MICHR Catalyst Award FAQs

1. My faculty rank is higher than Assistant Professor. Am I eligible to apply for the Catalyst Award?
   No. Mid-career and established faculty are eligible to apply for MICHR’s Accelerating Synergy Award, which supports pursuit of large-scale, team-based grants.

2. Are postdoctoral fellows eligible to serve as Principal Investigators?
   No. Only applicants with faculty designations may serve as Principal Investigator. Postdoctoral fellows are welcome to be Co-Investigators on applications.

3. I am an Adjunct faculty member. Am I eligible to serve as Principal Investigator?
   No. Adjunct faculty are not eligible to serve as Principal Investigators.

4. Does my planned external grant submission have to be to NIH?
   No. Catalyst applicants may plan for external submissions to funding agencies outside of NIH, including federal and non-federal agencies/foundations.

5. If awarded, what is the start date for this funding?
   The start date will vary, and we cannot provide an exact date at this time. Studies involving human subjects and vertebrate animals must proceed to a second level of review by NIH. Applicants with fundable scores who propose human subjects or vertebrate animals research must secure IRB or IACUC approval prior to NIH review. Thus, the award date is highly dependent on those with fundable scores pursuing the required approvals in a timely manner.

6. My proposed research will use animal models. Am I eligible for the Catalyst Award?
   Studies are eligible for pilot grant funding when the animal model has already been validated as a predictor of how human disease will respond and the pathway toward humans is clearly evident as the next logical step as well as for ‘bedside to bench’ scenarios. Applicants must provide reasoning of how the research will lead to “next step” studies in humans.

7. I want to propose research that will occur outside of the United States. Am I eligible to apply for a Catalyst Award?
   No. The MICHR Pilot Grant Program cannot accept applications proposing research conducted abroad because NIH-National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) will not provide prior approval for such pilot grants.

8. Does the signature page, as described in the guidelines, need to be submitted with my application, or can I send you this information at a later date?
   All items outlined in the grant guidelines must be submitted by the deadline. Incomplete applications will be administratively dismissed.

9. Do Co-Investigators need to contribute effort to the project?
   We expect that Co-Investigators commit effort to the project regardless of whether that effort is charged to the pilot grant or concurrent with their U-M faculty position. Individuals who commit to contribute to the scientific development or execution of the project, but do not commit any specified measurable effort (i.e., person months) to the project, should be listed as Other Significant Contributors.
10. **Do collaborators need to be listed in the budget justification even if they do not have paid effort on the grant?**
   Collaborators should only be listed in the budget justification if they will contribute scientifically to the project.

11. **The Catalyst grant is not the right mechanism for me. Does MICHR offer other funding opportunities?**
    Yes. You can find all MICHR funding opportunities here: [https://www.michr.umich.edu/rdc?category=MICHR+Funding](https://www.michr.umich.edu/rdc?category=MICHR+Funding).