



CENTER FOR MEDICAL INNOVATION (CMI)
Early-Stage Medical Technology Research and Development
Round-1 2026 PILOT FUNDING PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR PREPROPOSALS. SUBMISSIONS DUE BY 11:59 PM, March 1, 2026

The University of Pittsburgh's Center for Medical Innovation (CMI) ([Center for Medical Innovation](https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/cmi)), in collaboration with the Schools of Health Science and the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is requesting preproposals for early-stage medical technology research and development. (see www.engineering.pitt.edu/cmi)

Purpose: The CMI Funding Program supports the mission of the CMI to develop innovative new solutions to clinical challenges that result in improvements in patient care through clinical/technical partnerships. This RFP is specifically for projects that are in the early stages of development, with the goal of ultimately transitioning the work to further funding through other available sources. Examples of projects include system, materials or devices for the improved diagnosis or treatment of disease.

Process: Preproposals are submitted on a brief “**Clinical Concept Questionnaire**” which can be found [HERE](#). The Questionnaire can be submitted by a clinical faculty member with a need for a technical partner, an engineering faculty member in search of a clinical partner, or an already-defined clinician/engineer partnership. The CMI will help in identifying an effective clinician/engineer team for development of a full proposal from selected preproposals that are submitted by single investigators. The clinician/engineer Co-PIs of selected preproposals will be invited to submit a full proposal. Prior to review of full proposals by CMI, the co-PIs must have submitted an invention disclosure to the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship (<https://www.innovation.pitt.edu/>). Funding decisions will be made following review of full proposals.

Eligibility: Preproposals can be submitted by clinically-affiliated faculty members of the Schools of Health Sciences (SoHS), engineering faculty members with primary appointments in Swanson School of Engineering (SSoE), or a clinician/engineer partnership from the Schools of Health Sciences or the Swanson School of Engineering. Projects initiated by students are also eligible to apply, but either an engineering or clinical faculty member must sign on as a project advisor. The faculty member will ensure project continuity upon graduation of the student co-PI, if necessary.

Evaluation: Preproposals will be evaluated on the basis of scientific and clinical merit, potential health care impact and significance, experience of the investigators and potential for obtaining further financial investment to translate the particular solution to healthcare. Full proposals for funding will be solicited from selected preproposals and evaluated based on similar criteria.

Funding Levels: Project funding will be in the range of **\$10K to \$25K for one year**. The number of awards made will depend upon availability of funds. CMI pilot grants can be used to fund the development of concept models, simulations, functional prototypes, and research labor, but cannot be used for investigator salary support. Facilities across campus will be made available by the CMI and its partners for prototype development.

Preproposals must be submitted by 11:59 PM, March 1, 2026 via e-mail to cmi@pitt.edu with subject line “CMI early-stage preproposal submission.” *Please contact Dr. Hirschman (alh138@pitt.edu) if you do not receive an e-mail confirmation of receipt of your submission within 36 hours of submission.*

Key Deadlines:

March 1, 2026	Preproposal submission deadline
March 15, 2026	CMI evaluations completed and responses sent to investigators
April 15, 2026	Invited full-proposals submitted to CMI
May 1, 2026	CMI funding decisions made and award letters sent to investigators
May 15, 2026	Awardee project plans and budgets due
June 1, 2026	Funds authorized for release to project teams