



WV-INBRE Team Research Interdisciplinary Project Award (TRIP, Y26)

Release Date: December 15, 2025
Letter of Intent Due: March 11, 2026
Application Due: May 29, 2026
Award Announcement: ~August 1, 2026

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Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

The Team Research Interdisciplinary Project (TRIP) Award of WV-INBRE is announcing a request for applications for WV-INBRE network investigators to conduct collaborative research on projects related to the focus of WV-INBRE, in biomedical research that have a need and can significantly benefit from inclusion of interdisciplinary expertise from another domain. This program is directed by Stan Hileman (West Virginia University; smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu). These one-year projects are intended to support interdisciplinary projects requiring collaboration between faculty from two or more diverse fields of research. One mandatory field needs to be from biomedicine, biology, chemistry, natural products research or similar other domains (mainly representing a wet lab component), and the other mandatory field needs to be from computer science, informatics, mathematics, statistics, biomedical engineering, physics or similar other domains (mainly representing a dry lab component).

Section II. Award Information

- Estimated Number of Awards in Y26/27: 5
- Participating investigators can be from the same or different PUIs or CTCs.
- Each award period will be **one year**.
- Awards are limited to the following:
 - Up to \$50,000 direct costs to investigators located at the same WV-INBRE network primarily undergraduate institution (PUI) or community and technical college (CTC).
 - Collaborative grants across institutions – up to \$60,000 direct costs to be shared between investigators at different WV-INBRE network PUIs and/or CTCs (up to \$30,000 per investigator).
- Total Funds Available: \$250,000 to \$300,000
- Proposals must be received no later than 5 PM on May 29, 2026
- Grant awardees will be notified in August/September 2026. Subawards will be made after the official Notice of Grant Award from NIGMS is received by Marshall University. Funding and timing of subaward funding of any TRIP grant is dependent upon funding of the parent award.

Section III. Eligibility and Application Requirements

The following classes of investigators are eligible to apply: (1) Tenure track and tenured faculty at WV-INBRE PUIs and CTCs, and (2) research track faculty (e.g., research assistant professors) at network PUIs and CTCs. Applications from postdoctoral fellows and students will not be accepted. Applicants must commit to 25% effort and receive appropriate release time from their institution.

Investigators may **not** receive awards from two or more IDeA programs (WV-INBRE, COBRE and WV-CTSI) in the same time period (even if the proposal aims are non-overlapping). For example, WV-INBRE funded investigators may not receive simultaneous research project support from a COBRE or IDeA-CTR grant program, nor can they receive funding from a second WV-INBRE grant. COBRE and IDeA-CTR investigators may serve and be supported as science advisors or collaborators in WV-INBRE programs as appropriate.

WV-INBRE Thematic Considerations: The current research theme for WV-INBRE is Cellular and Molecular Biology with an emphasis on biomedical diseases in humans. These one-year projects can focus on discovery of potentially new chemotherapeutic agents or mechanistic studies to understand the functioning of new agents. Studies examining mechanisms of disease by development, application or integration of informatics approaches, computational methods, mathematical models, or statistical techniques for relevant biomedical topics are strongly encouraged. Utilization of publicly available data alongside data generated from proposed experiments, as well as dissemination of generated data and findings from experiments via existing or newly developed resources for users from the broader community are advocated as applicable.

Limit on Number of Proposals: Individual investigators may only submit one application per year. There is no limit on the number of proposals a given institution may submit.

Section IV. Application Process and Submission Information

Notification of Intent to Apply: Applicants should notify Stan Hileman of their intention to apply by sending a letter of intent by email to smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu no later than March 11, 2026. In the letter of intent, please provide the title, investigator names with fields of expertise, relevance and significance of interdisciplinary work, and a brief summary (3-4 sentences) of your proposal. This information is needed to select application reviewers and is **not** a required prerequisite for submitting a full application.

Application Package

The TRIP grant application must contain the following completed sections:

- a) PHS398 face page with contact information (form page 1) including signature from business/institutional official.
- b) PHS398 form page 2 (complete all sections including project summary, relevance and performance sites)
- c) NIH Biographical Sketches of the Principal Investigator and any co-investigators or collaborators. For the bibliography section, you may provide an actual listing of your publications or provide a link to publications in SciENcv or My Bibliography.
- d) Letter of Support from your mentor if required.
- e) Detailed budget page which shows all supply and other costs (398 form page 4) for the first year of the grant and complete a Budget for the Entire Project Period (398 form page 5).
- f) Detailed budget justification. Your budget justification should be provided on a separate page or on PHS398 form page 5.
- g) Checklist page
- h) Goals and specific aims
- i) Introduction and background
- j) Approach
- k) Methods of analysis
- l) Expected outcomes and timeline of proposed research
- m) Plans for external grant applications based on the data obtained in the proposal
- n) Literature cited
- o) Vertebrate Animal Section and/or Human Subject Protection if needed

Please use the most recent version of all PHS forms including the NIH Biographical Sketch. All PHS398 forms can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/phs398/phs398.html>,

The combined narratives of sections (h) through (m) must not exceed 6 pages.

Applications that depend on animals must receive IACUC approval before an award can be made. Applications that involve the use of human subjects must include the PHS398

sections for human subject research and have IRB panel approval before an award can be made. NIGMS administratively reviews Administrative Core-recommended proposals and requires IACUC and IRB approval letters before giving their approval.

Achievement milestones. Applicants must list proposal-specific achievements (deliverables) at the end of the year as part of the application. Examples of achievements include completion of specific aims, acquisition of new methods, presentations and/or publications. At a minimum, WV-INBRE requires a presentation at a scientific meeting in each year of the grant. While the WV-INBRE summer symposium is a required venue, relevant national/international research meetings are encouraged.

Genomic analyses: Investigators who propose the use of bulk RNA-Seq, single cell, spatial transcriptomic or other genomic or multiomics data analysis should discuss experimental design and costs with the directors of the SMART and Data Science Cores.

Submission process: Please combine all components of your application into a single pdf and email the document to Stan Hileman at smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu.

Proposal Due Date: All proposals must be received by 5PM on May 29, 2026.

Section V. Allowable Costs:

TRIP grant funds may only be used for (1) salaries for the principal investigator, students and technicians up to 25% of the total directs, (2) supplies, reagents and research-relevant software, (3) services such as animal care and next generation sequencing, (4) equipment costs between \$5,000 and \$10,000 and, (5) travel costs for attending research conferences up to \$2000 if the traveler is presenting. Please note that funding is available for publication costs through the Faculty Research Development Program; investigators are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Werner Geldenhuys (werner.geldenhuys@hsc.wvu.edu) for information. Mentors are required for applications from primarily undergraduate institutions (PUI) and CTC investigators and will be paid \$2500 per year for their services from the WV-INBRE program. Mentor fees should not be included in your application budget.

The main purpose of the TRIP awards is to promote research collaborations between PUI and/or CTC investigators. The following collaborations are acceptable: (1) Principal investigator at a PUI or CTC with an additional PUI or CTC collaborator (co-investigator) at the same institution or (2) Principal investigator at a PUI or CTC with an additional PUI or CTC collaborator (co-investigator) at a different PUI or CTC. Applications must make clear which funds are for the principal investigator and which funds are for the collaborator (co-investigator); preparation of separate budget pages from the prime awardee and the collaborator is recommended. WV-INBRE will use this information to make the appropriate subawards to the principal investigator and collaborator.

Indirect costs are allowed for applicants at the undergraduate partner institutions (PUIs) and CTCs and will be incorporated into the subaward agreement. Indirect costs will be based upon the applicant's negotiated indirect cost rate effective on August 1,

2024. If the partner institute has no negotiated rate, applicants may request the NIH de minimis rate of 15% of modified total direct costs. Award of the de minimis rate is subject to the availability of funds under WV-INBRE. Inquiries regarding budget preparation and allowable costs should be made to Stan Hileman (smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu).

Institutional Matching Funds: Not required or expected.

Section VI. Application Review Process

The primary review criteria for these applications are (1) significance and relevance to biomedical research, (2) qualifications of the investigators, (3) quality of the experimental approach, (4) environment (e.g., equipment and resources) and (5) likelihood of generating publishable data and leveraging additional grant funding. Applications will initially be reviewed by a review panel consisting of 2-3 experts internal or external to the WV-INBRE program. This panel will make recommendations for funding to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core (AC). Applications from Early Stage Investigators (ESIs) will receive a 0.5 point reduction. An ESI is defined by the NIH as “a new investigator who has completed his or her terminal research degree or medical residency—whichever date is later—within the past 10 years and has not yet competed successfully for a substantial, competing NIH research grant” (e.g., NIH R series award). Applications will be scored using the standard NIH (1-9) scoring system; ESI point reductions will therefore improve the overall score. The AC will then submit the review panel recommendations to the WV-INBRE External Advisory Committee (EAC) and the NIH/NIGMS for final approval. The review process will take 8-12 weeks to complete. We expect to notify all applicants in August/September 2026.

Section VII. Award Administration Information

TRIP grant awards and amounts are dependent on the receipt of the parent grant at the requested levels. We expect to announce awards in August/September 2026. All funds must be expended no later than July 31, 2027. Applicants must follow institution regulations regarding research purchases and receipt deadlines. Questions about the application process (eligible projects, allowable costs, etc.) should be addressed to Stan Hileman. He can be contacted by phone (cell; 304-319-2254) or by email (smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu).

Section VIII. WV-INBRE Program Contacts

Trupti Joshi, PhD, WV-INBRE Principal Investigator, 304-696-4810,
joshitr@marshall.edu

Stan Hileman, PhD, WV-INBRE, Program Coordinator, 304-319-2254,
smhileman@hsc.wvu.edu

Travis Salisbury, PhD, SMART Core Director, 304-696-7314, salisburyt@marshall.edu

Jim Denvir, PhD, Data Science Core Director, 304-696-7327, denvir@marshall.edu

Piyali Dasgupta, PhD, Student Data Collection, 304-696-3612, dasgupta@marshall.edu

Scott Levick, PhD, WV-INBRE Mentoring Coordinator, 304-293-2418,
scott.levick@hsc.wvu.edu

Section IX. Notification

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and the applicant's organization. PI's whose proposals are declined for funding will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of anonymous reviewer comments will be provided upon request.

Section X. Responsibilities of TRIP grant recipients.

1. As with other WV-INBRE developmental awards, grant recipients from undergraduate partner institutions will be paired with a **mentor** to advise in experimental design, data analysis and planning of future projects. Recipients may recommend a mentor as part of their application or request a recommended mentor from the WV-INBRE Mentoring Coordinator (Scott Levick, PhD) who will advise on required interactions between the awardee and the mentor.
2. Recipients of any award with a Next Generation Sequencing component are required to consult with the SMART and Data Science Core staff on experimental design before any experimentation or sample preparation begins.
3. **All recipients of WV-INBRE funding including TRIP grants are required to provide a written report to the WV-INBRE Administrative Core to be submitted as part of the WV-INBRE annual progress report (RPPR).** As part of the progress report, recipients are expected to summarize the impact and results of their work, describe progress toward specific aims, describe the work of graduate and undergraduate students involved in the project, and list presentations, publications and grant proposals to other programs such as federal, private, or state programs.
4. Completion of the Undergraduate Student Tracking Form (available from Dr. Dasgupta) is required for all projects that involve undergraduate student participation.
5. Projects awarded in Y26 may potentially be considered for an additional year of funding through a competitive renewal application process. Progress made toward the goals of the Y26 funded project, student involvement and productivity, along with the research proposed to be conducted in a second year of funding, will all be considered as part of the scoring process.

6. Recipients may also be asked to give oral or poster presentations at the WV-INBRE Summer Symposium and/or Executive Committee/External Advisory Committee meetings.

7. The WV-INBRE program and the SMART Cores are evaluated based on their productivity which includes presentations, publications and grants. Recipients are strongly encouraged to present and publish their findings. Investigators whose proposal relies on genomic and multiomics analysis must acknowledge support from the SMART and Data Science Cores and the WV-INBRE Program (NIH grant P20GM103434) in all presentations and manuscripts.

8. The TRIP Program Director will review and evaluate the TRIP program and investigator progress towards milestones as part of the internal WV-INBRE program review and at the Executive Committee meetings.