

## 2024 Academia Sinica Funding Opportunity Announcement

### Biotechnology Research Park Translation (BRPT) Project

The Academia Sinica Biomedical Translational Research Center (BioTReC) was established at the National Biotechnology Research Park (NBRP) with the mission to bridge the gap between fundamental research and industrial applications, and to enhance the international competitiveness of Taiwan in biotechnology. As part of the effort to achieve this goal, we are seeking innovative proposals for translational research in biomedicine that can develop valuable findings of basic science into clinical and industrial applications, leading to technology transfer within 3-5 years. Successful projects will be conducted at the NBRP and should contribute to the development of NBRP into a world-class biotech industrial research environment.

The funding period for each individual BRPT project is 3+2 years, with funding for the last two years contingent upon progress toward milestones. Researchers are required to actively seek technology transfer or other commercialization routes. Preference will be given to projects meeting the following criteria:

1. Plans and milestones for technology transfer or spinning-off a start-up company
2. Track record in technology transfer and collaboration with industry
3. Availability of matching fund for intended research project

Research topics may include, but are not limited to, cancer treatment, immunology, regenerative medicine, metabolic diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and diagnostics. To promote more focused R&D efforts in **mRNA-based therapeutics**, additional funding opportunities will be provided in the current round for projects aiming to further improve the mRNA technology platform and/or realize its translational applications. The review process for these mRNA-related proposals will be handled separately but subject to the same rigorous selection criteria applicable to all funded BRPT projects.

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## 1. Application Process

### 1.1 Eligibility

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) of an individual BRPT Project must be an Academia Sinica Research Fellow or Specialist of any rank. An investigator can only submit one new application as its PI but can additionally serve as co-PI in other concurrent applications.
2. BRPT Projects additionally allow research associate with a PhD degree (currently employed by AS), including postdoctoral fellow, to serve as PI but must be supported by current mentor, with signed Supporting Letter, delineating their respective role and ownership of the intended project. A mentor, who is a full time Academia Sinica Research Fellow, must also agree to oversee grant administration and undersign all expenditure approval.
3. PI can invite non-Academia Sinica scientists to participate in the project and serve as co-PI, if necessary.
4. Collaborators enlisted should be justified in the proposal and each is required to provide a Supporting Letter delineating their expertise and specific roles in the projects.

### 1.2 Deadlines and Important Reminder

1. Applicants should use the form provided ([Appendix 1](#)) to submit a **Letter of Intent** by **May 15, 2023** (via email at [biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw)), which includes a brief synopsis ( $\leq 250$  words in English or  $\leq 500$  words in Chinese) of the intended research, the mission-oriented problem to be addressed, and names of suggested potential reviewers. The Letter of Intent will not be used for screening nor will it be subject to review. It serves only to facilitate the administrative aspects of the grant review process.
2. Application deadline is **July 17, 2023**. Proposals should be written in English, adhering to the

guidelines and format specified within the document template provided ([Appendix 2](#)), with a Research Plan describing the following four major sections: 1) **the problem to be solved**, 2) **the innovative ideas and milestones proposed**, 3) **the potential impact of the work**, and 4) **plans to test the ideas**.

3. In preparing the proposals, applicants should keep in mind the main reviewing criteria for BRPT Projects are based on **potentials in realizing the technology transfer and commercialization milestones**. Applicants are advised to read the **Review Criteria** ([Appendix 3](#), also available online) before starting to write their proposals.
4. Any research project involving biological and/or genetically engineered materials, animal experiments or human subjects must obtain approval from the appropriate authorized AS committees. If the official approval document cannot be submitted at the time of grant application, proof of having applied for approval must be provided instead.
5. Please note that, in accordance with the regulations of Academia Sinica (Lett No. 1111401198, dated September 19, 2022), "Research staff (including research technical personnel) shall not engage in research related to the scope of a subject matter of technologies that have been exclusively licensed with the use of funds from the public sector."
6. Academia Sinica encourages researchers to learn various new tools, including advanced AI-driven applications, to enhance research quality, ensure thorough considerations of supporting background information, and improve work efficiency. However, the responsibility for the accuracy of all content, writing quality, and adherence to academic research integrity standards rests solely with the applicant.

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## 2. Funding Period and other Requirements

1. Funding period for each BRPT project is 3 years and can be extended to a maximum of 5 years if necessary and upon satisfactory performance. The project may be provisionally funded for two years to obtain key results. Application for third year funding can be made within the first 18 months by submitting a progress report for competitive review.
2. Actual funding may be adjusted on a yearly basis based on budget availability and progress. **Failure** to demonstrate satisfactory progress will result in premature termination of funding support.
3. Oral presentation and pitching, if required during the review process, will be arranged and notified in advance.
4. Grant Acceptance and Requirements prior to Project Execution
  - i) Project PI and co-PI(s) of a successful grant application must sign and undertake to abide by the terms as stipulated in the respective Project Execution Agreement, and complete the Conflict of Interest declaration process, prior to commencing the project;
  - ii) Approval from the authorized AS committees must be obtained and submitted before commencing any project involving biological and/or genetically engineered materials, animal experiments or human subjects. Should there be any change in the experimental content or subject matter during the project period, appropriate amendment or new application must be filed for approval;
  - iii) In accordance with the AS Research Ethics regulations, all personnel who directly perform any AS-funded research activity should receive at least one hour of research ethics training every three years. Such training must be completed within six months of joining the research project, or within the duration of the project for a project lasting less than six months;
  - iv) Project PI and co-PI(s) found to have violated research ethics will be subject to recommended actions by the AS Ethics Committee.

5. Selected proposals will be provided financial support and lab space at NBRP, upon request. The operating fee for the lab space will be additionally supported by Grant Office.
  6. A final written report to the AS Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Services is due upon completion of each project.
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### 3. Application Materials to be submitted

1. Use the form provided ([Appendix 1](#)) to submit a **Letter of Intent** by email to the Grant Office by **May 15, 2023**.
  2. Complete the online application process by **July 17, 2023**. Log into the online application system at <https://asms.sinica.edu.tw> using the PI's SSO account and follow through the steps as instructed. Applicant should first maintain and update the personal data of the PI and co-PI(s), then fill in online the required basic information including the project title, the budget requested, executive summary, and keywords. Use the document template provided ([Appendix 2](#)) to prepare the **Full Proposal**, adhering to the format and rules specified within. Each of the required items including research plan, supporting letter, recent research accomplishments, and personal track record with a list of current and pending grant support, should be uploaded as **ONE PDF** electronic file via the online system.
  3. Upon completion of the online application process, an automatic confirmation email will be generated and sent by the system to acknowledge receipt, which can be used as proof of submission.
  4. Grant Office contact information:  
Email: [biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw)  
c/o Ms. Yuan-Chen Chang (Tel: 2787-2614)  
Department of Academic Affairs and Instrument Service
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## 壹、計畫申請作業

### 一、申請人資格

- (一) 本計畫為個人型研究計畫，計畫主持人須為本院專任助研究員或研究助技師（含）以上。同一主持人限申請1件計畫。
- (二) 本計畫另允許本院博士級研究人員（含博後學者）申請擔任主持人，但於申請時應檢附現任指導研究員（本院專任研究員）同意說明信函（supporting letter），支持該計畫之申請，並協助計畫經費統籌管理與核銷。
- (三) 計畫主持人可邀請非本院專家學者參與研究團隊，擔任該計畫共同主持人。
- (四) 若因執行計畫另需邀請協同參與或合作研究人員，計畫主持人可於申請書說明其必要性，並檢附該協同參與或合作研究人員同意提供協助與支持該計畫或合作意願之說明信函（supporting letter）。

### 二、計畫申請時程與其他需注意事項

- (一) 有意願申請者應於112年5月15日前以電子郵件寄送計畫申請意願書，含中英文摘要及建議審查委員名單等資料，以利安排審查作業，格式請見附件1。
- (二) 申請時程為即日起至112年7月17日止，計畫書應以英文撰寫，格式請見附件2。
- (三) 審查以能及時達成計畫徵求所列之任務導向目標及優先考量條件為評審基準，敬請參酌本徵求的英文版說明，及審查基準英文說明（附件3）。
- (四) 研究計畫中涉及生物材料及基因重組相關實驗、動物實驗及以人為研究對象者，應檢附相關委員會之核准文件。核准文件未能於申請時提交者，須先提交已送審之證明文件，並於計畫審核通過前補齊核准文件。
- (五) 依據本院 111 年 9 月 19 日學術字第 1111401198 號書函規定「本院研發成果已完成專屬授權者，研究人員（含研究技術人員）不得再以公部門經費從事涉及該專屬授權標的範圍之研究」。
- (六) 本院鼓勵研究人員學習各種新的工具，包含各式人工智慧的應用，藉此提升研究品質、確保背景資料的周全性，及改善工作效率。惟所有計畫內容的正確性，撰寫品質，和遵守學術倫理規範的責任均由申請人全權承擔。

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## 貳、計畫補助年限與執行前需求

- 一、計畫執行期程原則為3年，計畫執行期滿，得視計畫研發之需求及進度申請延長2年的執行期限。新核定計畫暫先核給2年計畫補助經費，計畫主持人應於執行18個月內，依核定時之規定以研發成果提出申請繼續執行第3年計畫。
- 二、每年實際核定經費將視當年之預算金額及前一年之執行進度而定，審查未獲通過之計畫，應無條件終止計畫。

三、審查過程如需申請團隊口頭報告或說明之會議安排等事宜將另行通知。

#### 四、核定後執行前須知

- (一) 經核定通過之總主持人及共同計畫主持人須簽署相關計畫執行同意書，並於計畫執行前完成利益揭露程序；
- (二) 核定通過之研究計畫，若有涉及生物材料及基因重組相關實驗、動物實驗及以人為研究對象者，應於提供相關委員會之核准文件後，方可核撥經費。如相關實驗內容於執行期間有所變更，亦須重新申請或修訂審核同意文件；
- (三) 依據「中央研究院學術研究倫理教育課程實施要點」，執行以本院預算支應之研究計畫者，參與計畫人員每3年應接受至少1小時之學術倫理教育課程訓練，至遲應於開始參與研究計畫之日起6個月內完成；研究計畫執行期限少於6個月者，應於計畫執行期限內完成；
- (四) 計畫主持人及共同計畫主持人如涉有違反學術倫理之情事者，依「中央研究院各級倫理委員會設置及作業要點」處理。

五、經審查通過之計畫，可進駐於國家生技研究園區執行，其補助經費、進駐空間和執行時程等依個別計畫核定之。進駐園區所需基本維運費用，將由計畫辦公室額外編列補助。計畫執行期滿，應無條件離駐。

六、計畫執行期滿，須向學術處提交完整執行成果報告。

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#### 參、申請資料

一、**申請意願書**：請依格式（附件1）填妥簡要資料後，於112年5月15日前以電子郵件寄至計畫辦公室。

二、**申請計畫書**：請按照本院學術研究管理系統（<https://asms.sinica.edu.tw>，以SSO帳號登入）所敘明之步驟，於112年7月17日前完成線上申請。申請者應先於線上維護及更新計畫主持人與共同主持人之個人履歷，並填妥計畫名稱、經費需求、摘要、關鍵字等基本資料。計畫內容、支持說明信函、近期研究成果、目前正執行與申請中之計畫件數及經費補助情形等，則依計畫書（附件2）規定之格式撰寫後，轉存為一個PDF電子檔於線上系統上傳。

三、完成線上申請後，申請人將即時收到系統自動發送之確認回函，可作為收件之存證。

四、學術及儀器事務處 計畫辦公室 與承辦人聯絡方式：

[biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:biomedgrant@gate.sinica.edu.tw)

承辦人：張元貞女士，電話：2787-2614

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