
REQUEST FOR SYNERGY Green Scholars in Translational Science K12 AWARD APPLICATIONS

RELEASE DATE: **April 2, 2026**

INFORMATIONAL MEETING: **April 16, 2026, 12:15 ET**

FULL APPLICATIONS DUE: **June 15, 2026**

ANTICIPATED AWARD START DATE: **Aug 1, 2026**

The Green Scholars in Translational Science Program at Dartmouth, named in memory of the late Alan Green, MD, former Principal Investigator for SYNERGY CTSA from 2013–2020, will provide research support, mentorship, training and career development for early career physician-scientists and translational researchers. By fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration in diverse research areas and equipping scholars with the tools to bridge discovery and clinical application, the program will support the next generation of leaders in translational science across Dartmouth.

The Green Scholars Program is supported by the NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), which defines translation as “the process of turning observations in the laboratory, clinic and community into interventions that improve the health of individuals and the public — from diagnostics and therapeutics to medical procedures and behavioral changes.” (<https://ncats.nih.gov/translation>) The program’s goal is to foster the development and success of Scholars as independent investigators leading high-impact clinical and translational science.

NCATS defines translational science as “...the field that generates innovations that **overcome longstanding challenges along the translational research pipeline.** These include scientific, operational, financial, and administrative innovations that **transform the way that research is done, making it faster, more efficient, and more impactful.**” Successful candidates must have a high chance of developing into independent investigators and translational scientists.

* The meeting will be held via video conference. For the meeting link, please see:
<https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/translational-pilot-grants>

GUIDELINES

Eligibility/ Eligible Candidates must:

- ▶ Hold a research or health-professional doctoral degree or its equivalent.
- ▶ Be a US citizen or permanent resident.
- ▶ Hold a faculty appointment at Dartmouth College at the level of Instructor or Assistant Professor.
- ▶ Be eligible for 75% protected time (at least 50% for surgeons) as per agreement with their chair, section chief, and/or service line leaders.
- ▶ Not be a former/current PD/PI on an NIH research project (R01), program project (P01), center grant, FIRST Award (R29), sub-projects of program project (P01) or center grant, or similar independent non-PHS peer reviewed grants, or an NIH career development (K) award or the equivalent.
- ▶ If you have questions about eligibility, please email: synergygreenscholars@hitchcock.org

The Application will consist of:

- **Face Page (template provided):** Name, title, department; Project title; Primary Mentor; Other mentors may be listed.
- **Candidate Statement: (~2 pages):** (a) Background; (b) Career Goals and Objectives; (c) Planned Career Development/Training Activities during Award Period and (d) Timeline for planned research, training activities, and submission of manuscripts and grant proposals.
- **Research Proposal: (3-6 pages):** a well-developed scientific initiative in clinical or translational investigation. Consultation with mentor(s) strongly advised. The proposal must include explicit discussion of how the research conforms to the translational science principles.
- **Plan for Approval for Research on Human Subjects and/or other institutional approvals as required**
- **Budget Justification**
- **Literature Cited**
- **NIH Biosketches:** Candidate and Primary Mentor biosketches required; Other mentors (optional)
- **Mentor Letters (~1 page):** Letter of support from the Primary Mentor describing mentoring experience, commitment to serve as a mentor to the applicant; letters from Other Mentors option.
- **Letter of Support from Department Chair with approval for requested protected time**
- **Grant/Grant Application History:** Other Support information including score/status of any pending grants; all previously funded grants from any source, and a listing of any prior non-funded applications (as PI) with scores.

Candidate Statement:

Describe your past scientific history, indicating how the award fits into past and future research career development. If there are consistent themes or issues that have guided previous work, these should be made clear. Alternatively, if your work has changed direction, indicate the reasons for the change. Describe your short-term and long-term career development goals. Justify the need for the award by describing how the career development award will enable you to develop and/or expand your research career. Describe the new or enhanced research skills and knowledge you will acquire as a result of the proposed award, including, as applicable, expertise in rigorous research design, experimental methods, quantitative approaches and data analysis and interpretation. Describe any structured activities that are part of the developmental plan, such as coursework or workshops that will help you learn new techniques or develop needed professional skills. Briefly discuss each of the activities, other than research, in which you expect to participate. For each such activity, other than research, explain how it relates to the proposed research and to the career development plan. Indicate the percentage of time to be dedicated to each activity by year. Describe the overall timeline of career development and research activities, including plans to apply for subsequent grant support.

Research Proposal:

Describe the background and significance of the proposed work, describing (1) the specific health or healthcare-related issue the research is intended to address, (2) why the research problem is important and what critical barrier in the field that the research will address (3) how study results will inform the health decision or disease. If applicable, provide a description of the application of the research proposed to rural health. Describe in detail the research question, aim(s), and hypotheses that the proposed study will address. NCATS defines translational science as “...the field that generates innovations that **overcome longstanding challenges along the translational research pipeline**. These include scientific, operational, financial, and administrative innovations that **transform the way that research is done, making it faster, more efficient, and more impactful.**” Describe how

completion of this project will advance the field of translational science. Specify the characteristics of the study population to be examined and the study setting(s). If a study is to be conducted in a clinical setting, state who will provide clinical collaboration to ensure feasibility (i.e., provide the specific name(s) of the clinical collaborator(s) who have agreed to participate). For basic science and preclinical translational research proposals, specify the models to be studied with rationale provided. Briefly describe the overall study design. Please note any intended use of SYNERGY resources for proposed aims. For clinical research, include information on sample size, power, and the analytic plan. If applicable, describe the evidence and assumptions underlying the study power, including the anticipated effect size(s) and attrition in the overall study population. When appropriate, identify the patients, clinicians, and other relevant community members who have may have helped or will help to determine if the proposed study will provide the necessary evidence for them to make healthcare decisions. Describe the consultation and collaborative processes you have used and/or that are planned throughout the study. Note any additional types of stakeholders you plan to engage during the study. Resources and tools for engagement can be found here:

<https://catalyst.harvard.edu/community-engagement/ce/> Please provide a summary of specific research activities to be completed and the timeline for these. No need to repeat information provided in the overall timeline included in the candidate statement above. Please describe how the proposed research will advance the applicant's research goals and career development, noting any new collaborations, intended future grant submissions, anticipated scientific deliverables, etc. All applicants are encouraged to use SYNERGY-supported research consultation cores and services. To arrange for consultations, please visit: <https://synergy.dartmouth.edu/request-services-2/>.

Plan for Approval for Research on Human Subjects and/or other institutional approvals:

Discuss the need and timeline for obtaining IRB and/or other required institutional approvals as required based on the nature of the proposed research.

Budget:

Candidate Effort: NCATS will contribute up to \$120,000 per year toward the salary of each K12 scholar. Note that the salary allowance will be commensurate with the actual number of person-months committed applicable to their current salary and program-related activities. The \$120,000 amount is exclusive of fringe benefits. In general, 9 person-months (75 percent of the K12 full-time effort) must be devoted to the K12 program, except for those in surgical specialties, which can have less than 9 person-months (75 percent), but no less than 6 person-months (50 percent), protected time for this program, if sufficiently justified and programmatically approved.

Research/Career Development Costs: Up to \$30,000 per individual Scholar for the following types of research-related expenses: (a) research expenses, such as supplies, equipment, and technical personnel; (b) tuition and fees related to required career development courses and activities; (c) travel to scientific meetings or training that the institution determines to be necessary for the individual's career development experience; and (d) statistical services including personnel and computer time. Details regarding allowable and unallowable costs for NIH-funded grants are available at:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/nihgps/html5/section_7/7.9_allowability_of_costs_activities.htm
Please do not include any indirect costs in proposal submissions.

Submission Procedures:

1. **Application:** The Application, plus biosketches, mentor letter(s), Letter of Support from Department Chair, and Grant/Grant Application History must be submitted as a single PDF to synergy@dartmouth.edu by midnight ET on June 15, 2026
2. **Review of Applications:** SYNERGY staff will acknowledge application receipt. The Green Scholars Program Review Committee will review all applications and provide feedback in the following

areas:

- (1) candidate's potential to become an independent researcher and their commitment to this path,
- (2) scientific and technical merit of the proposed research question, project design, and methodology,
- (3) appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed research project,
- (4) strength of the project's translational science focus,
- (5) mentor's ability to support the proposed training plan,
- (6) career development plan's focus on a path to independence, and
- (7) appropriateness of plans for Protection of Human Subjects, use of Vertebrate Animals, and/or Laboratory Biosafety.

3. Timeline for Review of Full Proposals: The SYNERGY team will inform applicants by July 1 if they have been selected for appointment to one of the K12 positions. Awards are projected to begin on or about **Aug 1, 2026 (start date negotiable)**.

- For questions on the Green Scholars in Translational Science Program or the application process, please contact synergygreenscholars@hitchcock.org