

THINC translational seed awards
Request For Applications



The Therapeutic Innovation Center (THINC) at Baylor College of Medicine seeks to accelerate academic therapeutic discovery in diseases of aberrant gene control. In many disease contexts, deregulation of chromatin, transcription, and RNA processing are central in disease pathogenesis. Our mission is to find innovative solutions for diseases of aberrant gene control by advancing the science of RNA and chromatin regulation, developing new technological platforms, and discovering early stage therapeutics.

Towards this objective, THINC has established an annual translational seed award. Projects should build off of existing research at Baylor College of Medicine and support work focused on advancing a therapeutic hypothesis. Specifically, the proposal should address a key unanswered challenge or question that provides necessary proof of concept to advance towards translation. This might include, but is not limited to:

- **Validating a target and understanding mechanism of action** – what happens in a diseased cell versus normal cell when a target is perturbed? How does therapeutic index arise?
- **Identifying a disease indication** – for an existing small molecule or perturbation, what disease context is most sensitive and relevant?
- **What are the right assays for a drug discovery program?** – for a vetted target, what are the optimal assays for high-throughput screens and secondary screening cascades?

Successful THINC seed proposals should 1) clearly define the role of aberrant gene control in the proposed disease context, 2) leverage expertise in gene control ([contact us to learn more](#)), 3) nucleate interdisciplinary collaborations, and 4) have a measurable outcome that demonstrably advances the potential of the work to translate into a therapeutic discovery campaign.

Eligibility

THINC translational seed awards are available to both core and associate members of THINC. Additionally, trainees of core and associate members of THINC are encouraged to apply. Collaborative proposals are encouraged as long as both parties are currently members of THINC. Learn more about membership [here](#).

Funds available

Between 1 and 3 THINC seed awards will be granted. Award amounts are \$40,000 - \$80,000 in direct costs over the course of 12 months.

Submitting a THINC translational seed award proposal

Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential proposals with the THINC Directors or Group Leaders prior to submission. Proposal instructions and template can be found [here](#). In the initial review round, submissions will be evaluated by the THINC internal advisory board comprised of leaders in gene control and drug discovery at Baylor College of Medicine. For the final review round, academic trainees leading finalist proposals will be invited to present at a THINC therapeutic round table.

2019 Application deadlines and timeline

July 10, 2019 – RFA released

September 6, 2019 – Deadline for initial submissions

October 2019 – Finalist presentations

November 2019 – Awards announced