Dear Faculty,

We are pleased to announce the 2024-2025 **Targeted Research Opportunity (TRO)** awards program in support of research areas targeted by philanthropic and RSOM support.

All RSOM faculty who have not received a TRO within the past 3 years are eligible, with junior faculty given priority. Faculty members may only be listed on one application. Department chair confirmation of matching funds (see **Table**) is required. Awards will be activated on or about November 1, 2024. Awardees agree to provide a progress report and evidence of IRB/IACUC approval and continuing review after the first year of grant award. The grant mechanism needs to be acknowledged in any forthcoming abstracts or publications. Application packet is attached.

* **The Carol M. Baldwin Foundation for Breast Cancer Research Award** is intended to advance research on Breast Cancer. Priority will be given to investigators who have outstanding research proposals in breast cancer and for whom the award will allow the development of competitive extramural funding, NCI preferred. Additional criteria include the translational aspects to the proposed studies and the collaborative nature of the proposal. Funding for year 2 is contingent on the successful research progress in Year 1 and approval by the selection committee. One of the awards will be dedicated to clinical research.

* **The Catacosinos Cancer Translational Researcher Award** is intended to advance research in cancer. Priority will be given to investigators who have outstanding research proposals in cancer and for whom the award will allow the development of competitive extramural funding, NCI preferred. Additional criteria include the translational aspects to the proposed studies and the collaborative nature of the proposal.

* **The VDR Fusion Award** is intended to fund projects that emphasize translation of bench research into clinical care and/or interdisciplinary research, requiring a contact PI and a co-PI, one from a clinical and one from a basic science department. It is intended to be used to generate preliminary data for extramural federal grants or investigator-initiated, industry-sponsored clinical trials. Funding for year 2 is contingent on the successful research progress in Year 1 and approval by the selection committee.

* **The VDR AI-Targeted Clinical Research Award** is designed to support clinical research that aims to test or integrate the use of AI or machine learning to diagnose, treat, manage, or prognosticate human disease. Collaboration with the Departments of Biomedical Informatics or Biomedical Engineering are encouraged. Funding will be provided to applicants who have a high potential for converting these projects into an extramural peer-reviewed research award, with an intent to apply for NIH funding given priority. Funding for year 2 is contingent on the successful research progress in Year 1 and approval by the selection committee.

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| ***Targeted Opportunity*** | ***Total Amount******(per year)*** | ***Award Period******(years)*** |
| Carol M. Baldwin Foundation for Breast Cancer Research *(Awardees must present at the Annual Breast Cancer Retreat. Second-year funds are contingent upon approval by the selected committee)* | $35,000 ($25k + $10k match from department) | 2 |
| Catacosinos Cancer Translational Researcher Award | $30,000 ($25k + 5k match from department) | 1 |
| VDR Fusion Award | $40,000 ($30k + $5k match from each of 2 departments, one basic and one clinical) | 2 |
| VDR AI-Targeted Clinical Research Award | $40,000 ($30k + $5-10k from 2 or one department, respectively) | 2 |

**Submission Deadline: September 12, 2024 (5:00 PM)**

***Further instructions will be provided in the upcoming weeks with a link to submit your application on the Submittable application site.***

**Sue Hedayati, MD, MHSc** |**Vice Dean for Research**

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