

GRANTS | Innovator Awards



Program Description

At the Rainin Foundation, we support high-risk research and challenge investigators to push boundaries to advance our goal of predicting and preventing Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The Innovator Awards program provides up to \$150,000 grants for one-year research projects. Recipients who demonstrate significant progress may receive up to two additional years of support.

Through the Innovator Awards, we invest in new and veteran IBD researchers alike and embrace novel, untested ideas. Our funding interests span the spectrum of basic, translational and clinical science. Visit our online resource to learn more about the researchers we support.

To date, we have funded the following areas through Innovator Awards:

- Bioengineering
- Diet and Nutrition
- Epithelial Cell/Molecular Biology
- Fecal Microbiota Transplant
- Immunity and Inflammation
- Microbiome
- Therapeutic Development and Delivery

Funding Criteria

- Innovation
- Scientific merit
- Investigator capability to execute project

[Print all requirements](#)

Have questions about Innovator Award eligibility, research scope or the grant process? Read our FAQs or email Health program staff.

Researchers

- Researchers from any scientific discipline worldwide are eligible for funding.
- Typically, the researchers we fund hold advanced degrees (MD, PhD or the equivalent) and academic positions at universities, medical centers or research institutions.
- Innovator Awards may only have one Principal Investigator, and funding is awarded to their home institution. However additional investigators may be included as Co-Investigators, and the lead institution can create subaward(s).
- Postdocs are not eligible to apply as a Principal Investigator.
- Current and former Rainin Foundation Innovator and Synergy research grantees are eligible.
- Researchers may submit multiple proposals as long as there are distinct aims and objectives for each proposal.

Eligible Institutions

- All nonprofit institutions must be classified as "not a private foundation" under Section 509(a)(3).
- Nonprofit institutions outside of the United States will be required to undergo the Equivalency Determination process with NGOsource before a grant can be awarded.
- For-profit institutions must demonstrate that their proposed project furthers the Foundation's charitable mission of promoting scientific and medical research.
- The Foundation may upon occasion make grants to government and public agencies, as well as to independent projects that have a qualified tax-exempt fiscal sponsor.
- Institutions can submit more than one proposal at a time for the same or different Principal Investigator.

The Foundation does not fund

- Direct assistance to individuals or individual sponsorships; sports, athletic events or league sponsorships; advertising or promotional sponsorships; deficits or retroactive funding; fraternal organizations; organizations that discriminate based on religion, race, sexual orientation or gender.

Use of Human and Animal Subjects

- Grant recipients using human or animal subjects must provide documentation of approval from the appropriate review committee within 90 days of award start date.

Application Process

All grant application materials must be submitted using the Foundation's online application system, which is only open during the grant submission window. The grant application template and questions are not available outside of our application timeframe.

Applying for an Innovator Award is a two-step process. Please refer to the Awards Calendar for this year's schedule.

1. Letter of Inquiry

- Include a brief description of your innovative idea and the approach you will take to address your research questions.
- An NIH biosketch for the principal investigator and any co-investigators is required at the time of LOI submission. [NIH template and instructions](#).

2. Full Innovator Award Proposal

- Full proposals are by invitation only and consist of an expanded description of project objectives, methodologies and milestones to test the innovative idea, project budget, and disclosure of other financial support.
- The goals outlined in the proposal should be achievable within a year. Innovator Award recipients may be eligible for up to two years of additional funding based on their progress.
- If you have any current funding for projects that may be perceived as overlapping with your Innovator Award proposal, you will be required to submit the proposal abstract(s) and specific aims with your application.
- Nonprofit institutions outside of the United States will be required to undergo the Equivalency Determination process with NGOsource before a grant can be awarded.

Have questions about the Innovator Award including eligibility, research scope or the grant process? See our [FAQS](#) or contact us.

Budget Guidelines

- Innovator Award LOI's must include a budget.
- All necessary research costs can be budgeted, including personnel, reagents, supplies and equipment. Institutions may use any format or [this template](#).
- See our [FAQs](#) for more information.

Budget Amount

- The Innovator Award is for a maximum of \$150,000 USD.
- The budget must reflect the total amount requested, up to \$150,000 USD, which may include up to 10% for indirect costs.

Principal Investigator Salary

- The maximum amount allowed for the Principal Investigator's salary is \$10,000 USD (including fringe benefits).
- If Co-Investigator(s) are listed on the proposal, the maximum salary support for all Investigators is \$15,000 total. This maximum value does not apply to other research personnel (e.g. post-doctoral fellows, research associates, students) to be funded by the award.

Indirect Costs

- The maximum indirect costs (overhead) that can be requested are 10% of total direct costs.
- Once a grant has been awarded, funds cannot be transferred from direct costs to cover indirect or overhead costs, even if the indirect cost was less than the maximum allowed.

Travel to the Innovations Symposium

- The Principal Investigator is required to attend Rainin Foundation's annual Innovations Symposium in the year of the award. Grantees may be required to present their work to the general attendees.
- The annual Innovations Symposium is a two- to three-day meeting held each year in July.
- Grantees are encouraged to invite a trainee from each funded project to attend the Symposium. Early career scientists have important contributions to offer to the field, and their careers will benefit from networking with field leaders at the Symposium.
- Transportation costs for the PI and a trainee to attend the Innovations Symposium should be included in the proposal budget.
- Eligible transportation costs include economy/coach airfare and ground transportation. The Rainin Foundation will cover the hotel expenses for grantees and trainees.
- Innovator Award funding cannot be used to cover travel to attend other scientific meetings.

Award Period

The award period starts June 1, 2021 and ends May 31, 2022.

Reporting



Progress Reports

- Mid-year output and outcome data must be submitted through Researchfish, our data reporting portal, and a mid-year financial report must be submitted directly to the Foundation using our online grants management system.
- Grantees whose projects are eligible for renewed funding will present to the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board.

Final Reports

- Final output and outcomes data must be submitted through Researchfish, and a final financial report that must be submitted directly to the Foundation using our online grants management system 60 days after the end of the Award Period, or after any authorized extension thereof.

Visit our online resource to meet our researchers, view areas of interest, make connections and learn about our future funding directions. If you have questions about the Innovator Awards program, please read our FAQs or email Health program staff.



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Innovations Symposium

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See the progress we are making in Arts, Education & Health in our **Turning Points** report.

Meet Researchers And Learn About Our Funding Directions
Explore Our IBD Research Website

ENHANCING LIFE

The Kenneth Rainin Foundation enhances quality of life by championing the arts, promoting early childhood literacy, and supporting research to cure chronic disease. [more >](#)

