

# **RUSH IMAGING RESEARCH CORE REQUEST FOR PILOT PROJECT APPLICATIONS**

Applications must be received on or before 5PM CST, Monday, January 9, 2026 via this [link](#).

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The [Rush Imaging Research Core](#) (RIRC) offers competitive funding for pilot MRI-based research projects using RIRC's 3 Tesla Siemens Prisma scanner. RIRC's MRI scanner is located in the Rubschlager building and is equipped with hardware and software providing advanced, whole-body imaging capabilities. Research projects at RIRC are supported by a dedicated MR physicist, a dedicated MR image analyst, and a full time MRI technologist. To learn more about RIRC please click [here](#).

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

The proposed principal investigator must hold a faculty appointment at Rush University Medical Center and the award must be administered through Rush. Preference will be given to new and young investigators, and to established investigators entering a new field of research. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) must be an integral component of the research, i.e. the research question cannot be answered without MRI. In general, investigators are only eligible to be funded by this mechanism once. However, investigators may apply for a second pilot project in future years providing the second project represents a new area of research. Clinical trials and clinical imaging are not allowable. Awards are not intended to serve as a source of additional funding for existing, externally-funded research programs.

## **AMOUNT AND DURATION:**

The maximum allowable funding will be \$50,000 for a one-year period. In addition, each pilot project will have access to 20 hours of MRI scanning free of charge. Projects requiring image processing and analysis can use the services of RIRC's MR image analyst for a fee (for more information please visit the RIRC [website](#)). Awards cannot be renewed but may be extended on an as needed basis. No indirect costs are allowed. Funding is available for multiple awards.

## **DEADLINE:**

Applications must be received on or before 5PM CST, Monday, January 9, 2026 via this [link](#). It is anticipated that funding decisions will be made by January 26, 2026. Funding will commence on the date the first MRI scan of the project is conducted. If a project does not conduct an MRI scan within 5 months from the date of the funding decision, the award will be rescinded.

## **APPLICATION COMPONENTS:**

There is no printed application form. All applications must be compiled into one pdf file and submitted electronically. A FACE SHEET must be included (see last page of this document). A BUDGET should be provided on the second page and should include itemized personnel expenses with level of effort specified for each person, and itemized non-personnel expenses. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION should follow on a separate page. BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES in current NIH format should be provided for all key personnel. The body of the application should follow the general format of an NIH grant application and must not exceed 6 pages

(single-spaced). The application sections are: SPECIFIC AIMS (1 page), RESEARCH STRATEGY which includes Significance, Innovation and Approach (5 pages), LITERATURE CITED (this section will not count towards the page limit).

#### CRITERIA FOR SELECTING APPLICATIONS FOR AWARD:

All applications will be reviewed and ranked for merit by a scientific panel. The application review criteria include:

1. Scientific merit of the application.
2. Perceived ability of the investigators to successfully carry out the proposed work.
3. Likelihood that the proposed pilot will lead to further, externally-funded MRI-based research.

#### RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN SUBJECTS:

Projects involving human subjects should be reviewed and approved by the Rush University Medical Center Institutional Review Board prior to the time an award is made.

#### REPORTING:

At the conclusion of the funding period, a brief scientific report summarizing results must be submitted to RIRC. The report should also include information on published or planned papers and abstracts arising wholly or in part from the award, and plans for securing additional funding. An administrative report summarizing expenditures must also be submitted. Publications including data collected under this award should acknowledge support from the Rush Imaging Research Core.

#### CONTACT:

For questions regarding RFA contact:  
Konstantinos Arfanakis, Ph.D.  
Director, Rush Imaging Research Core  
1750 W. Harrison, Suite 1000  
Chicago, Illinois 60612  
[Konstantinos\\_Arfanakis@rush.edu](mailto:Konstantinos_Arfanakis@rush.edu)

Title of the proposed project:

Principal Investigator

Name and highest degree:

Position title:

Department/division:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

Principal Investigator's Administrator

Name:

Position title:

Department/division:

Address:

Telephone number:

Email:

Total Funding Requested:

A statement of whether the proposed research overlaps in whole or in part with any ongoing efforts or any submitted proposals: