Dear Faculty,

We are pleased to announce the 2025-2026 **Targeted Research Opportunity (TRO)** awards program in support of research areas targeted by philanthropic and RSOM support (*application packet attached*).

Eligibility:

- 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 as contact PI on one TRO application but may be a Co-PI on a second application in another TRO category.
- If there is more than one co-PI, please designate what 1 or 2 departments will be responsible for providing matching funds and provide letters of support from those departments.
- Department chair confirmation of matching funds (see **Table**) is required.
- Please do not include equipment in the budget.
- Provision of IRB/IACUC approval is needed to activate the award.

Recipients will be announced in November 2025, and awards activated in January 2026. Awardees agree to provide a progress report and evidence of ongoing IRB/IACUC approval to activate the 2nd year of funding. Only one year of no-cost extension, with justification, is permitted. The grant mechanism needs to be acknowledged in any forthcoming abstracts or publications.

Catacosinos Cancer Translational Research Award
• Intended to advance research in cancer. Priority will be given to investigators 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.
VDR Fusion Award
• Intended to 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. The expectation is to generate preliminary data for extramural federal grants or investigator-initiated, industry-sponsored clinical trials. Funding for year 2 is contingent on successful research progress in Year 1.
VDR AI-Targeted Clinical Research Award
• Designed to support clinical research that aims to test or integrate the use of AI or machine learning to prevent, 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 extramural research applications, with priority given to an intent to apply for NIH funding. Funding for year 2 is contingent on successful research progress in Year 1.
VDR Phase I Clinical Trials Award
• Intended to encourage investigator-initiated phase I clinical trials as a first step in testing a new intervention (drug or device) in humans to assess the safety of the intervention, determine appropriate dosing, and identify any potential adverse effects. These trials are not designed to determine efficacy and typically involve a small number of participants, often healthy volunteers. The expectation is that derivation of pilot data through this mechanism will allow submission of applications for phase 2 sponsored clinical trials (federal or industry).

Targeted Opportunity	*Total Amount (per year) (per year)*	*Award Period (years)*
Catacosinos Cancer Translational Award	$40,000 ($30k + 10k 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 1 or 2 department)	2
VDR Phase I Clinical Trials Award	$40,000 ($30k + $5-10k from 1 or 2 department)	2

Submission Deadline: September 12, 2025 (5:00 PM)

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

Please address any questions to Francesca.Gaetano@stonybrookmedicine.edu.

Thank you!

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