



TTS Research Grants Program

TTS Research Grants Detailed Information

General Information

1. The three seeding grants, **at \$25,000 each**, will provide support to clinical, basic and translational scientists working within the field of transplantation. Research must commence on **September 1, 2026** and conclude on **October 31, 2028**.
2. Up to \$25k per year for up to 2 years with requirement for annual reporting. The extra 2 months is intended to provide buffer for start-up, i.e. 14 months first period and 12 months second period.
3. The research start date cannot be deferred for any reason; however, extension of the end date may be considered with a clear justification of the need to extend the end date and review acceptance by grants and awards committee.
4. Applicants must submit a letter of Intent by **March 20, 2026**. Only eligible applicants will then be invited to submit the full proposal by **May 1, 2026** to be reviewed by the Awards and Grants Committee.
5. The recipient will sign a letter of agreement with TTS. Payments will be issued to the recipient's institution by TTS, and the recipient will report to the TTS Research Grant Committee.
6. The recipient will sign a letter of agreement with TTS. Payments will be issued to the recipient's institution by TTS, and the recipient will report to the TTS Research Grant Committee.
7. The top applicants from LMIC who do not meet the funding thresholds may be eligible for a Bridge Grant (\$5,000).

Visit the Bridge Grant Page at www.tts.org/tts-bridge-grant

Research Focus

The 2026 TTS Research Grant will fund research that encompasses a wide range of methodologic studies not limited to epidemiologic, clinical, translational, ethics, policy and basic science studies that must demonstrate a clear relevance to the wider transplant community. TTS prioritizes studies that aim to **improving global access to transplantation and outcomes of transplant recipients and living donors**.



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Eligibility Criteria

1. The Applicant

- a. The applicant (MD, PhD, PharmD, or equivalent degree) must be within the first five years of research in transplantation since starting their post-doctoral training by the grant application deadline (**May 1, 2026**). Applicants who have worked in other fields or taken a leave of absence are eligible beyond this five-year period for a corresponding extended period.
- b. Applicants may not hold an independent faculty-level position or a salaried senior staff position (or equivalent). However, early-career researchers (within 5 years of their first academic appointment) from LMIC (as per the World Bank 2024) will be considered for this grant cycle. A letter clearly outlining their eligibility will be required.
- c. The applicant's research must commence prior to or on the start of the grant term (**September 1, 2026**).
- d. The successful applicants are expected to submit an abstract to the TTS Congress that follows their end of their research grant term.
- e. Only one TTS Research Grant will be reviewed per applicant.

2. Applicant's Sponsor and Institutional Support

- a. The applicant must have a sponsor/mentor that is a faculty member at the same institution
- b. Applicants who have a substantial relationship with anyone on the TTS Research Grants Committee that would present a real or perceived conflict of interest if awarded this grant should review this concern with the committee to declare the conflict before applying.
- c. A faculty member can serve as a mentor on a maximum of two applications/grant cycle. Only one TTS Research Grant will be awarded per applicant and per mentor. If more than one grant from a given faculty member is submitted and deemed competitive, TTS will make the final determination of which grant to fund.



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- d. If the applicant's sponsor departs or is planning to depart the institution prior to the commencement of the grant (**September 1, 2026**), the following applies:
 - i. If the departure occurs after the submission deadline, the applicant will not be eligible for funding and their grant withdrawn, as an evaluation of the sponsor is part of the scoring procedure.
 - ii. If the departure occurs after a grant has been awarded and the grant has commenced, funding will be suspended. Reinstatement of the grant will be at the discretion of the TTS Research Grants Committee, contingent upon satisfactory replacement of the sponsor and other factors. Awardee will be responsible for notifying TTS of these circumstances as soon as they are aware.
 - iii. To avoid conflicts of interest, the Chair and Co-Chair of the Awards and Grants Committee are not eligible to serve as primary mentors during their term.
- e. TTS membership: The applicant's sponsor must be an active member of TTS or have submitted a completed membership application deadline. We encourage the applicant to also become a TTS member to take advantage of several resources on grant writing.

3. Previous Funding/Funding from Other Sources

- a. The applicant may be a past recipient of other TTS foundation fellowship research grants but the proposed research must be different.
- b. The applicant may currently hold career development awards, or mentored scientist award but the overlap and the need for more funds will need to be appropriately justified.
- c. The applicant must not hold a concurrent TTS research grants.

4. Miscellaneous

- a. Citizenship: There is no restriction on citizenship.
- b. Laboratory: there is no restriction on laboratory location/country.
- c. A progress note and plan will be required to be submitted in order to receive a second year of funding.



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- d. The research project must be conducted with appropriate ethical oversight and must abide by the Declaration of Istanbul. Any manuscripts or research output that derive from work funded by this grant must acknowledge the support received with a statement such as, "This work was supported by a research grant from The Transplantation Society. The funding organization had no role in the design, data collection, data analysis, or reporting of this study." Applicants are encouraged to submit their work to *Transplantation* for an expedited review with a waiver of page charges being considered on a case-by-case basis.

Specific Application Requirements

Applications that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned without review.

Please note, only applicants whose notice of intent is accepted by our peer-review committee will be eligible to submit a full grant application. Applicants must submit a letter of Intent by March 20, 2026.

1. Name, title, and institution of applicant investigator, sponsor/mentor, and/or key collaborator(s)
2. Abstract of the proposed research plan: This document should concisely summarize the project in 350 words or less. The abstract should introduce the project and note its relevance to transplantation. It should describe the long-term objectives and specific aims, research design, and methods for achieving these goals.
3. Applicant's biosketch (maximum-5 pages, 12 font, Times News Roman, single space, 2x2 cm margin) to include all usual and pertinent information, particularly describing other past and current research funding and prior published work. The use of the [NIH Biosketch](#) format is recommended.
4. The biosketch of the sponsor/mentor (maximum-5 pages, 12 font, Times News Roman, single space, 2x2 cm margin) highlighting their research program, contributions and experience with supporting trainees in the past. The use of the NIH Biosketch format is recommended.



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5. Complete proposed research plan: This document is limited to five pages (12-font, Times News Roman, single space, 2x2 cm margin); the page limit does not include references. The following sections must be included:
 - a. Aims: include the key questions posed or hypotheses to be tested
 - b. Introduction: provide the rationale for the research
 - c. Preliminary Results (if any): show preliminary results supporting the research plan
 - d. Research Plan: explain how the questions or hypothesis will be studied, with emphasis on experimental design over the details of the specific methods to be used. Anticipated results and potential pitfalls and alternative approaches should be briefly discussed. Specific research (and, if applicable, training) goals to be reached at the end of the grant should also be provided.
 - e. Significance, feasibility and outcomes of the research.
 - f. Detailed budget
 - g. The research plan should include a description of relevant facilities/capabilities
 - h. If the grant is a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful application, a one page response to reviewers addressing the prior comments along with the 2-3 pages showing the comments and grant committee discussion are allowed.
6. Mentor narrative: should not exceed three pages and should include:
 - a. A concise description of the overall research plan.
 - b. A description of the training program in addition to research project itself.
 - c. A compilation of pertinent facilities and resources that are available to the applicant.
 - d. A description of the mentor's background in supervising the research and training of students and postdoctoral fellows.
 - e. The role of the applicant in the project.
 - f. The mentor's evaluation of the applicant's experience and performance, future potential, and the degree of previous interaction with the applicant.
 - g. An explanation of any mitigating or additional factors that need to be considered in terms of eligibility (e.g. account of extra years or a change in research field).
 - h. A guarantee of minimum protected time of 50%.



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7. Budget: The grant is intended to provide salary support for the researcher, support to travel to the TTS congress in 2028, and/or supplies/materials directly related to conducting the proposed research. No other costs are permitted, including institutional overhead, salary support or payments to mentor or other supervisors, or travel.
8. If you are re-submitting your grant, we recommend you submit a response to reviewer's comments from your previous years submissions (Max 1 Page)
9. Policy on use of Artificial Intelligence: We will follow the policies outlined by the NIH on the appropriate usage of AI. We will not consider applications that are either substantially developed by AI, or contain sections substantially developed by AI, to be original ideas of applicants. Applicants may use AI tools for limited editorial purposes, such as improving grammar, syntax, or formatting only.
10. Applicants must submit a letter of Intent by March 20, 2026. **Only those deemed eligible can submit a full proposal.** All application materials should be sent to Jennifer.Groverman@tts.org by **May 1, 2026 in one pdf file.** File name should include applicant's full name.



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Review Process and Notification

Applications that do not conform to these guidelines will be returned without review.

1. Letters of Intent are due by **March 20, 2026**.
2. Proposals are due by **May 1, 2026**. Only eligible applicants can submit a full proposal. Applications of those deemed ineligible or those who did not submit a letter of intent by the deadline will not be reviewed.
3. Funding decisions will be made by an expert review committee from TTS. Submissions will be scored based on novelty, research approach, feasibility of obtaining relevant data, prior work, and the qualifications of the mentor, including prior productivity and mentoring experience.
4. All applicants will be notified of their application status by July 2026. The decision will be considered final but applicants will be provided with feedback from 3 reviewers and are encouraged to address them and re-submit the grant next year with a one-page document addressing reviewers comments.
5. For the selected individuals, the term of the grant will begin September 1, 2026. (four months post submission).