



School of Medicine

Office of Research

March 13, 2026

TO: Medical School Faculty

FROM: Blossom Damania, PhD
Vice Dean for Research, SOM

RE: New Round of Boost Funding

UNC School of Medicine (SOM) faculty are extremely successful in their efforts to obtain funding for their research, even though the funding climate has become increasingly competitive. The SOM recognizes that it often takes multiple submissions and additional experimental data to get a new project funded, particularly as a new investigator, or with a more complex, multi-PI project.

In support of these efforts, the SOM Office of Research is inviting applications from faculty for Boost awards, which are designed to boost the chances of funding for an NIH grant (or similar) that has been reviewed favorably but needs additional revisions and preliminary data in order to be funded on resubmission. *Please note that Boost awards are distinct from the OoR Bridge Funding program, which provides funds for bridging A1 renewal applications for ongoing, not new, projects.*

The deadline for the current round of application submissions is **5 P.M. Friday, May 15, 2026.**

Award Information:

Up to \$25,000 will be provided to successful applicants for lab supplies, animal expenses, core services, and salary for research support personnel for up to a 12-month period during the preparation of a revised proposal. Boost funds **cannot** be used for faculty salary, equipment, travel, or administrative costs.

Eligibility:

1. Funding must be requested for a **new** NIH R01 or equivalent that has been reviewed previously within the last 12 months.
2. The proposal must have been administratively routed through the SOM.
3. Applicant/PI must have no more than 2 R01s (or equivalent) of funding.*
4. Applicant / PI must have no more than \$50K of startup, retention, or other similar funding available to offset project costs.
5. Although all eligible applicants are welcome, priority will be given to K to R01 transitions, early-stage investigators, and multi-PI team projects.
6. If the PI received boost funding in the prior fiscal year, they are not eligible to receive boost funding in the current fiscal year.

*** For multiple PI applications, this criteria must be met for all PIs**

To apply for this program, please submit the following documents using the [NCTraCS online portal](#):

1. Cover letter

Please note how Boost funds will support the success of the resubmission. Also please describe any progress (i.e. publications whether published or in progress, new preliminary data since last submission etc.) since the grant was last reviewed.

2. Letter of Support from Department Chair

(no matching funds are required)

3. Summary Statement/Critiques

If this is the second revised application, please provide the A0 as well as the A1 score and critiques.

4. Response to critiques

1-page summary addressing the deficiencies noted in the review and how they will be addressed in the revised application. This should be the same letter that will be submitted as part of your resubmission to the NIH.

5. Specific Aims page and Research Plan

From previously submitted grant

6. NIH Biosketch

Provide your current Biosketch.

7. Other Support

Include your current Other Support document.

8. Budget and Justification

Maximum request is \$25,000. Please note any discretionary funds available (startup, etc.; must be less than \$50K).

Submission Deadline

The deadline for application is **5 P.M. Friday, May 15, 2026**.

Applications should be submitted using the [NCTraCS online portal](#). Locate the Boost Opportunity in the list of funding opportunities or use the quick search box.

If you have any questions, please contact Janelle Cross at OoR_Submissions@med.unc.edu.