

Translational Impact Research – Cycle 1 Competition

Evaluation and Decision Process

This report outlines the evaluation and decision process for Cycle 1 applications of the **Translational Impact Research (TIR) Program**, which consisted of two stages:

1. Letter of Intent (LOI) Evaluation
2. Full Application Evaluation

Stage 1: LOI Evaluation

- 11 LOIs were received and reviewed by the D2R Strategic Alignment Review Committee (SARC) and the Chairs of the Infectious Diseases, Oncology and Rare Diseases Working Groups.
- Each LOI was assessed based on strategic fit, translational value, feasibility, and program suitability.

Outcome:

- Four LOIs were selected to proceed to the full application stage.
- Two oncology-focused LOIs were recommended to merge into a single integrated application due to complementary scope and overlapping objectives.
- Constructive feedback was provided to all applicants.

Stage 2: Full Application Evaluation

- Three full applications were received, each rigorously evaluated by three international experts in their respective fields and in translational research.
- Reviews focused on originality, research plan quality and feasibility, multidisciplinary contributions, and translational impact (signature criterion of the program).
- Reviewers also assessed responses to LOI recommendations, budget justification and feasibility.

Outcome:

- All three projects received positive recommendations for funding.

Stage 3: In-Person Review & Funding Recommendation

Each applicant engaged in an in-person review meeting with D2R leadership, including the CSO, Chair of Rare Diseases Working Group, and senior D2R staff. Discussions focused on addressing reviewer concerns, refining project plans, and ensuring alignment with program objectives.

Budget Adjustments:

- Based on reviewer feedback, budgets for two projects were reduced.

Final Approval:

- The Research Steering Committee (RSC) reviewed the evaluation process and final budget allocations.
- Funding was approved for all three projects at the recommended amounts.