

TO: School of Medicine Faculty
FROM: Katherine L. Nathanson, MD and Matthew D. Weitzman, PhD
Co-Chairs, PSOM Limited Applications Selection Committee
RE: W. W. Smith Charitable Trust Research Awards: Cancer, Heart Disease & AIDS
<https://wwwsmithcharitabletrust.org/medical-research/>

The W. W. Smith Charitable Trust funds basic science research in the areas of heart disease, cancer and AIDS. Grants are awarded to nonprofit institutions such as universities, hospitals, and research centers located in the five-county Greater Philadelphia region (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties) or the City of Camden, NJ. The Trust identifies and funds research projects that are unique and meritorious with the goal of investing in promising researchers who have the potential to attract larger-scale awards (e.g., NIH, NSF, AHA) subsequent to Trust support.

Each school within the University may nominate one applicant for each of the three research categories: heart disease, cancer or AIDS. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research (OVPR) will determine the final candidates to represent the University. **Faculty with a primary appointment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) must apply through CHOP.**

Eligibility:

- **Research focus:** Funds must be used for basic medical research in the areas of heart disease, cancer, or AIDS.
- For any sponsored research projects, the applicant must be eligible to serve as Principal Investigator for the project, unless otherwise noted in the LSO. Please see Penn's [PI Eligibility requirements](#) to ensure you are eligible.

Award Information:

- A research award ranging from \$100,000 - \$125,000 (including 10% indirect costs). Direct costs may include salaries, travel, equipment, and supplies directly benefiting the grant-supported project.
- **Grant duration:** Grants are awarded for a one-year term.
- **Use of funds:** Funds must be used for basic medical research and not for the general work of research centers. No funds are awarded solely for equipment.
- **Unused funds:** Unused grant funds must be returned to the Trust promptly. Please contact the Trust for guidance before submitting any refund.
- **Published material:** Copies of all published material relevant to a proposed research project must be made available to the Trust both before and after a grant is made.

PSOM Internal Review Process:

Candidates must submit the following in the order below:

- **Cover page:** Candidate name, academic rank, department, email address, phone number, campus address, and proposal title.
 - Proposal title must specify research category (AIDS, cancer, or heart disease).
- **Research Summary** (maximum 2 pages, not including references): Single-spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins. Include research aims and description of how this fits the funders interests.
- **CV or Biosketch**, which includes educational background, professional appointments, awards and honors. Include all current research support (start-up and external) and pending support, including dollar amounts and start/end dates.

- **Prior Submission Update:** If you have submitted for this funding mechanism in the past, please provide on a separate page a brief explanation (1-5 sentences) explaining how the current application differs from prior submissions, highlighting any significant updates or changes to the proposal or your circumstances.

Materials should be submitted in a single pdf file in the following order: cover page, research proposal, CV or biosketch, and prior submission update (if applicable). The subject line should read: WWSmith_Research category_ Applicant last name_Application first name (for example, WWSmith_Cancer _ Doe_Jane).

Proposals must be submitted by **12pm on Tuesday, April 29, 2025** to Kaitlyn Hagarty at kaitlyn.hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu. If you have any questions please contact Kaitlyn Hagarty at Kaitlyn.Hagarty@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.