-time Northwestern University faculty affiliated with QSI RENU. Each proposal must include at least two co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs), representing both engineering and clinical/medical disciplines. Projects should align with QSI RENU research priorities and demonstrate strong translational and clinical relevance. Musculoskeletal-focused proposals are encouraged for this funding cycle.

Formatting Requirements

All uploaded documents must follow these formatting standards:

- **Font:** Arial or Times New Roman, 11-12 pt
- **Margins:** 1-inch on all sides
- **Line spacing:** Single-spaced (with a space between paragraphs recommended for readability)
- **File format:** PDF only.

Application Components

Project Overview (entered directly in the application form)

Applicants will provide a project title and an abstract of 200-300 words. The abstract should clearly describe the problem, proposed approach, and expected impact, with emphasis on translational relevance.

Collaboration Statement (2 pages maximum, PDF upload)

This statement should describe the current or proposed collaboration and its alignment with QSI RENU research areas. Applicants should explain the significance of the partnership and clearly articulate how team members' expertise is complementary and synergistic.

The statement should demonstrate both strong engineering capabilities and clinical relevance. Prior collaborative experience, such as co-mentorship of trainees or joint research efforts, may be included if applicable. Preliminary data from the co-PIs' laboratories is encouraged when available to support feasibility and rationale.

Research Proposal (3 pages maximum, PDF upload)

The Research Proposal must include:

Pages 1-2: Research Plan

- Problem statement
- Two specific aims
- Research strategy and approach
- Expected outcomes
- Milestones at 6, 12, and 18 months
- Potential pitfalls and alternative strategies

Page 3: Translation and Future Funding Plan

- Path to clinical or real-world application
- Commercialization or translation strategy
- Potential future funding sources (federal, industry, etc.)
- Regulatory and intellectual property considerations, if applicable

Important: Preliminary data is not required in the Research Proposal.

Budget and Budget Justification (3 pages maximum, PDF upload)

Applicants must provide a detailed budget and justification aligned with RFA guidelines. The budget should include personnel (with roles and effort), supplies and consumables, core facility or service costs, and any requested equipment.

Budgets may not include PI salary.

Each cost must be clearly justified in relation to project aims, demonstrating that all requested expenses are reasonable and necessary for successful project execution.

Submission Guidelines

All materials must be submitted as single PDF files per section. Page limits and formatting requirements are strictly enforced. Incomplete applications or submissions that do not follow guidelines may not be reviewed.

Deadline

Applications must be submitted by **October 15, 2026 [11:59 p.m. CT]**

Contact Information

For questions regarding the application or program, please contact:
Josefina.serrato@northwestern.edu