

Accelerator Award in TB Basic Science (Voucher) FAQ

Summary:

The UC TRAC Accelerator Awards in TB Basic Science are a unique opportunity to engage investigators new to tuberculosis (TB) research and enhance innovation in TB science. These awards allow investigators to generate preliminary data and proof of concept by supporting Staff Research Associates (SRAs) to carry out TB experiments in the BSL-3, thereby establishing a starting point of optimization for the next round of research/funding.

*New to tuberculosis research (New-to-TB) is defined as an investigator who has not had RO1 level-funding for TB-related research.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the purpose of the Accelerator Award Program?

To generate preliminary data that can lead to new grant opportunities in the TB field. It aims to bridge the barriers limiting non-TB investigators, in order to test new ideas and hypotheses to attack the global problem of TB.

Who is this offering intended for?

We welcome investigators (New-to-TB)*! To accelerate fundamental discoveries related to TB, we recognize the importance of engaging scientists across disciplines and bringing fresh scientific perspectives, technologies, and other innovations to the field. To facilitate this, these awards serve as an entry point for investigators to apply their unique expertise and research focus against TB.

Am I eligible for the Accelerator Award?

Investigators must be either New-to-TB* or [early-stage investigators as defined by the NIH](#). Faculty that meet these eligibility criteria are encouraged to apply, and may informally discuss their idea or proposal with one of the two co-directors of the UC TRAC Basic Science Core in advance.

What's included in the Accelerator Award, and how would it benefit me?

This award provides the time and expertise of existing SRAs to carry out experiments in the BSL-3 using live Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The BSL-3 trained technician will be provided by the Basic Science Core of UC TRAC. The award would offer up to twelve weeks of (SRA) salary support at 100% effort, or up to twenty-four weeks at 50% effort. As these funds are only dedicated to SRA support, any supplies (eg. animals) or specialized equipment needed should be provided by the investigator.

How will this initiative accelerate TB research?

The pilot data generated by the Accelerator Award could lead to future research and funding opportunities. For example, successful pilot experiments might lead to an application for a UC TRAC RAP award (\$40,000) and/or NIH funding.

