



FAQs

2024 Translational Bridge Award

\$450,000 over 2 years

Applicant Eligibility

Q: Are current LRA awardees (with newer awards) eligible to apply?

A: Yes, as long as this project is distinct from your current LRA-funded project.

Project Eligibility

Q: Are early drug discovery screening projects eligible?

A: Yes, however, projects that are further along in the therapeutic/diagnostic development pathway will be more competitive (but only in that regard).

Q: Are only projects based on discoveries made through LRA funded projects eligible?

A: In principle, the TBA project proposal should be based on your past LRA-funded discovery. However, a different direction can be taken in the new proposal. If the new proposal is somewhat different than the original project, you should describe how the discoveries made in your original project led to the new project being proposed.

Q: Are alternate experimental approaches allowed to reach the milestones?

A: At the LOI stage, only key experiments should be indicated to reach each milestone. Should the application proceed to full application, the full experimental design will be described, including alternative approaches.

Q: Are only projects that utilize or lead to new IP eligible?

A: No. Projects are eligible as long as the proposal describes non-scientific objectives that will move the discovery along the development path or directly impact patients (such as projects that aim to change clinical practice).

Allowable expenses

Q: Can the LRA recommend a CRO that offers special rates?

A: Currently, the LRA is not working with a specific CRO for preclinical research. However, we are open to engaging with a CRO on behalf of grantees or working with our advisors on recommending a CRO suitable for the awarded project.

Q: Which aspects of an IND filing be covered? Are administrative or consulting costs covered?

A: Most well-justified IND-enabling activities are allowable expenses, including consulting fees. Should the application proceed to full application, a detailed budget will be submitted, and these costs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Award details

Q: Are you planning to offer this award next year? Will the eligibility criteria change?

A: The LRA makes portfolio decisions once a year and cannot guarantee that this award will be available in the future. However, at this point in time, the LRA is planning to offer this award next year. We do not anticipate that the eligibility criteria will change much, but we may broaden applicant eligibility.

Q: How many awards will be funded in 2024? What is the funding level?

A: We anticipate that two awards will be funded this year. However, as always, the number of awarded grants and their funding level will be determined by the number of fundable proposals received.

IP and for-profit involvement

Q: Is cost sharing with for-profit organizations allowed? What are the limitations on for-profit involvement?

A: Partnerships and cost sharing with for-profit organizations are allowed and encouraged. Key aspects of the nature of the collaboration should be detailed in the LOI, including assurance that project funds will be used solely to advance the awarded lupus-related project. Should the application proceed to full application, for-profit involvement will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Further, data and results obtained from the funded projects are subject to our information sharing [policies](#). LRA staff will work with the awardees of this funding mechanism to enable this key LRA principle while ensuring commercialization potential.

Q: What is the LRA's Patent and Intellectual Property Policy? Would it be prohibitive to future for-profit collaborations and partnerships?

A: Two main relevant aspects of our [policy](#) are:

- Net-proceeds sharing as a portion of initial investment (in this case, of \$450,000). The portion is negotiated with the institution.
- LRA has the first right to file a patent around any invention or technology that has emerged from the funded project, for which the institution has decided not to file a patent for (or abandoned a previously filed patent)

Please contact the LRA staff for further details on our policies and terms and conditions. We believe that these policies are limited and are not prohibitive to forming partnerships and collaborations with for-profit organizations.

Q: Can the PI have a stake in a for-profit entity involved in the project? Would this be considered a conflict of interest?

A: As stated above, we encourage for-profit involvement and cost-sharing to advance the project along the development path. If the PI has a stake in a partnered for-profit organization, a detailed assurance that project funds will be used solely to advance the awarded lupus-related project, and no other projects within the for-profit organization, is required.