

Innovation Funding Sources for Nursing Faculty/Researcher Innovators

Please continue to check back to this webpage as we will update this Funding Source list as new resources are identified.

Funding Source	What it Funds	Website for More Info	Deadlines
Internal to UM			
Frankel Innovation Initiative	<p>\$20 million fund supporting the research and development of life-saving therapies and innovative new technologies at Michigan Medicine with the ultimate goal of improving healthcare and saving lives.</p> <p>\$250,000 – \$500,000/year to high-impact research projects originating at U-M, with potential for multiple years of support.</p> <p>Open to UM faculty across campus and to innovators at all stages of a research project.</p>	<p>Frankel Innovation Initiative – Fast Forward Medical Innovation (FFMI) (umich.edu)</p>	<p>Letters of Intent due in May</p> <p>Highly recommended you contact Bradley Martin, Ph.D., Director, Fast Forward Medical Innovation, at bradmart@umich.edu or 734-936-8577, to discuss your project before submission.</p>
Michigan Biomedical Venture Fund (MBVF)	<p>This fund (MBVF) invests in and supports life science startup companies with U-M licensed intellectual property – including therapeutics, medical devices, diagnostics, and health IT.</p> <p>The fund awards \$100K-\$300K to biomed startups with U-M intellectual property.</p>	<p>https://innovation.medicine.umich.edu/michigan-biomedical-venture-fund/</p>	<p>Applications accepted on a rolling basis.</p> <p>It is highly recommended that you contact the program manager before applying.</p>

	Most applicants need to have successfully completed an existing UM translational program like MTRAC, I-Corps, etc. See website for other requirements.		John Seamans jseamans@umich.edu
Accelerate Blue Fund (ABF)	<p>This is an early-stage venture fund that exclusively invests in U-M licensed startups, managed by the Innovation Partnerships team.</p> <p>The goal of Accelerate Blue is to bridge the funding gap between initial launch and angel/VC funding for startups based on University of Michigan intellectual property (IP).</p> <p>ABF provides extensive business mentoring and IP support through U-M Innovation Partnerships.</p>	Accelerate Blue Fund	No deadlines specified on website
ADVANCE - University Early-Stage Proof of Concept Fund	<p>This fund is designed to provide a pipeline of de-risked technologies and fundable startup opportunities for further advancement. By working on proof of concept or market opportunity analysis with this fund, innovators can then proceed to commercialization activities.</p> <p>The program provides matching funds to incent faculty to engage with their tech transfer offices (Innovation Partnerships at Michigan) to move their ideas to commercialization.</p>	<p>University Programs for Entrepreneurial Opportunities Michigan Business</p> <p>ADVANCE Grant Proof-of-Concept Fund - MSU Innovation Center</p>	Semi-rolling funding program; see website
Mi-Kickstart	An early-stage funding opportunity that accelerates the transfer of technologies from	MTRAC Innovation Hub for Life Sciences - UM - Innovation Partnerships (umich.edu)	Semi-annual RFP

	<p>Michigan’s higher ed institutions to the private sector for commercialization.</p> <p>Awards offer funding in the \$21K-\$42K range with awarded projects requiring a cost share from the investigator/institution.</p>		
<p>MTRAC for Life Sciences Hub</p>	<p>Michigan Translational Research and Commercialization (MTRAC) for Life Sciences for Innovation Hub is a statewide program supporting translational research projects in life sciences with high commercialization potential, that will positively impact human health. All UM schools are eligible to submit projects for funding consideration.</p> <p>This is a program for mid-stage commercialization projects.</p> <p>Mi-TRAC Awards offer funding in the range of \$42.5K-\$250K, with all awarded projects requiring a cost share from the investigator/institution.</p>	<p>MTRAC Innovation Hub for Life Sciences - UM - Innovation Partnerships (umich.edu)</p> <p>updated-mtrac-program-guidelines.final.pdf (michiganbusiness.org)</p>	<p>Call for Proposals deadline in September</p> <p>Proposal due November</p>
<p>Innovation Partnerships Gap Fund</p>	<p>The Innovation Partnerships Gap Fund provides small grants to faculty tied to the commercial advancement of U-M technologies and research discoveries. Typical gap fund activities include customer discovery efforts; retaining consultants to help model and test a new concept or to address compliance, regulatory, security or other market issues; and building</p>	<p>Contact Innovation Partnerships Ventures Team for more info:</p> <p>Contact Us - UM - Innovation Partnerships (umich.edu)</p>	<p>No deadlines specified on website</p>

	<p>market prototypes to demonstrate customer potential.</p> <p>Gap funds address the commercial validation of promising technologies and startup opportunities and complement the technical readiness focus of translational research funding.</p>		
External to UM			
Ann Arbor SPARK	<p>SPARK is an economic engine in Southeast Michigan whose services include incubating and accelerating start-ups, among others.</p> <p>Their team can help navigate the funding and incentive programs available for qualified businesses from a variety of different sources.</p>	<p>https://annarborusa.org/</p> <p>Funding page: https://annarborusa.org/entrepreneurial-services/funding/</p>	N/A
ANA Nursing Innovation Awards	<p>The ANA Innovation Awards include a \$25,000 individual nurse award and a \$50,000 nurse-led team award for a product, program, project or practice that improves patient outcomes and safety, and exemplify nurse-led innovation. These funds will provide support in translational research, development, prototyping, production, testing and implementation over the next year.</p>	https://www.nursingworld.org/practice-policy/innovation-in-nursing/ana-innovation-award/	Applications open in June and are open through 10/31
Betty Irene Moore Fellowships for Nurse Leaders & Innovators	<p>This is a fellowship for nurse scientists 5-10 years post-PhD.</p> <p>The program provides fellows \$450,000 over three years to develop their leadership and bring to fruition an innovative project. Fellows</p>	https://health.ucdavis.edu/nursing/NurseLeaderFellows/howtoapply.html	Applications open 9/23 and close 12/1; UMSN not eligible for 3 more years as one of our Nurses won

	will also participate in a leadership and innovation development program.		one of the Fellowships in 2021
J&J Nurse Innovate Quickfire Challenges	<p>The Johnson & Johnson Nurses Innovate QuickFire Challenge series invites nurses worldwide to submit ideas for new devices, health technologies, protocols or treatment approaches.</p> <p>The nurse innovators with the best ideas will receive up to \$100,000 in grant funding and access to mentoring/coaching from experts across the J&J Family of Companies to help bring their ideas to life.</p>	QuickFire Challenge Johnson & Johnson Nursing (jnj.com)	Application dates vary by the QuickFire Challenge (e.g., Maternal/Newborn Health, Perioperative Care, Oncology, etc.)
J&J Nurse Innovation Fellowship	<p>The Johnson & Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellowship aims to strengthen the leadership and entrepreneurial skills of inspired and innovative nurses.</p> <p>In the two-year program, fellows will receive individualized mentoring and will complete action learning projects, strengthening their leadership, entrepreneurial and innovation skills.</p> <p>All RN's with at least 3 years of experience, currently working in health services, or organizations related to public health, research or health policy are welcome to apply.</p>	Nurse Fellowship Johnson & Johnson Nursing (jnj.com)	Check website for announcements for next Cohort application period
Nurse Hack4Health Pitch-A-Thon	The NurseHack4Health Pitch-a-thon enables health systems to take direct action in the nursing workforce crisis, by empowering nurse-led, interdisciplinary teams to ideate, create	NurseHack4Health	Hackthon Topics vary each Competition. Generally held twice a year in Fall & Spring

	<p>solutions, and “pitch” ideas that directly address well-being/workplace challenges; with the goal of receiving up to \$250,000 in grant funding to bring ideas to life!</p>		
<p>Michigan Women’s Foundation</p>	<p>This foundation is committed to helping empower women in business.</p> <p>Their support of women entrepreneurs is highlighted on their website but they do provide capital to fund or to start a qualified business.</p>	<p>www.miwf.org</p>	
<p>Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation Innovative Nursing-Driven Funding Programs</p>	<p>This foundation supports nursing-driven initiatives that serve vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The foundation has created a pipeline for innovation by offering support for work at different phases of development through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hillman Emergent Innovation Program (five 12-18 month \$50K grants) • The Hillman Serious Illness and End of Life Emergent Innovation Program (ten 12-18 month \$50K grants) • The Hillman Innovations in Care Program (two 3-year \$600K grants) • The Hillman Innovation Dissemination Program (One 1-2 year \$200K grant) <p>These programs are detailed further on the Hillman website and in the “Other Resources” section of this funding Guide.</p>	<p>All programs are outlined on this webpage:</p> <p>Programs — The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation (rahf.org)</p>	<p>Applications open February 2022</p>

Venturewell Faculty Grants	<p>Venturewell Faculty Grants provide up to \$30,000 to help fund and support faculty and innovative ideas to create new or transform existing courses and programs to help students develop novel, STEM-based inventions or gain the necessary entrepreneurial skills needed to bring these ideas to market.</p> <p>They seek proposals for areas that will support the emerging generation of inventors and innovators and the ecosystems critical to their success.</p>	<p>https://venturewell.org/faculty-grants/</p> <p><u>Guidelines:</u> https://venturewell.org/wp-content/uploads/Faculty-Grants-guidelines%E2%80%9494FY20-2.pdf</p>	<p>No specific deadlines</p>
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Other Funding Resources:

Michigan Small Business Development Center

Michigan SBDC - The Michigan Small Business Development Center

Director: Charles Penner

Phone: 734.477.8762

Email: sbdc@wccnet.edu

Operates out of Washtenaw Community College

Offers many services including business consulting, business plan development, market research, financial management, technology commercialization, strategic planning and more.

In terms of raising capital, their specialists help to inform on the range of funds available to innovators and they help with analyzing financials and annual budgeting.

Small Business Administration

<https://www.sba.gov/>

Director: Charles Penner

Phone: 734.477.8762

Email: sbdc@wccnet.edu

Operates out of Washtenaw Community College

Services/Resources are organized around:

- **Planning your business** (e.g., market research and competitive analysis, writing your business plan, calculating start-up costs, funding your business, etc.)
- **Launching your business** (e.g., choosing a business structure, choosing a business name, registering your business, getting federal and state tax ID numbers, applying for licenses/permits, etc.)
- **Managing your business** (e.g., managing your finances, paying taxes, staying legally compliant, marketing and sales, etc.)
- **Growing your business** (e.g., getting more funding, women-owned businesses, merging/acquiring businesses, etc.)
- Services include online courses/resources around key topics like:

- Financing Options for Small Businesses
- Finding and Attracting Investors
- How to Write a Business Plan
- Legal Requirements for Small Business
- Business Development Program: Business Planning and Operational Management
- Pricing Models for Success Business
- Strategic Planning

Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation Innovative Nursing-Driven Funding Programs and New RFP's (Innovations in Care Program, Emergent Innovation & Serious Illness and End of Life Innovation Programs)

A pipeline for nursing-driven innovation

The Rita & Alex Hillman Foundation supports nursing-driven initiatives that serve vulnerable populations, including the economically disadvantaged, racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ people, rural populations, people experiencing homelessness, and others. Through a suite of interconnected programs, the Foundation has created a pipeline for innovation by offering support for work at different phases of development:

- The Hillman Emergent Innovation Program and the Hillman Serious Illness and End of Life Emergent Innovation Program seek to jumpstart promising ideas at their earliest stages of development.
- The Hillman Innovations in Care Program supports mature programs with strong preliminary evidence.
- The Hillman Innovation Dissemination Program, which helps successful programs with an established evidence base to scale nationally, accepts proposals by invitation only.

More on the Hillman Innovations in Care Program

Launched in 2014, the *Hillman Innovations in Care (HIC) Program* is one of the Foundation's defining initiatives and seeks applications from nursing-driven, evidence-based, patient- and family-centered initiatives that challenge conventional strategies, improve health outcomes, lower costs, and show potential for national replicability. The HIC program offers two three-year grants of up to \$600,000 each.

For full details of the HIC program, please click [here](#).

More on Hillman's two Emergent Innovation programs

RAHF offers two grantmaking programs for emerging ideas: the *Hillman Emergent Innovation (HEI) Program* and the *Hillman Serious Illness and End of Life Emergent Innovation (HSEI) Program*. Both seek bold, early stage, or untested interventions that address health challenges faced by vulnerable populations and award as many as five one-year grants of \$50,000 each.

For full details, please click [here](#) for the HEI program and [here](#) for the HSEI program.

Who should apply

The Foundation believes that transformative ideas are as likely to come from community health clinics as they are from major academic research centers and welcomes applications from organizations across the spectrum of care and from practitioners with a range of backgrounds (including nurse clinicians, researchers, postdocs, and adjunct faculty).