

# Vanderbilt's Innovation Catalyst Fund: *Igniting Innovation for Success*

Ignite your innovative potential through the Vanderbilt Innovation Catalyst Fund. The Innovation Catalyst Fund provides translational research support for Vanderbilt innovations that require proof of concept to attain commercial relevance, nascent projects that have strong innovation potential, and research projects with civic and social relevance.

The program is run by the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Innovation in consultation with Division of Finance, VUMC Office of Research, and academic leadership in Vanderbilt schools and colleges, with management provided through the Center for Technology Transfer and Commercialization (CTTC).

## Key Features

Through this fund, Vanderbilt is supporting the advancement of basic research programs with commercial potential toward productization through support for a variety of translational and commercially-oriented development efforts. This program is intended to provide:

- **Expert Evaluation** – peer-reviewed assessment by a committee of Vanderbilt faculty
- **Accelerated Decision-Making** – prompt feedback and timely decision
- **Focused Translational Research** – commercial potential and social impact prioritized
- **Tranche-Based Funding** – project funds distributed based on milestone completion

CTTC will administer proposal submissions through the InfoReady portal during three application cycles per year. The Catalyst Fund Review Committee comprised of faculty peers with area expertise from both the university and medical center will review and provide feedback on all proposals to make recommendations on proposals to be funded. An oversight committee comprised of leaders from Vanderbilt's innovation resources (e.g., Brock Center, CTTC, Industry Partnerships, Wond'ry) will provide additional insights into their respective programs or services that may be integrated to help ensure project success. The Steering Committee comprised of Vanderbilt leadership, including Jennifer Pietenpol, Padma Raghavan, and Brett Sweet, will review recommendations and make final decisions. The administrative team will also coordinate with the dean's offices and other players on campus for projects that have mutual interests.

## Use of Funds

The Innovation Catalyst Fund project selection will be 'outcomes oriented' and based on clear project endpoints that achieve a commercial goal with translational research.

*Examples of uses for funds in this program include:*

- Prototype development and testing
- Proof of concept validation and data generation
- Conceptualization and design
- Software development
- Term limited consultants or skilled workers (e.g., web programmer)
- Process improvement
- New organization capability
- Program improvement
- Campaign or event

*Unallowable uses generally include:*

- Services provided by innovation players on campus (e.g., Brock Center, CTTC, Wond'ry)
- Book subventions
- Salaries
- Tuition or financial aid support for students

## Innovation Focus Areas

All full-time faculty employed by either Vanderbilt University or VUMC are eligible to apply across all disciplines from Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Bioscience & Healthcare. Part-time faculty, students, or staff are not eligible.

## Get Started Today!

Begin the journey of transforming your ideas into market-ready solutions that make an impact - ignite your innovation with Vanderbilt's Innovation Catalyst Fund. Questions about this opportunity may be directed to [CatalystFunding@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:CatalystFunding@vanderbilt.edu). Future application cycles will be open during the months of February, June, and October in calendar year 2024.

Accepting Applications  
beginning October 1, 2023



CTTC

Center for Technology Transfer  
& Commercialization