

JOHNS HOPKINS MALONE CENTER *FOR* ENGINEERING IN HEALTHCARE

SEED GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR THE FIRST ROUND OF FUNDING FOR 2025

OVERVIEW

The [Malone Center for Engineering in Healthcare](#) is pleased to announce a 2025 call for proposals as part of its Seed funding initiative to support new research and to expand collaboration among Center affiliates and across JHU.

This year, we are excited to announce jointly funded Seed projects to strategically grow our collaborative relationships in areas of opportunity. For our first round of Seed funding, we are partnering with the **School of Nursing for three awards** and the **Department of Surgery for one award**. For these awards, **applications must include at least one PI affiliate from Malone and one PI from the partner organization (Nursing or Surgery)**.

In addition, up to **two independent Malone Center awards** are available, focused on expanding our contributions to research in precision medicine.

PURPOSE

The Malone Center Seed Grant Program funds collaborative proposals that advance its mission to catalyze and accelerate the development of research-based innovations that advance the effectiveness and efficiency of health care. We encourage proposals that will create resources such as data, instrumentation, and methodologies within the Center for the use of all our affiliates. We also welcome proposals that position the principal investigator (PI) for follow-on funding from external agencies, foundations, and/or industry.

ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility criteria include:

- Any Malone Center affiliate may submit proposals to this program. Collaborative proposals across divisions are preferred for all awards, and required for specific partner programs detailed below.
- Non-Malone Center researchers with ideas that meet program objectives should submit proposals with collaborators from the [Malone Center Faculty](#).
- An individual can be PI on no more than two proposals submitted, and no more than one will be awarded to each PI in a given cycle. There is no limitation to participate as co-I, Senior Personnel, or Consultant.
- Application types allowed:
 - New
 - Revision - a previous proposal that did not receive funding may be revised

AWARD INFORMATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

MCEH and Johns Hopkins School of Nursing partner awards:

This joint initiative will support projects that unite nursing and engineering expertise to address complex healthcare challenges. We aim to combine deep knowledge of patient care, health systems, and human behavior, with cutting-edge tools, data science expertise, and design thinking. We invite researchers from both disciplines to apply and shape the future of health together.

- Number of 2025 awards: up to 3
- Award amount: up to \$50,000 for total project duration, jointly funded by MCEH and School of Nursing
- Award project period: Total project period may not exceed two years
- Extra eligibility criteria: Project team must include a researcher from the School of Nursing and a Malone affiliate

MCEH and Department of Surgery partner awards:

The Malone Center and Surgery have a long history of high-impact collaboration in areas including surgical robotics, surgical training, and perioperative care. We seek to build on this success, growing our collaboration in new and innovative research directions.

- Number of 2025 awards: 1
- Award amount: up to \$50,000 for total project duration, jointly funded by MCEH and Surgery
- Award project period: Total project period may not exceed two years
- Extra eligibility criteria: Project team must include a researcher from the Department of Surgery and a Malone affiliate

MCEH awards in precision medicine:

Precision medicine holds the promise of improving healthcare effectiveness and efficiency by tailoring treatments and interventions to individual patient characteristics, such as medical history, real-time data, genetics, environment, and lifestyle. We are seeking projects that improve healthcare including diagnosis, risk prediction, and treatment through precision medicine.

- Number of 2025 awards: up to 2
- Award amount: up to \$50,000 for total project duration
- Award project period: Total project period may not exceed two years
- Extra eligibility criteria: Project team must include a Malone affiliate

Final note: for all award types, the estimated budget, number of awards, and average award size are subject to the availability of funds.

TIMELINE

The Malone Center Seed Grant Committee along with reviewers from partner organizations will review and make award decisions as follows:

- All **proposals received before or on June 6, 2025** will be reviewed and considered for funding by June 27, 2025. The start date for awards will be June 30, 2025.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Relevance to MCEH's mission and to the specific award category**
- **Scientific and technical merit** of the proposal, including feasibility of research plan, significance of the anticipated results, and likelihood for successful completion within project period
- **Collaborations** - potential for new, dynamic collaborations or strengthening existing collaborations, particularly across divisions
- **Extramural funding** - potential for at least one external grant submission through the Malone Center after the period of the seed grant
- **Translational impact** - likelihood of translational impact through clinical application, entrepreneurship, education or policy, particularly advancing the effectiveness and efficiency of health care within JHM
- **Supporting new research initiatives** - preference faculty who have not received Malone seed funding in the last two years, and projects starting new research trajectories and collaborations

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Seed Grant applications must be submitted via email to malonecenter@jhu.edu. Proposals should be formatted as a single PDF file in Times New Roman 10-point or larger font, single line spacing, and one-inch margins.

Required sections include:

- **Cover Page** (1 page limit)
 - Descriptive title of the proposed project
 - Award program - Nursing, Surgery, or MCEH
 - Principal investigators' names, institutional and departmental affiliations, email addresses, and phone numbers
 - List of project participants
 - One paragraph summary of the project
- **Project Description** (3 page limit including figures, tables, etc.)
 - Research/work strategy
 - Project timeline
 - Expected new or deeper collaborations with/among Malone Center affiliates
 - Anticipated impact of the project
 - Any project outcomes/tools/data which could be used in the Center, etc.
 - Potential submissions to federal agencies, foundations, or industry that the proposed work could lead to. Include relevant funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) and their links if available.
- **CVs for PIs and co-Is** NSF and NIH format biosketches accepted
- **Budget** (1 page limit)
 - Cost Sharing: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is welcomed

- Budget Preparation Instructions: Your budget and budget justification should be limited to 1-page each

Allowable Expenses:

- Salaries and wages
- Fringe
- Tuition
- Student health coverage (including vision and dental)
- Domestic travel for collaborative meetings only. Project maximum amount for travel is \$1,000 per year. Appropriate documentation must be submitted for all travel reimbursement requests.
- Research supplies
- Human subject research costs (cash, checks, gift cards, etc.)

Unallowable Expenses:

- Equipment (nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one year or an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit)
- Foreign travel
- Unrelated conference registrations and conference-related expenses
- Participant costs (workshop/conference participation or attendance)
- Catering costs
- Indirect costs

Applicable Institutional Biohazard, Animal Care, Institutional Review Board (IRB), and Data Trust approvals must be obtained prior to funding and a copy of approved protocols must be forwarded to the Malone Center email at malonecenter@jhu.edu. Such approvals are needed before funds are released but are *not* required to submit an application.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Within 30 calendar days of the end of the grant period, funded PIs must provide a written report on the project results and expenditures, including the following:
 - **Metrics of success** (3-page limit including publications, etc.)
 - Sponsored grant proposals submitted
 - Papers published
 - Students mentored
 - Collaborations established
 - Conference presentations
 - The project team will be expected to give a research presentation at a mutually agreed upon selected Malone Center event.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Proposals that are rejected for funding may be resubmitted at the next competition cycle, but must be marked as a revised proposal with a statement of revisions.
- Requests for no-cost extensions must be submitted in writing 30 days prior to the end of the grant period to malonecenter@jhu.edu

QUESTIONS

Forward any questions related to the proposal preparation and submission and/or requests for additional information to Kelly Vermandere: kverman1@jh.edu