

QSI RENU Catalyst Translational Research Awards

Request for Applications (RFA)

The Querrey Simpson Institute for Regenerative Engineering at Northwestern University (QSI RENU) is pleased to announce the next funding cycle of the Catalyst Translational Research Awards. This program is designed to foster innovation, support new interdisciplinary collaborations, and accelerate translational research with the potential to significantly impact patient care.

Program Overview:

The Catalyst Awards support projects that aim to restore, augment, or preserve tissue or organ function through regenerative engineering approaches. Proposals should demonstrate clear potential for translational impact. While all projects aligned with [QSI RENU's research areas](#) are encouraged, musculoskeletal-focused proposals will receive priority consideration in this cycle.

Eligibility

Applicants must be full-time Northwestern University faculty affiliated with QSI RENU. Each proposal must include at least two co-Principal Investigators (co-PIs):

- One representing engineering
- One representing clinical or medical disciplines

**Current awardees may apply only if the proposals represent new or significantly distinct projects

Funding & Project Period

- **Award amount:** \$75,000
- **Project duration:** 18 months

Allowable Costs

Funds may be used for:

- Personnel (e.g., trainees, research staff)
- Consumable research supplies
- Core facility and service fees

Funds may not be used for:

- PI Salaries
- Capital Equipment unless approved by RENU administration

Application Components

A complete application is expected to include:

- **Project Overview**
 - Title & Abstract (200-300 words)
- **Collaboration Statement** (two-page max, 1 file)
- **Research proposal** (three-page max, 1 file)

- **Budget and budget justification** (three-page max, 1 file)

Review Process & Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will undergo a multistage evaluation by expert reviewers, including faculty peers and external industry leaders with expertise in biomedical and healthcare innovation. Applications will be assessed on:

- Scientific innovation and overall merit
- Translational potential and anticipated clinical impact
- Strength, expertise, and synergy of the team
- Feasibility within the proposed timeline and budget

Awardee Expectations

Funded teams will be required to:

- Present progress updates at 6 and 12 months
- Submit a final report at the conclusion of the project
- Participate in program events and meetings
- Acknowledge QSI RENU Catalyst Award support in all publications and presentations

Timeline

Proposal Development Period: *Now open*

Submission Deadline: *October 15, 2026 (11:59 p.m. CT)*

Review Period: *October–December 2026*

Project Start Date: *January 2027*

Program Goals

This program aims to:

- Catalyze new interdisciplinary collaborations
- Advance translational research with high clinical impact
- Position teams for subsequent external funding and partnerships

We strongly encourage faculty to begin forming teams and developing ideas. QSI RENU hosts events and activities to support collaboration and proposal development such as networking events and faculty retreats.

Additional Information

Full application instructions and submission details will also be available on the [QSI RENU website](#).

For further inquiries, please contact: Josefina.serrato@northwestern.edu

How to Apply

- [Detailed Application Instructions](#)
- [Apply here](#)