



CYSTIC FIBROSIS
RESEARCH INNOVATION
AWARD



The Vertex CF Research Innovation Awards (CF RIA) support and inspire the next generation of researchers who are advancing the understanding of cystic fibrosis (CF)

Awards are chosen by an independent selection committee, and applications will be accepted from candidates in countries in which Vertex operates

Vertex CF RIA Awards Categories

Independent Research Innovation Award*

Up to 2 grants of \$750,000 are available to newly independent researchers conducting an independent research program over 3 years

Mentored Research Innovation Award*

Up to 4 grants of \$125,000 are available to junior investigators conducting a 2-year mentored research project

*Research projects directly studying patients on Vertex products or that require Vertex products are not eligible for entry. The Investigator Sponsored Studies portal is open for studies involving CFTRm.

Contact Us: RIAProgram@vrtx.com



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Independent Research Innovation Award

The **Independent Research Innovation Award** provides support for the next generation of CF researchers with high-risk, high-reward ideas that have the potential to significantly impact our understanding of, and approach to, the treatment of cystic fibrosis. The selected research projects must be novel, innovative and, if successful, have the potential for high impact in the field of cystic fibrosis.

- Up to 2 grants of \$750,000 are available to newly independent researchers conducting an independent research program over 3 years. The program is designed to support clinical and non-clinical research in CF, and applications are welcome from across the spectrum in this field.
- Research projects directly studying patients on Vertex products or that require Vertex products are not eligible for entry.

Independent Research Innovation Award Eligibility

- Newly independent researchers establishing a career in CF research (basic or clinical)
- PhD, MD, or equivalent
- Within 15 years of last degree
- Control own research direction, lab space (as applicable), and funding
- No more than 1 nationally peer-reviewed grant (i.e. NIH Research Project Grant Program, or equivalent)
- Received at least 1 grant as a principal investigator
- An established publication record in the field of CF
- Performing research in the field of CF

Independent Research Innovation Award Selection Criteria

- A. Quality of Proposal
 - Innovation of research
 - Feasibility of research
 - Alignment to the CF RIA program's research focus
- B. Ability of principal investigator to deliver the project
 - a. Experience and achievements of the research center in the CF therapeutic area
 - b. Quality and availability of resources
 - c. Adherence to ethical principles
 - d. Design, execution, and monitoring of the research program by the principal investigator
 - e. Demonstration of a reasonable budget
- C. Impact of the project on the understanding or treatment of CF
- D. Address Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in the CF Community
 - a. Initiatives that identify or help address the challenges underrepresented patient populations face with CF



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Mentored Research Innovation Award

The **Mentored Research Innovation Award** provides support for the next generation of CF researchers to conduct a mentored research project in the field of CF and gain the experience needed for future independent research. The selected projects must advance our understanding or treatment of CF.

- Up to 4 grants of \$125,000 over 2 years will be awarded to support research projects mentored by an established CF researcher. The program is designed to support clinical and non-clinical research in CF and applications are welcome across the spectrum in this field.
- Research projects directly studying patients on Vertex products or that require Vertex products are not eligible for entry.

Mentored Research Innovation Award Eligibility

- Mentored trainees working in CF research (basic or clinical)
- PhD, MD or equivalent
- No more than 8 years from terminal degree
- Does not have an independent research program of independent extramural funding (other than K awards or other training awards)
- Mentored by an established CF researcher
- Has performed research in the field of CF

Mentored Research Innovation Award Selection Criteria

- A. Quality of Proposal
 - Innovation of research
 - Feasibility of research
 - Alignment to the CF RIA program's research focus
- B. Ability of principal investigator to deliver the project
 - Experience and achievements of the research center in the CF therapeutic area
 - Quality and availability of resources
 - Adherence to ethical principles
 - Mentor commitment
 - Design, execution, and monitoring of the research program by the principal investigator
 - Demonstration of a reasonable budget
- C. Impact of the project on the understanding or treatment of CF
- D. Address Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in the CF Community
 - Initiatives that identify or help address the challenges underrepresented patient populations face with CF



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Submitting a Proposal

- Candidates should be able to start work on the project upon successful execution of the award contract and receipt of all applicable research approvals
- CF RIA Projects must be completed within 36 months for an Independent Research Innovation Award, or within 24 months for a Mentored Research Innovation Award. Award recipients will be required to provide the selection committee with written progress reports at 6-month intervals. Applications should also show the ability to follow local and international requirements (ICH)
- Research studies directly studying Vertex products or that require Vertex products are not eligible for entry
- Research studies that require indirect/overhead costs greater than 30% will not be accepted. The institution will provide offices, labs, and administrative space as necessary for the accomplishment of project deliverables

The CF RIA program is a two-stage application process, as outlined below. Applicants must complete the application form for the category in which they wish to enter and include supplementary materials as specified.

Stage 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) application

- Access the Letter of Intent (LOI) concept application through the Vertex Grants Portal – Cybergrants. The program will open for applications starting on **September 16th, 2025**
 - RIA Mentored LOI Form - https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/ria_ment_concept
 - RIA Independent LOI Form - https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/ria_ind_concept
- Complete the necessary fields and submit your RIA Concept by **November 7th, 2025**, including all supplementary materials as specified in the form
- All letter of intent applications received by the deadline date will be assessed by the selection committee
- All applicants will be notified via e-mail in mid-December as to whether they have been invited to submit a full proposal

Stage 2: Full Proposal application

- Applicants selected to submit a full proposal will submit their full application through the Vertex Grants Portal – Cybergrants
 - RIA Mentored Full Application Form - https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/ria_ment_full
 - RIA Independent Full Application Form - https://www.cybergrants.com/vertexpharmaceuticals/ria_ind_full
- An institutional letter is required to be submitted with the full proposal
- Complete the necessary fields and submit your RIA Full Application by **February 13th, 2026**, including all supplementary materials as specified in the form
- All full proposal applications received by the deadline date will be assessed by the selection committee
- All applicants will be notified by email by the middle of March of the final award decisions of the selection committee



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Financial Information

Authorized Expenses

- Funding is contingent on a full review of the research budget. Budgets should include reasonable costs within the parameters below:
 - Research-related study costs that are not standard of care
 - Funding for hours of work that are specified in the project
 - Supplies and consumables necessary to fulfill the project
 - Animal-related costs
 - Indirect/overheads costs at no more than 30%

Unauthorized Expenses

- Salaries beyond recipient's grant for their direct project work
- Fringe benefits
- Travel or housing related to sabbaticals
- Fees for tuition
- Membership dues, congress/meeting registrations, subscriptions, books, or journals
- Travel costs to present data
- Publication costs

Disbursement of Funds

- Projects will receive funding based on project-related milestones, including receipt of scheduled progress reports. Additional information related to the timing of payments will be outlined in the research agreement

Funds and Financial Reports

- Funding provided through the CF RIA program may be subject to reporting under applicable transparency laws and codes
- A final financial report is due 90 days after the end of the funding period, reconciling the proposed budget with the actual expenditures. If unexpected funds remain at the end of the funding period, these funds must be returned to the CF RIA Program



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Research Project Process

Documentation for Selected Awardees

- If you are selected for the award, the following documents must be provided prior to the start of the research. In addition, no project may begin prior to the execution of a research agreement.
 - Full clinical trial protocol
 - Institutional Review Board/Research Ethics Board approval
 - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee approval
- Award recipients are required to notify Vertex in writing prior to the implementation of any changes to their research plan

Status Reports

- Written progress reports will be expected by Vertex 6 months from the start of the project and then at 6-month intervals

Termination of Support

- If the award recipient fails to comply with the terms of the agreement or the regulations under the terms of the agreement, Vertex will reserve the right to discontinue award funding
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Multiple Awards

- Individual applicants may only receive one award from the CF RIA program per cycle

Multiple Applications from the Same Institution

- More than one application from the same institution is permitted

Change in Award Recipient's Status

- The transfer of an award to another institution will be at the discretion of the CF RIA program, as well as agreement between the current and new institution. Additionally, a contract with the new institution will be required

Start and End Dates

- Research should commence upon successful execution of the contract, unless an alternative date for commencement has been approved by the Vertex. Failure to initiate the research within this period may result in the withdrawal of the award
- Projects should be completed within 24 months (mentored award) or 36 months (independent award) of commencement. If the research will not be completed within the project period, a no-cost extension request will be considered for approval by the Vertex upon receipt of a no-cost extension application form