Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants

2025 Request for Applications

OVERVIEW

Goal. The Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants will support faculty conducting Learning Health Systems (LHS) projects with pilot project funding and intensive mentorship "studios" to drive innovation, implementation, and impact within the Montefiore Health System.

Objectives. The initiative will promote the adoption, adaptation, integration, scalability, and sustainability of evidence-based interventions, tools, policies, and guidelines to improve health and well-being in areas of health system priorities.

Timeline and Deadlines.
- **Letter of Intent (LOI) deadline** September 22, 2025, by 11 p.m.
- **Notification of invitation to submit a grant application**: October 3, 2025
- **Grant application deadline (for those invited)**: November 7, 2025, by 11 p.m.
- **Notification of Grant Award**: December 1, 2025
- **Start date** (funds first available): December 15, 2025

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Overview. The Montefiore Einstein Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) invites all Montefiore Einstein faculty to apply for pilot funding to support LHS projects. LHS bring together researchers, clinicians, and community members to accelerate, innovate, and implement rigorous quality improvement and implementation science projects to narrow the gap between evidence and practice. Projects should focus on 1) Implementing methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices and interventions into outpatient and inpatient healthcare settings, 2) Identifying barriers and facilitators to adoption of best practices in outpatient and inpatient settings, or 3) Conducting trials to identify more effective strategies for real-world implementation of evidence-based practices into routine clinical care. Projects that address priorities identified by health system leaders will be given preference.

Health System Research Priorities

- **Digital Health and Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Practice**: Integrate tools for diagnostics, decision support, and workflow optimization
- **Patient Experience:** Enhance patient-centeredness of care delivery
- **Workforce Initiatives and Healthy Work Environment:** Address burnout, retention, and team-based care
- **Increasing Participation in Clinical Trials:** Improve diversity, access, and integration of trials into routine care
- **Age-Friendly Health Systems**: Improve comprehensive, coordinated care for people age 65 and older

Grant Program Overview. Two proposals and Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Scholars will be selected each year. The scholars will participate in monthly "studios," which are a series of group meetings between the scholars, Learning Health System leaders, and other individuals with subject matter or operational expertise in the specific project (e.g. health informatics, specific clinical expertise). During these meetings, the scholars will receive mentorship and research design expertise, project implementation and dissemination support, support with statistical analysis. Scholars will also participate in existing monthly learning health systems working group meetings. Scholars will complete a capstone presentation on progress, outcomes, and next steps at the end of one year.

Funding. Awards are for one year, up to $10,000 direct cost. For example, funds may be used for informatics, data analysis from the ICTR cores, reimbursement of community members, or non-faculty salary support (research staff, study coordinator, etc.). Funds may not be used for faculty salary support.

Eligibility. Faculty only. One proposal may be submitted per faculty member. Any faculty member who has a current grant with overlapping aims is not eligible to apply. The Shiu Y. Kwok, MD PhD Learning Health Systems Pilot Grants program strongly encourages proposals that involve collaborations among clinicians, researchers, administrators, community members, and patients/families.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Overview: The application process consists of two main phases: 1) Letter of Intent (LOI) and 2) Grant application. Critiques from the second phase of the review will be provided to the applicants after awards are announced.

Phase 1: **Letter of Intent (LOI)**

Components (maximum 1 page, submitted as a PDF document)

1. Applicant's interest in Learning Health Systems research
2. The evidence-based practice or implementation strategy that will be addressed by the research project
3. If and how the research project aligns with health system priorities
4. The stakeholders (providers, patients, communities) that will be impacted by the research project

Phase 2: **Grant application** (after the review of LOIs, select applicants will be invited to submit the application.)

Components (maximum 2 pages, submit as one PDF document)

1. Title of Project
2. Principal Investigator (PI) Name
3. Executive Summary
    a. Project Overview: Briefly describe the project, its goals, and its significance.

b. Objectives: Outline the specific objectives of the research.
   c. Expected Outcomes: Summarize the anticipated results and their impact on the health system.
4. Background and Significance
   a. Problem Statement: Define the problem or gap in the current health system that the project aims to address.
   b. Literature Review: Provide a summary of relevant research and how your project builds on or differs from existing studies.
   c. Significance: Explain the importance of the project in the context of improving health outcomes and advancing LHS research.
5. Research Plan
   a. Specific Aim: List the specific aim of the project.
   b. Strategy: Explain what is innovative about your approach and how it differs from existing solutions.
   c. Outcomes: Discuss the potential impact of the project on patient care, care delivery, and/or the health system.
   d. Timeline: Provide a detailed timeline for the project, including key milestones and deliverables.
6. Team and Collaboration
   a. Team Members: List the key members of the team, their roles, and their qualifications.
   b. Collaborations: Describe any collaborations with other institutions, organizations, or stakeholders.
7. Budget summary
8. References

The Letter of Intent (LOI) template may be accessed and submitted here: https://kwok-grant-loi.apply.einsteinmed.edu/

CONTACT

Inquiries: For questions regarding these instructions, please contact Dr. Sharon Rikin by email at sharon.rikin@einsteinmed.edu.