Science of Translation Pilot Award Quick Look

Wake Forest CTSI | 2026 Cycle | Companion to the Full RFA

Fund pilots that study ***how translation works*** — not pilots that simply *have* a translational application. Use the fit test below before you write.

Translational Research asks:	**Science of Translation asks:**
How do we move a *specific* discovery, intervention, or evidence toward improved health?	How do we understand and improve the **process** by which discoveries and evidence move toward improved health?

Does My Project Fit? A Strong Proposal Answers All Four

1. **Roadblock —** which specific translational roadblock are you addressing?
2. **SoT question —** what question about the translational *process* are you asking?
3. **Generalizable knowledge —** what will you learn about translation that applies beyond this project, disease, population, or setting?
4. **Improvement —** how can this knowledge make translation more efficient, effective, far-reaching, or equitable?

Impact alone is not enough. If you can't clearly answer Q2/Q3, the project is most likely translational research.

Fits	Does not fit
✓ New methods, tools, or technologies that speed up interventions to health	✗ A trial whose main question is whether an intervention works
✓ Early-stage therapies/tech with generalizable application to a roadblock	✗ Moving one intervention through one stage (T1→T2)
✓ Showing in a use case that a method makes a translational step more efficient	✗ Routine implementation with no novel translation question
✓ Disseminating effective tools, methods, or training paradigms	✗ Program evaluation, quality improvement, or a needs assessment
	✗ Tech development where translation is incidental

Eight Priority Roadblocks — Project Must Address at Least One

1. Clinical Trial Participant Recruitment	5. Innovative Clinical Trial Design
2. Data Interoperability & Transparency	6. Patient & Community Engagement
3. Education & Training	7. Shortening Time of Intervention Adoption
4. Electronic Health Records for Research	8. Understanding of Translation & Translational Science

Science of Translation RFA at a Glance

Award Details

Award: Up to $40K direct

Supplement: +$10K community-engagement or CAIR AI supplement

Number of awards: Up to 4

Project period: 1 year

Pilot data: Not required

Key Dates

LOI required: 10/23/2026

Invitation to apply: 11/13/2026

Full application: 12/18/2026

Project period: 07/01/2027–06/30/2028

How to Apply

Submit a 1-page LOI by 10/23/26 at 11:59 PM ET.
LOI Submission Form

Support: CTSI Pilot Consultation & Research Studio, available at no cost.

Contact: Katelyn Still at Katelyn.Still@Advocatehealth.org

Interested in learning more about the Science of Translation? The Wake Forest CTSI has launched a new self-paced module designed to help researchers better understand the process and move discoveries into practice.

For full eligibility, budget, human-subjects, review, and program requirements, see the complete Science of Translation Pilot Award RFA.