

Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust
Catalyst Awards Program

The Catalyst Research Award Program provides up to **\$350,000 in seed funding over one to two years**, to support *high-risk, high-reward translational research that addresses critical scientific and therapeutic roadblocks and can be transferred to clinical practice in the near term*. Funded programs will begin November 30, 2026.

The Program has three principal areas of focus:

- Identification of biological markers of disease activity and progression,
- Identification of targets for therapeutic interventions, and
- Development of therapeutic agents that will disrupt, arrest, or prevent the disease process.

Applications should be responsive to **one** of the three principal areas of Research Focus and have high translational potential.

At this time, Rush may nominate two candidates for the Catalyst Research Award. To apply to fill this slot:

- Register at <https://redcap.link/PhilanthropyRSVP> by 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 30.
- Submit the following documents to <https://redcap.link/PhilanthropySubmission> by 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 7.
 - o Specific Aims: Research Strategy (significance, innovation, and approach); Facilities & Other Resources. No more than 2 pages long.
 - o References no more than one page.
 - o NIH biosketch for MPIs and key personnel.
 - o [Budget](#) using the internal non-federal template.

Next steps for finalists:

- The internal review committee will select two applications to advance to the external competition by Thursday, May 21.
- The Office of Philanthropy will assist the applicant in completing their proposal submission to Dr. Ralph and Marian Falk Medical Research Trust.
- Applications are due Thursday, June 4 by 1p.m., CST through their online portal.
- For more information, including the Foundation's review criteria, project examples, and budget requirements or restrictions, [follow this link](#).

Contact [Madeline R. Beauregard](#) with questions.