

HEALTH RESEARCH CHALLENGE

The Health Research Challenge connects and provides resources for researchers to support innovation and collaboration among UT San Antonio campuses in strategic health-related research areas. We are seeking established and newly formed teams to pursue multi-PI grants, program projects/center proposals, and enterprise growth essential for our strategic research destination. Transdisciplinary research projects are encouraged.

Proposals are expected to foster research collaborations between faculty from different colleges and campuses; enhance the visibility of UT San Antonio's research capabilities; and increase the number of grant proposals and funded projects.

Health research is a defining strength of AAU universities and a central pillar of our UT San Antonio research strategy. By integrating AI, data science, and engineering with the existing deep biomedical research and clinical expertise, we can impact health, achieve excellence, and achieve AAU-scale convergence in a field that constitutes one quarter of all federal R&D and already accounts for roughly 63% of UT San Antonio's NSF Higher Education Research & Development (HERD) portfolio (research expenditures) in the biological and biomedical sciences.

COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Proposals must include at least one (1) UT San Antonio Academic Campus faculty and one (1) UT San Antonio Health Campus faculty (minimum 2 team members). Teams should identify one (1) contact-PI for the purposes listed below; however, both UT San Antonio Academic Campus faculty and UT Health Campus faculty will have equal PI status.
- 2) Applications may focus on growing new programs or activities that currently exist but would benefit from additional support to expand research or impact.
- 3) Each team will be responsible for organizing at least one event that highlights their research progress, promotes external visibility, and attracts both internal and external stakeholders. We will provide limited event management.
- 4) Examples of use of funds may include, but are not limited to:
 - Project management support for program projects, grand challenges or similar mechanisms.
 - Symposia and other meetings for the purposes of building research capacity and collaborations (including external partners).
 - Generating preliminary data.
 - Community engagement activities (if for the purpose of collecting preliminary data or coalition building) preparatory to extramural sponsored organized research.
 - Reverse site visits to model programs or funding agencies.
 - Targeted Proof of concept studies for commercialization.



- Travel support and/or consulting on pitch deck development with investors or distributors.
- 5) Requests for funding should credibly convey the likelihood of an application for an external grant submission, or commercial research partnership, within 18 months of the award start date.
- 6) Partnerships with community and industry partners are encouraged but not required.

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Performance Period:** February 2026 – July 31, 2027 (funding available)
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Subject to the availability of funds
- **Funding Per Award:** Varies (between \$10,000 - \$100,000); proposals will be evaluated and awarded based on the scope and significance of the proposed initiative. Be thoughtful in what is requested and please align your budget request with demonstrated need.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

December 19, 2025	Application deadline
January 2026	Funded proposals announced
July 31, 2027	Project Completion*

*The Health Research Challenge has a 12-month award period, with projects anticipated to be completed by July 31, 2027. No-cost extensions will be reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis. Requests for no-cost extensions should be emailed to VPResearch@utsa.edu before the anticipated project completion date.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Submit application through the Office for Research and Innovation’s [InfoReady site](#) by **December 19, 2025, at 5:15 PM CST**. *InfoReady applicant guide with video available [here](#).*
- Applicants will be notified via email regarding the status of application

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Funds **can** be used for the following:

- Salaries and/or wages for postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students only. Funds are not available to off-set faculty salary.
- Venue/facility costs
- Materials and supplies
- Conference marketing
- Food and beverage
- Travel & speaker fees/expenses

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Application components required at the time of submission are listed below. There are no specific formatting requirements: all information will be uploaded directly to the InfoReady platform.

Section	Description
1. The Idea (≤500 words)	What is the health challenge, why does it matter, and what’s important?
2. The Team & Approach (≤500 words)	Who’s involved and what perspectives or disciplines do they bring? What are the roles and unique contributions. Cross-campus collaboration is a must.
3. Impact & Feasibility (≤500 words)	How could this project make a difference within 1–2 years? What outputs or products will result (data, partnerships, tools, pilots)? Include a brief “risk/mitigation” paragraph.
Budget Justification	500 words
Budget Page	Attachment A
NIH Biosketch for each PI/Co-PI*	NIH Format

**For the purposes of this challenge, PI and Co-PI biosketches are required to follow the NIH format. The Office for Research and Innovation recognizes that not all faculty may be familiar with NIH requirements. Please contact the office if you have questions.*

AWARD ADMINISTRATION

The applicant is responsible for the administration and management of award funds. Awardees must be certain that over-expenditures do not occur, and that all funds are fully expended according to the program and institutional deadlines.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Applicants awarded funding through this program must submit a Final Grant Report to the Office for Research and Innovation using the InfoReady Seed Grant Reporting Form, which captures both quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

Reports will also be shared with UT San Antonio offices affiliated with philanthropy, advancement, and commercialization to support institutional engagement and strategic initiatives.



Applicants are responsible for submitting the Final Grant Report by the deadline specified in their award documentation. Failure to submit a final report will render the applicant ineligible for subsequent internal funding opportunities.

REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by an Internal Committee of UT San Antonio leadership across various offices and disciplines. The **merit of the proposal** will be the primary criterion for evaluation. Final decisions will rest with the Office of the Senior Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions regarding grant application, reporting, and documentation procedures, please contact:

Julie Sylvan

Assistant to the Sr. Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation

Email: VPResearch@utsa.edu