

2026 Academic Funding Opportunities

Organization	Topic	Submission Deadline	Eligibility	Funding Range
CDMRP (Department of Defense)	Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program Funding Opportunities	Not yet posted. Check website for updates.	The Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) has supported research across the full range of science and medicine, with an underlying goal of enhancing the health, care, and well-being of military Service members, Veterans, retirees, and their family members.	Varies (some awards up to \$4M)
Dept. of the Army - USAMRAA	Military Medical Research and Development	Rolling, expires 09/30/2027	The USAMRDC's mission is to provide solutions to medical problems of importance to the American Service Member at home and abroad, as well as to the general public at large. Projects must support scientific study and experimentation directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art or increasing knowledge/understanding, rather than on development of a specific system or hardware solution. Research and development funded are intended and expected to benefit and inform both military and civilian medical practice and knowledge.	Varies
McKnight Brain Research Foundation and the American Federation for Aging Research	Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss	LOI due April 15	The program aims to identify emerging scientific leaders and build a cadre of outstanding research scientists across the United States to lead transformative research in the field of cognitive aging. One award will be made to support studies focusing on clinical translational research and another award toward understanding basic biological mechanisms underlying cognitive aging and age-related memory loss. Eligibility: advanced Assistant Professors and recently appointed Associate Professors (MDs and PhDs)	3-year awards of \$750,000

National Institutes of Health	Blueprint MedTech Translator	May 28 or Sept 28 -- Other deadlines up to Jan 2028	The Blueprint MedTech program is an NIH incubator that aims to support the innovators by accelerating the development of cutting-edge medical devices for diagnosing and treating disorders of the nervous system. The mission of the program is to catalyze the translation of novel technologies from early-stage development to readiness for first-in-human clinical studies.	Up to \$500,000 in direct costs per year for up to 4 years
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	Translational Efforts to Advance Gene-based Therapies for Ultra-Rare Neurological and Neuromuscular Disorders	June 9 or October 9 -- Other deadlines up to Oct 2027	The Ultra-Rare Gene-Based Therapy (URGenT) network supports Investigational New Drug (IND)-enabling studies and planning activities for First-in-Human (FIH) clinical testing of gene-based or transcript-directed therapeutics, such as oligonucleotides and viral-based gene therapies, for ultra-rare neurological or neuromuscular disorders.	Not limited but need to reflect actual needs of proposed project
Children's Tumor Foundation	Various Funding Opportunities : Young Investigator, Drug Discovery, Clinical Research, Preclinical Hub, & Contract Awards	Various deadlines depending on award	CTF established the Discovery Fund as a mechanism to support researchers and clinicians engaged in novel and fundamental NF investigations. The Discovery Fund encompasses the following award programs: Young Investigator Award (YIA), Drug Discovery Initiative (DDI), and Clinical Research Awards (CRA). Additional award mechanisms and funding opportunities include our Contract Awards and funding for our upcoming Preclinical Hub.	Between \$75,000 - \$200,000/year for 1-3 years, depending on which award
The Sontag Foundation	Distinguished Scientist Award	March 18	Applicants must have received their first independent faculty appointment between March 1, 2021 and January 1, 2026, at a tax-exempt institution within the United States or equivalent in Canada. The qualifying appointment must be on the tenure track (if offered). Applicant's career track and proposed research should demonstrate outstanding promise as contributors to science relevant to brain cancer research (basic science & related fields encouraged to apply).	\$750,000, paid over a five-year period at \$150,000/year

Critical Path Institute (C-Path)	TRxA BRIDGe Awards	Preproposal submission to portal due March 16	Breakthrough Research and Innovation in Drug Development Grants (BRIDGe) awards support academic researchers in traversing the drug development valley of death by funding and defining optimal strategies for advancing new, cutting-edge therapeutics from the lab to patients.	Stage 1: up to \$250,000 for 1 year
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)	Funding Opportunities	Varies based on award	PCORI funds patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER), issuing funding opportunity announcements several times each year. PCORI also funds projects that support CER, such as methodology studies, as well as projects that support engagement in research and dissemination and implementation of PCORI-funded research findings.	Varies
Gerber Foundation	Pediatric Major and Novice Research Grant	2027 cycle is TBD	The mission of The Gerber Foundation is to enhance the quality of life of infants and young children in nutrition, care, and development. Priority is given to projects whose primary beneficiaries are young children from birth to three years of age.	\$350,000 over 3 years (major research grant) or \$30,000 (novice research grant)
Searle Scholars Program	Competition FY2027	June 2026 - Letter of invitation and online nomination instructions sent to participating institutions	Applicants for the 2027 competition are expected to be pursuing independent research careers in biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, neuroscience, pharmacology, and related areas in chemistry, medicine, and the biological sciences. Applicants should have begun their appointment as an independent investigator at the assistant professor level on or after May 1, 2025. Participating institutions may nominate outstanding early-career scientists to apply for the program.	\$300,000 for a 3-year period

Brain Injury Association of America	Research Grants Program	LOI due July 1 Full proposals due Sept 16	The theme of BIAA's grant program and its overall goal is "Finding Cures for Chronic Brain Injury." Little is known about the nature, extent and mechanisms that allow an earlier brain injury to affect later health and functioning. Chronic brain injury must be identified and proactively managed as a lifelong condition to improve health, independent function and participation in society.	Up to \$5,000 (dissertation grant) or up to \$25,000 (seed grant, 2 types)
American Brain Foundation	Next Generation Research Grants or Cure One, Cure Many Award	September 2026 -- RFPs posted summer 2026	The American Brain Foundation's Next Generation Research Grants fund and support innovative investigations by the best and brightest early-career researchers. These grants are typically limited to investigators who are interested in an academic career in neurological research and have completed residency or a PhD no more than 5 years prior to the beginning of the award.	Varies based on grant
American Academy of Neurology	AAN Research Program Grants (various opportunities)	TBD for FY27 - likely due Sept 2026	We're committed to making a difference in the lives of researchers who are committed to making a difference in the lives of patients with brain disease. Opportunities will be available for different types of research across career levels and discovery stages.	Varies based on grant
Burroughs Wellcome Fund	Career Awards at the Scientific Interface	TBD for FY27 - LOI likely due Sept 2026	BWF's Career Awards at the Scientific Interface (CASI) provide \$560,000 over five years to bridge advanced postdoctoral training and the first three years of faculty service. These awards are open to U.S. and Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and temporary residents. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund launched the Career Awards at the Scientific Interface in 1999 to foster the early career development of researchers who are transitioning from training environments in the physical, mathematical, computational sciences and/or engineering into postdoctoral work in the biological sciences, and who are dedicated to pursuing a career in academic research.	\$560,000 over 5 years

Burroughs Wellcome Fund	Career Award for Medical Scientists	TBD for FY27 – likely due Oct 2026	<p>The Career Awards for Medical Scientists (CAMS) is a highly competitive program that provides \$700,000 awards over five years for physician-scientists, who are committed to an academic career, to bridge advanced postdoctoral/fellowship training and the early years of faculty service.</p> <p>Eligibility Note: BWF will make up to two additional awards to clinically trained psychiatrists who focus on research at the interface between neuroscience and psychiatry. These proposals must clearly demonstrate evidence of integration of neuroscience and psychiatry in project design.</p>	\$700,000
Pershing Square Philanthropies	MIND Prize	Fall 2026 (check back in summer for exact deadlines)	<p>The MIND (Maximizing Innovation in Neuroscience Discovery) Prize supports and empowers early-to-mid-career investigators to rethink conventional paradigms around NDDs. The MIND Prize catalyzes interdisciplinary approaches and facilitates collaborations across academic departments and institutions. It fuels the groundbreaking research that will accelerate our understanding of NDDs at every level. Projects may range from the invention of novel tools, techniques, and technologies for mapping and analyzing the brain to bold approaches that demonstrate extraordinary therapeutic potential. Research domains may include—but are not limited to—neurobiology, brain imaging and mapping, machine learning, drug delivery, and synthetic biology. Five to seven prizes will be awarded annually.</p>	\$250,000 / year for 3 years
Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)	Various Programs & Funding Opportunities	Varies based on award notice	<p>ARPA-H provides research funding to create new opportunities and solve important problems through ambitious, well-defined, and measurable programs. Each program is led by a Program Manager (or PM) who champions a core idea, frames a challenge, and awards projects to multidisciplinary teams of performers, whose work is then measured and evaluated to ensure that only the best solutions advance.</p>	Varies

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Notice of Funding Opportunities	Varies based on award notice	Grant announcements from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for supporting research to improve the quality, effectiveness, accessibility, and cost effectiveness of health care.	Varies
National Science Foundation (NSF)	Various Funding Opportunities	Varies based on award	The U.S. National Science Foundation offers hundreds of funding opportunities — including grants, cooperative agreements and fellowships — that support research and education across science and engineering.	Varies
NIHCM Foundation	Research Grants - health care financing, delivery, management and/or policy	Not yet posted. Check website for updates.	NIHCM Foundation supports innovative, independent, investigator-initiated research with a high potential to inform improvements to the United States health care system. Grants provide funding for projects that advance the evidence-base in areas such as health care financing, affordability, delivery, management and/or policy.	up to \$500,000
Cigna Group Foundation	Improving Youth Mental Health or Reducing Barriers to Health Equity	March 12 RFA will be announced April 2026	The Cigna Group Foundation provides grants to organizations focused on improving the health and vitality of people. Its goal is to support individuals who lack basic needs, including easy or close access to health care. Past grant funding includes creating more opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities, such as better pathways for health care careers, increasing mental health screenings and referrals for people in health care deserts, and advancing access for physical and mental health care.	between \$100,000 and \$150,000
Health Resources in Action (HRiA)	Various Funding Opportunities	Varies based on award	Health Resources in Action is a non-profit organization working to improve and reimagine public health. HRiA seeks sustainable solutions for complex problems using an anti-racist approach. HRiA offers decades of knowledge and resources to collectively realize the dream of equitable, sustainable health for all.	Varies

Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium	Various Exclusive Funding Opportunities	Have to join MTEC to access funding opportunities	MTEC is a public-private partnership that is authorized to serve by the Department of Defense to promote the development and delivery of innovative medical technologies to improve the health and safety of military personnel, veterans, and civilians. The U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (USAMRDC), and other customers, offers funding opportunities to MTEC members through solicitations called Requests for Prototype Proposals (RPPs). The RPPs offer MTEC members the opportunity to propose prototype technologies to the technology requirements in each solicitation's sub-objective area.	Varies
Midwest Pediatric Device Consortium	Direct Device Funding	Not yet open – likely due Summer 2026	Supported by the FDA Office of Orphan Product Development, the Consortia jointly provide Pediatric Device Innovation Grants to support the advancement of innovations in technology and devices specifically developed for use in the pediatric population. Funds will be granted to support milestone achievement in pediatric projects at any step along the development pathway, from ideation through commercialization.	\$10,000 to \$250,000
Cures Within Reach	Funding for Chicago Area Clinical Repurposing Trials	LOI due May 8	Supports clinical repurposing trials led by Chicago area researchers/ institutions for one of two tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track 1 Investigator Groups: any unsolved disease led by Early-Stage Investigator or underrepresented researcher. Track 2 Patient Groups: impacting health disparities, pediatrics, rare diseases and/or veterans issues (including mental health, PTSD and brain injuries). 	Up to \$125,000 + up to \$15,000 additional for approved community engagement
Cures Within Reach	Funding for Underresourced Researchers in LMICs	LOI due April 10	This RFP is seeking clinical repurposing trials to address any unsolved disease facing patients in low and lower-middle income countries . Preference is for trials that address high disease burden , whether non-communicable diseases; communicable diseases; maternal, neonatal and nutritional diseases; or injuries.	Up to \$70,000 + up to \$8,500 additional for community engagement

Cures Within Reach	Clinical Repurposing Research to Impact Veterans/Military 2026	LOI due May 29	This RFP is seeking clinical repurposing trials from US-based research institutions using already approved treatments to address unmet and high-priority medical needs of US veterans and/or active US military, such as mental health, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and brain injuries. Strongest preference is for proof of concept, pivotal, Phase I or Phase IIA clinical repurposing trials.	Up to \$75,000
Cures Within Reach	Clinical Trial Funds to Validate AI-Driven Drug Repurposing	LOI due June 26	The RFP seeks investigator-initiated, proof of concept, Phase I or Phase IIA clinical trials to validate artificial intelligence (AI)-driven repurposing opportunities in any unsolved disease from anywhere in the world, where the therapies supported by AI models are already approved. Eligible clinical repurposing trials must include AI or machine learning generated data as part of the preclinical support for the trial. The results of the overall AI workflow should clearly support the repurposing hypothesis and/or any existing preclinical data and be explainable in a clinical setting. Supporting data from any type of AI model is accepted for this RFP, including models that are developed/ owned/controlled by nonprofit/academic/government institutions or for-profit companies or open to public use or only accessible via collaboration.	Up to \$100,000
The Consortium for Technology & Innovation in Pediatrics	Catalyzing Pediatric Innovation Annual Grant	LOI due May 1	Supported through a pediatric device consortia grant from the FDA, CTIP is pleased to provide grants to support the advancement of innovations in pediatric technology and devices. Funds will be granted to develop pediatric innovation from ideation through commercialization. Funds are available to support the achievement of milestones on the path to development of pediatric innovation in devices and technology.	Up to \$50,000 for a term of six months

Please note this list is not exhaustive and is being added to throughout the year. This provides researchers with information about various known funding opportunities that may be relevant. If you come across awards that may be applicable to hydrocephalus researchers, please send them to samantha@hydroassoc.org.