



PBBR

UCSF Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research

Call For Proposals

The **Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research (PBBR)** invites proposals for funding in *two award categories*:

NFR - New Frontier Research

TMC - Technologies, Methodologies & Cores

The **Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research (PBBR)** seeks to stimulate and support highly innovative basic science research at UCSF. The focus is on basic science projects of *potentially high impact* that are *creative*, *risky*, and *transformative*. We seek novel ideas for basic science projects that go beyond those that receive funding from NIH and other traditional funding mechanisms.

New Frontier Research (NFR) (see page 2 for specific details):

- \$25,000 - \$150,000 for one year
- Supports basic science research projects at levels of risk and innovation that *substantially exceed* those those supported by NIH; multiple awards annually
- Both single-PI and multiple-PI applications are welcome

Technologies, Methodologies & Cores (TMC) (see page 3 for specific details):

- \$50,000 - \$500,000 for one year *in matching funds*
- Strong emphasis on invention and development of new technologies, methodologies, and/or establishment of technology cores and acquisition of shared instruments; multiple awards annually
- Both single-PI and multiple-PI applications are welcome

We encourage investigators from all career stages to apply. We also invite multiple-PI projects that combine distinct research approaches to focus on a single problem and include PIs from different UCSF campuses.

Eligibility: Please see individual award descriptions on following pages.

Proposal deadline for both funding mechanisms (NFR, TMC):

Friday, October 24, 2025, 5:00 pm PDT

Please send inquiries to Matt Arnegard, PBBR Program Manager (matt.arnegard@ucsf.edu).

New Frontier Research (NFR)

The Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research (PBBR) awards multiple **New Frontier Research (NFR)** grants per year. The number of grants awarded depends on the boldness and innovation of the applications submitted and the amount of funds available in any year. Award amounts range from \$25,000 - \$150,000 for one year. Awards will be made to both single-PI and multiple-PI projects, ***especially those that combine distinct research approaches to focus on a single problem, and conduct their work at different UCSF campuses (e.g., Parnassus and Mission Bay, Mission Bay and Mt. Zion, etc.).***

New Frontier Research awards are intended to support UCSF faculty for development of the best science and ideas. Proposals from all career stages are invited. Very high risk, transformative research that is many years from NIH support is encouraged; novel projects or programs that require seed support may also be supported under the NFR mechanism. Applicants should explicitly address the issues of innovation, risk, and impact in their proposal.

All funds must be used for the conduct of research. Faculty and administrative salaries, student tuition/fees, travel, and food/entertainment are specifically excluded. Salaries for graduate students, postdocs, and professional technical staff are allowed. Funding will begin in January 2026.

Eligibility for NFR Awards (please read carefully):

- **UCSF Faculty** with an **Academic Senate Appointment** (**no adjunct appointments**) see (<http://senate.ucsf.edu/0-faq/index.html>).
- **Faculty member** of **BMS**, **PIBS**, and/or **QBC** Graduate Programs. *(For proposals with more than one investigator, only one investigator needs to meet this eligibility requirement).*
- HHMI Faculty **are not** eligible for NFR Awards. Gladstone and Gallo Faculty are, but must meet the above eligibility criteria and funds must be managed using a UCSF Chart of Account (COA).

Proposal deadline: Friday, October 24, 2025, by 5:00 pm PDT

Proposal Instructions: Proposals should consist of the following, in order:

1. **Cover Page:** Cover page with name of award program, deadline, title of proposal, amount of funding requested, Principal Investigator name(s), academic title(s), number of years at UCSF, department(s), phone number(s), UCSF box number(s), and email address(es). Identify the UCSF department that will manage the award, the accounting manager/contact name, UCSF box number, email address, and phone number.
2. **Biosketch:** An NIH Biosketch, including personal statement, for each PI.
3. **Current & Pending Support:** All current and pending intramural and extramural research support information for each PI, following the NIH format.
4. **Project Description:** Description (2 pages or less) of proposed research, innovative features, and potential impact. *Figures need to be included in these 2 pages; references do not.*
5. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Detailed budget and budget justification, explaining how the funds will be used (any format).

Submission: As a single PDF, please email the documents outlined above to Matt Arnegard (matt.arnegard@ucsf.edu) no later than Friday, October 24, 2025 (5:00 pm PDT).

Technologies, Methodologies & Cores (TMC)

The Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research (PBBR) offers *matching funds* to support the invention or refinement of new technologies and methodologies, establishment of technology cores, and acquisition of shared instruments that will serve a broad community. For core facility and shared instrumentation proposals, a plan must be presented whereby the facility would be financially and operationally maintained beyond the period of PBBR funding.

The number of **Technologies, Methodologies, and Cores** grants awarded depends on the quality of the applications submitted, the needs of the UCSF basic science community, and the amount of funds available in any year. Award amounts can range from \$50,000- \$500,000 *in matching funds* for one year. Awards will be made to both single-PI and multiple-PI projects, ***especially those that combine distinct research approaches to focus on a single problem and involve work at different UCSF campuses (e.g., Parnassus and Mission Bay, Mission Bay and Mt. Zion, etc.).***

All funds must be used for the conduct of research. **Faculty and administrative salaries, student tuition/fees, travel, and food/entertainment are specifically excluded.** Salaries for graduate students, postdocs, and professional technical staff are allowed. Funding will begin in Spring 2026 (please note, as outlined below, there are 2 phases of review for TMC proposals).

Eligibility* (please read carefully):

- **UCSF Faculty** with an **Academic Senate Appointment** (**no adjunct appointments**) see (<http://senate.ucsf.edu/0-faq/index.html>).
- **Faculty member** of **BMS, PIBS**, and/or **QBC** Graduate Programs. (*For proposals with more than one investigator, only one investigator needs to meet this eligibility requirement*).
- **HIMI Faculty** are eligible to apply for TMC awards. Gladstone and Gallo Faculty must meet the above eligibility criteria, and **funds must be managed using a UCSF chart string**. The UCSF Community must have easy, open access to the technology, methodology, or core.

Proposal deadline: Friday, October 24, 2025, by 5:00 pm PDT

Application Instructions: Pre-proposals* should consist of the following, in order:

1. **Cover Page:** Cover page with name of award program, deadline, title of proposal, amount of funding requested, Principal Investigator name(s), academic title(s), number of years at UCSF, department(s), phone number(s), UCSF box number(s), and email address(es). Identify the UCSF department that will manage the award, the accounting manager/contact name, UCSF box number, email address, and phone number.
2. **Biosketch:** An NIH Biosketch, including personal statement, for each PI.
3. **Current & Pending Support:** All current and pending intramural and extramural research support information for each PI, following the NIH format.
4. **Project Description:** Description (2 pages or less) of the technology, methodology, or core; its significance; innovative features; potential impact; and availability elsewhere. *Figures need to be included in these 2 pages; references do not.*
5. **Potential Space Information:** For shared instrument or core facility, list UCSF PIs (with Dept affiliations) who will use the instrument or facility; identify potential space for the facility (commitment of space is required if the pre-proposal advances).
6. **Budget and Budget Justification:** Detailed budget and budget justification, explaining how the funds will be used (any format).
7. **Matching Funds Information:** Source and amount of matching funds sought or in place. These can be departmental funds, another grant, a contract, industry funds, etc.

**Note: Investigators invited to submit full proposals will receive additional instructions.*

Submission: As a single PDF, please email the documents outlined above to Matt Arnegard (matt.arnegard@ucsf.edu) no later than Friday, October 24, 2025 (5:00 pm PDT).

Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research: New Frontier Research Award

SAMPLE

Proposal Deadline: October 24, 2025

Project Title:

Funds Requested: \$150,000

Principal Investigator:
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD
Professor
32 years at UCSF
Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Tel 415-476-8445
Fax 415-476-6129
Box 2280
yamamoto@ucsf.edu

Principal Investigator:
Janet Jones, MD
Assistant Professor
4 years at UCSF
Department of Medicine
Tel 415-514-0000
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Box 0106
Janet.Jones@ucsf.edu

Departmental Accounting Manager/Contact:
Vicky Chan
Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Box 2280
Vicky.Chan@ucsf.edu
Tel 415-514-3930
Fax 415-476-5292

Program for Breakthrough Biomedical Research: Technologies, Methodologies & Cores

Pre-Proposal Deadline: October 24, 2025

SAMPLE

Project Title:

Funds Requested: \$200,000

Principal Investigator:
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD
Professor
32 years at UCSF
Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology
Tel 415-476-8445
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